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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Temporary Re-Siting of 13K266 from
K902 to Building K093**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 SUPERINTENDENT BARBARA FREEMAN: Good

3 evening, everyone. So this is a joint public

4 hearing of the Department of Education,

5 Community Education Council, and the school

6 leadership teams for the proposed temporary re-

7 siting and co-location of M.S. 266, Park Place

8 Community Middle School, and the inclusion

9 program of P77K at K902, with existing school

10 P.S. 93, the William H. Prescott School in the

11 building of K093 beginning in 2015-2016 school

12 year. I'm the community superintendent, Barbara

13 Freeman, and I'll be presiding over this hearing

14 today. We have asked the District 13 Community

15 Education Council, the Citywide District 75

16 Council and the school leadership teams from

17 P93, M.S. 266, and P77K to participate in the

18 joint public hearing. I'm joined tonight by

19 Sandra Phillip, the principal of 93, the SLTs

20 from 266; K77 were invited, as well as members

21 from the Education Council and should be here

22 shortly. When they come we will introduce them.

23 This hearing is also being recorded via audio

24 and video. The purpose of this hearing is for

25 you to provide comments about the proposal.

1 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make
2 sure that you are all aware of the opportunity
3 to provide your input. All those who wish to
4 speak must sign up at the speaker's sign-up
5 area, located just outside of the auditorium.
6 The sign-up list will close in about 15 minutes.
7 Speakers will be given the floor in order that
8 they are signed up to speak. All comments will
9 be limited to two minutes. There also may be
10 elected officials who arrive at different times
11 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,
12 we will do our best to accommodate them at the
13 first opportune moment. Those who are here at
14 the start of the public comment segment will be
15 asked to speak first. In addition, we welcome
16 any comments and feedback you may have outside
17 of this hearing. All comments submitted prior
18 to 24 hours before the panel for educational
19 policy votes on this proposal, including the
20 comments presented at this meeting tonight, will
21 be mentioned in the analysis of public comment
22 to be published and provided to the panel the
23 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
24 scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th. The email
25 address and phone number where additional

1 comments may be made after tonight's meeting
2 are: d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov; again,
3 d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and 212-374-0208,
4 again, 212-374-0208. The proposal summary: M.S.
5 266 is a middle school that serves students in
6 grades six through eight. P77K at 902 is a
7 District 75 program that serves students in
8 grades six through 12. Students in the P77 at
9 K902 inclusion program which serves students on
10 the autism spectrum are served in M.S. 266
11 general education classes. M.S. 266 and P. 77K
12 at K902 are currently located in building K902,
13 which is located in community school District
14 13. Due to exterior and interior building
15 facilities' issues, the New York City School
16 Construction Authority will need to complete
17 extensive construction and facility repairs on
18 M.S. 266 current school building, K902. The SEA
19 anticipates the project will take approximately
20 two years to complete. Conditions in the
21 building during these repairs will necessitate
22 that students being served elsewhere during the
23 duration of the construction. As a result, both
24 M.S. 266 and P077K and K902 must be temporarily
25 re-sited to other buildings. Given these

1 circumstances, the DOE has determined that a
2 temporary re-siting to a building within M.S.
3 266's current school district is most
4 appropriate. Additionally, students in P77K at
5 K902's inclusion program, will be re-sited along
6 with M.S. 266 in order to provide those students
7 with the opportunity to continue their
8 educational programming within M.S. 266's
9 general education classes. K93 is located
10 approximately 1.8 miles from K902. After
11 construction and facility upgrades are complete,
12 M.S. 266 and P77K at K902 students will be able
13 to return to their current school building,
14 which will have much improved facilities and
15 learning conditions. The DOE is proposing to
16 utilize the excess space at K93 to re-site and
17 co-located M.S. 266 and P77K at K902's inclusion
18 students to K93 for a two-year period beginning
19 in the 2015-2016 school year. If this proposal
20 is approved, M.S. 266 and inclusion program of
21 P77K at K902 would be co-located with P.S. 93,
22 an existing zoned elementary school which serves
23 students in kindergarten through grade five, and
24 offers a full-day pre-K program. Details of the
25 proposal can be found in the educational impact

1 statement, copies of which are available here
2 today. So, thank you, and now I'm going to
3 present to you Sandra Phillip, the principal of
4 P.S. 93.

