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**New York City Department of  
Education - Division of  
Portfolio Planning  
Temporary Partial Re-Siting of  
30Q011 at QTBA (Temp Swing Space)**

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. PHILLIP COMPOSTO: Good evening,  
3 everybody. Welcome. So, this is a joint  
4 hearing of the Department of Education,  
5 Community Education Council 30 and school  
6 district team, regarding the proposed temporary  
7 re-siting of a portion of PS 11 with PS 171 in  
8 building Q171, with a 2014-2015 school year, and  
9 a proposed temporary re-siting of a portion of  
10 PS 11, the Kathryn Phelan, 3211 with 32TBD, a  
11 new building, to 339, with a 2015-2016 and a  
12 2016-2017 school year.

13 I am the District 30 Community  
14 Superintendent, Dr. Phillip A. Composto. We  
15 have asked the District 30 Community Education  
16 Council and the school leadership team in the  
17 building to participate in this joint public  
18 hearing. I am joined tonight by Anna  
19 Efkarpidis, principal of PS 11, Jeffrey Guyton,  
20 CEC member. To my right is Mrs. Bussel,  
21 principal of PS 171. We have a teacher who is  
22 our chairperson, Francine Ferrari. We have two  
23 wonderful parents here. We have Olga Silver,  
24 our PTA president, and we have Carmen Montavo -  
25 - . Thank you all for coming.

1           This hearing is being recorded. The  
2 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide  
3 comments about the proposal. Before I describe  
4 the proposal, I want to make sure that you all  
5 are aware of the opportunity to provide your  
6 input. All of those who wish to speak must sign  
7 up in the speaker sign up area located just  
8 outside the auditorium. The sign up list will  
9 close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be given the  
10 floor in the order they signed up. All comments  
11 are limited to two minutes.

12           There may be elected officials who arrive at  
13 different times throughout the evening. If they  
14 wish to speak, we will do our best to  
15 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
16 Those who are here at the start of the public  
17 comment segment will be asked to speak first.  
18 All comments will be mentioned and responded to  
19 by the analysis of public comment to be  
20 published and provided to the panel of education  
21 policy the evening before the panel votes. This  
22 proposal will no longer be voted on after  
23 January 22, 2014. Additional information  
24 regarding scheduling will be available shortly.  
25 Additional comments and feedback may be

1 submitted via the following e-mail address and  
2 phone number; D30Proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and  
3 the telephone number is 212-374-7621.

4 Proposal summary. In the spring of 2013,  
5 the School Construction Authority approved the  
6 construction of the permanent addition for the  
7 district elementary school PS 11, located at 54-  
8 25 Skillman Avenue. This construction  
9 necessitates removal of the school's mini  
10 building following the 2013-2014 school year.  
11 During the three years of construction, some  
12 students that may have been housed in the mini  
13 building will need to be re-sited to another  
14 location for the 2014-2015 through 2016-2017  
15 school year. A re-siting means students will  
16 attend classes in a different building than the  
17 one students have attended in previous years.  
18 The New York City Department of Education is  
19 proposing to temporarily re-site a portion of  
20 the kindergarten and first grade, alternatively,  
21 the kindergartens, of PS 11, with PS 171,  
22 located at 14-14 29th Avenue, for the 2014-2015  
23 school year. For the 2015-2016 and the 2016-  
24 2017 school year, the DOE is proposing to  
25 temporarily re-site a portion of the

1 kindergarten and first grade, or alternatively,  
2 the kindergarten, of PS 11 with 30QTDD, a new  
3 elementary school that is anticipated to open a  
4 new building, Q339, located at 3907 57th Street.

5       When two or more school organizations are  
6 located in the same building, they may share  
7 common space, like the auditorium, the  
8 gymnasium, the library and cafeteria. If this  
9 proposal is approved, a portion of PS 11's  
10 kindergarten and first grade, or alternatively,  
11 the kindergarten, will be served in building  
12 Q171, with PS 171, for the 2014-2015 school  
13 year. Any student served in PS 11 at Q171 would  
14 be supervised by the PS 11 administration.

15       In the 2017-2018 school year, students at PS  
16 11 in Q339, will relocated to main building  
17 Q011, or the new permanent site adjacent to the  
18 building Q011, scheduled to be completed by  
19 September 2017. PS 11 will not need to occupy  
20 space in Q339 or Q171 after the completion of  
21 building Q011's addition.

22       Where possible, the DOE aims to utilize  
23 available space in other local school buildings  
24 to alleviate overcrowding to serve students  
25 during a temporary period of construction. Both

1 buildings, Q171 and Q339, have the capacity to  
2 serve additional students.

3 The DOE determined that building Q171 is  
4 underutilized and will have excess capacity  
5 during the 2014-2015 school year. Additionally,  
6 building Q339 will have excess capacity for the  
7 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, as the new  
8 school, 32 to be determined, grows to scale.