5 PRINCIPAL SANDRA PHILLIP: Good evening,
6 everyone. Thank you for coming out. As the
7 superintendent has stated, this meeting is to
8 address any concerns that the Public School 93
9 community has with respect to Middle School 266
10 being a part of our community here beginning
11 school year 2015-2016.

12 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Thank you,
13 Principal Phillip. So we don't have a
14 representative for the CEC at this moment or the
15 D-75 program, or the school leadership team at
16 266. So I'm now going to open the floor for
17 public comments, utilizing the sign-up sheet.
18 Speakers will be given the floor in order that
19 they have signed up. All comments, again, are
20 limited to two minutes, and our first speaker is
21 Moises--I don't want to mess up the last name.
22 Sir, can you just state your name, last name,
23 Cajigas? Okay.

24 MR. MOISES CAJIGAS: Good evening, everyone.
25 The only concern that I have about this is

1 overcrowding. And the other concern that I
2 have is safety of the younger children. That's
3 the only logical reason that I can say:
4 overcrowding and the safety of other kids when
5 they come off the school grounds.

6 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.
7 Next we have Sherriann Browne-Augustie.
8 Sherriann?

9 MS. SHERRIANN BROWNE-AUGUSTIE: Good
10 afternoon, everyone. As a teacher at P.S. 93,
11 one of my concerns as Mr. Cajigas just stated,
12 is the concern with the interrelationship
13 between the older students and the younger
14 students.

15 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: And our last
16 speaker, Maryann Ahmed.

17 MS. MARYANN AHMED: Good evening.

18 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: You might need to
19 speak up a little because it's being recorded.
20 So just step up a little closer, or you can take
21 it, yeah.

22 MS. AHMED: Good evening, everybody. My
23 name is Maryann Ahmed. I come from Africa, from
24 Sudan. All my - - come from Africa - - . The
25 P.S. 93 is really, really good schools, because

1 it helps my son. Now it is - - becoming a - -
2 . After school, like - - in, helps - - really,
3 really good, now writing, reading, and
4 everything, - - for the school.

5 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Thank you very
6 much, Ms. Ahmed. So I'm just going to ask, are
7 there any other comments from the audience that
8 we can have recorded? Going once, going twice.
9 Okay, so again, we welcome any comments and
10 feedback prior to the 24 hours before the Panel
11 of Educational Policy votes on this proposal at
12 its meeting, Wednesday, March 25th. The email
13 address and phone number, again, where comments
14 may be made are d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov and
15 212-374-0208. Thank you so much for your
16 participation. This joint public hearing is now
17 closed.

18 MS. ESTELLE ACQUAN: Okay. So we're going
19 to have Principal Esperance make a statement, if
20 she would like, but if you're an SLT member at
21 P.S. 93 and would like to speak, could you just
22 line up here so we know who would like to speak?

23 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: So, before we have
24 the SLT members pose their questions or make
25 their statements, I just want to give Principal

1 Glenda Esperance, the principal of M.S. 266 an
2 opportunity to address the hearing audience.

3 PRINCIPAL GLENDA ESPERANCE: Good evening,
4 families of P.S. 93 and any of my parents, but I
5 don't see any of my parents here. We are
6 excited about the move to this building. We are
7 a middle school. We are normally based out of
8 Park Place , but we'll be moving here
9 temporarily, is what we've been told. While we
10 will be here temporarily, our goal is to work
11 with the principal of 93 to create a community.
12 That's what we do with the school that we're at
13 now. I have experience of being in a shared
14 space for over eight years, and I've never had
15 any type of hiccups. My goal is always to do
16 what I am paid to do, which is to service all
17 children, no matter what school they go to. We
18 have even reached out to space planning and
19 enrollment, and what they have done for us is
20 for any child in 93 that is interested in
21 attending Park Place, we have now been added on
22 to the new schools round. And so if you're
23 interested in being a Park Place parent--a part
24 of Park Place community, and since we'll be
25 right in the same building for your kids to come