9 Building Q171 is approximately 2.5 miles  
10 from building Q011. Building Q339 is  
11 approximately 0.3 miles from building Q011. PS  
12 11 students traveling to Q171 and subsequently  
13 Q339 will be provided with transportation  
14 according to chancellor's regulation 8-801.  
15 While this may result in different PS 11  
16 students being eligible for bussing than in past  
17 years.

18 The proposal is not expected to impact the  
19 admission enrollment or educational options that  
20 students currently attending PS 11 or PS 171 or  
21 future students at 32 to be determined in  
22 building Q339.

23 So I want to thank everybody, and at this  
24 time, I'm going to ask if our CEC member,  
25 Jeffrey Guyton, would like to make a comment.

1           MR. JEFF GUYTON: I have questions, rather  
2 than comments. I have a couple of questions.  
3 What has come out of conversations on our  
4 council so far, because we've been responding  
5 since the meeting at PS 11 to some of the  
6 concerns of parents, and we have a handful of  
7 parents who are advocating to us about the  
8 distance and the time they estimate to be a half  
9 an hour travel for the kindergarteners,  
10 something like 250 kindergarteners, in that  
11 range.

12           There have been some very preliminary  
13 conversations about advocating for an  
14 alternative site that would be possibly Q313,  
15 which is about a mile or a little bit less from  
16 PS 11, to receive the kindergarteners. This is  
17 a--it's highly improbable that that will happen,  
18 and I wanted to know, we have not undertaken a  
19 serious advocacy effort. We've only had  
20 preliminary conversations about this. What does  
21 that do to your school and your plans? Are  
22 they--if we engage in some advocacy, trying to  
23 respond to some of the parents who have  
24 expressed to us great misgivings about such tiny  
25 kids being on a bus for 30 minutes, possibly as

1 much as, and then 30 minutes back. If we  
2 advocate for this and we succeed it, what kind  
3 of unintended consequences are we creating for  
4 you?

5 Is this--in your estimate, Principal Bussel,  
6 in your estimate, is this a reasonable course of  
7 advocacy on the CEC's part to undertake on  
8 behalf of those parents who are uneasy not about  
9 the site, but about the distance of travel for  
10 the tiny kids. They keep saying, you know, "Our  
11 babies are on these buses for a long time." Do  
12 you have any feelings about that?

13 MS. ANNE BUSSEL: - - .

14 MR. GUYTON: Yes, of course.

15 MS. BUSSEL: - - .

16 MR. GUYTON: Right.

17 MS. BUSSEL: And I promise the parents - - ,  
18 and I know that - - .

19 MR. GUYTON: I am personally convinced of  
20 that, because I've known you for a long time.  
21 I've been a consult for 10 years, and you're one  
22 of our extraordinary principals.

23 MS. BUSSEL: Well, we will take the best  
24 care of them that - - .

25 MALE VOICE: So the question is though is it

1 going to impact the - - space. So if we don't  
2 use that space, - - .

3 MS. BUSSEL: Yeah, right.

4 MR. GUYTON: Right.

5 MS. BUSSEL: And I would - - .

6 MR. GUYTON: Yes, yes, of course.

7 MS. BUSSEL: - - going to do. We'll then -  
8 - .

9 MR. GUYTON: Right, of course. I guess  
10 really my question was it's--it would be an  
11 uphill battle. There are lots of reasons we're  
12 already being given that Q313 in district 24 is  
13 really not going to be available, wouldn't be  
14 available for a variety of reasons. But there  
15 are members of the council who really are  
16 sensitive to these concerns and they are  
17 legitimate concerns that have been expressed by  
18 these parents, and I want to make sure if we  
19 engage in this advocacy A, I don't think it's  
20 going to work, but B, if it were, would it  
21 negatively impact you, and I think you've  
22 answered me well.

23 MS. BUSSEL: It would be fine.

24 MR. GUYTON: Yes, but in your estimation,  
25 you and your SLT is very comfortable with these

1 children coming here, and we all know that  
2 they're going to be very, very well taken care  
3 of in this space. Of course.

4 MS. BUSSEL: Absolutely.

5 MR. GUYTON: Right, okay. That's--that's  
6 really all the questions that I have.

7 MS. BUSSEL: I've spent my entire life  
8 taking care of kids, and it doesn't matter  
9 whether they live on the street or - - . I know  
10 the parents are a little upset in terms of  
11 traveling.

12 MR. GUYTON: Some of them are.

13 MS. BUSSEL: But, you know, we'll see. It's  
14 going to - - .

15 MR. GUYTON: Yes.

16 MR. COMPOSTO: I just want to make one  
17 correction. You're not an old person. You're  
18 an experienced person.

19 [Crosstalk]

20 MS. BUSSEL: Well, when I - - to Nancy the  
21 other night was I am the longest serving  
22 principal - - . That's because Madeline - -  
23 went and retired. She should have never done  
24 that.

25 MR. GUYTON: And I have one question. When

1 the new building is finished, what is then the  
2 total capacity of your school?

3 MS. ANNA EFKARPIDES: I believe we will be  
4 getting about 25 classrooms in the new building.  
5 I believe we're getting about 25 new classrooms,  
6 which will definitely, and I'm hoping that--I  
7 mean, by the time we got the present mini  
8 school, we were already over capacity.

9 MR. GUYTON: Right.

10 MS. EFKARPIDES: I'm hoping that that--but  
11 that was only 10 rooms. Now we're getting 25.

12 MR. GUYTON: Right. But we're losing - -  
13 also ultimately, yeah?

14 MS. EFKARPIDES: Right. That would make it  
15 18, 20. So we're getting about five or six. I  
16 don't have the plans in front of me. I'm going  
17 to be honest with you, I don't--

18 MR. GUYTON: Your classrooms. A net gain of  
19 something like six classrooms?

20 MS. EFKARPIDES: Minimum.

21 MR. GUYTON: And you're serving 1,300 kids  
22 now?

23 MS. EFKARPIDES: 1,344.

24 MR. GUYTON: And it's - - to capacity.

25 Right now you're over capacity. What is the to

1 capacity?

2 MS. EFKARPIDES: We are over capacity by  
3 19%. We're at 119%.

4 MR. GUYTON: So the to capacity is something  
5 like 1,300?

6 MS. EFKARPIDES: A little less than that.

7 MR. GUYTON: A little less than--

8 MS. EFKARPIDES: 1,200.

9 MR. GUYTON: 1,200. Okay, 1,200, and - -  
10 six times 30 is 180. So we're still serving--  
11 we're going to end up serving 1,300 kids.

12 MR. COMPOSTO: Well, - - 339 is two blocks  
13 away. So we--

14 MR. GUYTON: Another 400--

15 MR. COMPOSTO: - - .

16 MR. GUYTON: Another 400--

17 MS. EFKARPIDES: There will be some re-  
18 zoning, yes.

19 MR. GUYTON: Yes, right. Okay, thank you.  
20 Those are the questions I had.

21 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you. So at this time,  
22 Ms. Efkarpides, principal at PS 11, would you  
23 like to make any comments?

24 MS. EFKARPIDES: No, I just--I understand  
25 the concerns that my parents have. They are

1 very, you know, good--I mean, they have  
2 concerns that are really very valid. But we  
3 also need the building, and it's one--councilman  
4 - - said it, that it's growing pains, and we  
5 will have those growing pains the next couple of  
6 years, no matter which grade. Whether it's the  
7 little ones or the older children, it will still  
8 be the same. You know, there will be different  
9 issues. So at this point, I am very happy that  
10 we are able to come here, and I'm ecstatic,  
11 because I know Principal Bussel has been very  
12 welcoming, and I know they will be taken care  
13 of. So--

14 MR. COMPOSTO: Well, okay.

15 MS. EFKARPIDES: That's it, yes.

16 MR. COMPOSTO: Okay, so now we've got Ms.  
17 Bussel, principal of PS 171 that will speak.

18 MS. BUSSEL: - - concern. It will be - - .  
19 They don't know - - .

20 MR. GUYTON: Right.

21 MS. BUSSEL: - - another grade coming here  
22 would make them - - . These children are so  
23 young.

24 MR. GUYTON: Yeah.

25 MS. BUSSEL: And - - . So this is--this is

1 their school here.

2 MR. COMPOSTO: Good. Thank you. Any of our  
3 parents or our teacher would like to speak?

4 MS. FRANCINE FERRARI: We are looking  
5 forward to this.

6 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you.

7 MS. FERRARI: - - then, and we will do  
8 everything we possibly can to make them feel  
9 welcome and help them in any way that we  
10 possibly can.

11 MR. COMPOSTO: And I know this is a very  
12 nurturing, welcoming environment.

13 MS. FERRARI: - - .

14 MR. COMPOSTO: You're wonderful. So I thank  
15 you all. So at this time, do we have any  
16 speakers from the community? So we have now  
17 concluded the formal presentation. Again, we  
18 welcome any comments and feedback you may have  
19 before the Panel for Educational Policy votes on  
20 this proposal. As noted earlier, this proposal  
21 will be--will no longer be voted on January  
22 22nd, 2014, meeting of the PEP. The new date of  
23 the vote of this proposal by the PEP will be  
24 announced on the DOE's website. The e-mail  
25 address and phone number where comments may be

1 made are D30Proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the  
2 telephone number is 212-374-7621. Thank you for  
3 your participation tonight in this joint  
4 hearing. Have a safe trip home. Thank you.

5 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature

Gody VanderHart

Date 1/12/14