1 upstairs, you're free to do so. I believe the
2 cutoff date is sometime this week, but if you
3 reach out to the guidance counselor we can come
4 up. Just to tell you about our school--and I'm
5 not just going to say this because I'm the
6 principal, but you can even visit if you've
7 heard, we are a great school. My goal is to
8 create opportunities for our students. Our kids
9 come from a variety of different cultures. We
10 have African American, Asian, Hispanic; we have
11 somebody that classifies themselves as being
12 Caucasian. I'm not sure if that's true or not,
13 but everybody has their own decisions. We
14 really try to be diverse, and so some of the
15 programs that we offer--some of the programs
16 that we offer are that we offer a rigorous
17 academic school day. We have a music program,
18 which means that our kids do--every single
19 child, it's not just elective--they do full
20 band, and they also do violin. We have foreign
21 language, and our kids learn both French and
22 Spanish. We also have chess that is integrated
23 during the school day. We just won a grant to
24 participate in the Billion Oyster Challenge,
25 which means that we're going to have an oyster

1 tank set up by Ikea, and all the kids that are
2 involved in it will get tablets. It is almost
3 kind of creating a pipeline so that they can go
4 to the New York Harbor School in the city. We
5 offer snowboarding, and then we have an after-
6 school program that goes from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00
7 p.m. that's in conjunction with Art Connection.
8 And once again, the kids learn drama. They
9 learn drama, art, visual arts--we even put on a
10 performance of "Fame" that we'll be donating
11 tickets to the school so that you guys can come
12 and see what it's like. It's a great school.
13 We're a small school, but the reality is that
14 our building needs to be repaired, and so we
15 have to leave to get it fixed and it's just
16 temporary. We will not hog your building. I
17 have the principal--the acting principal--
18 downstairs at the building that we share right
19 now. She's here as a testament. We cohabituate,
20 and that's my goal. Okay, so you can always
21 come and visit. You can visit our website,
22 www.parkplace266.org. And like I said, I know
23 it's uncomfortable. Change is a little scary,
24 but our goal is to kind of transition in, low
25 impact, and then come back out, low impact. All

1 right. Thank you.

2 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Okay. Kathleen is
3 the principal at P77.

4 MS. KATHLEEN LEFEVER: Good evening. I'm
5 acting as the principal at P77, which is housed
6 in the same building as 266, and we have nine
7 students in inclusive education there. We have
8 partnership established, such as the best
9 buddies. It's a very cooperative relationship.
10 And you know, I think what I would like to speak
11 to is the fact that we've been, you know,
12 partners in the building, and I've heard about
13 the relationship between the two schools over
14 the past two years. And I think that it speaks
15 to how the school is able to work with others,
16 and when they move into a new place they will be
17 able to establish those kinds of relationships.
18 And certainly the way that they have received
19 the students with autism into the program is a
20 testament to their being able to really work and
21 be flexible, and to make sure that things go
22 well. And again, you know, representing P77, if
23 anybody here is a parent of a student with
24 autism from P77 who has been in the inclusive
25 program, I'm available to talk at any time, and

1 answer any questions. I know we've been doing
2 a series of hearings. We had one the other
3 night, actually at P77, and a number of parents
4 came then. But I do believe that change is
5 sometimes harder for the adults, and, you know,
6 I think what we've been talking about is how do
7 we get the kids involved in it so that they're
8 taking ownership of it, so that when they do go
9 to make that move they, in fact, are in charge
10 and feel like it's not being dumped on them, but
11 they have ownership into the program also. So
12 thank you, and we're here for questions.

13 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Thank you,
14 Kathleen. We also are joined by Ed Brown, who
15 is the CEC first vice president.

16 MR. ED BROWN: Good evening. I apologize
17 for being late. On behalf of David Goldsmith,
18 the CEC superintendent--I mean, excuse me,
19 president--and myself and the rest of the CEC
20 body, we just have some concerns that we want to
21 address in reference to the move of M.S. 266.
22 Our first concern is the transportation issue,
23 to make sure that if possible the Department of
24 Education could provide bussing to make sure
25 that the children are able to get to the new

1 location. And our second issue is the funding
2 that the school has for this special
3 programming. The elected officials and the
4 funders in that community, in the Park - -
5 community, we want to find a way that they can
6 actually--the funding can travel to the new
7 location to make sure she can continue providing
8 the programs that she provides at this current
9 time, then also the ability for her to receive
10 new programs and new funding to create more
11 programs. And the last piece is the ability for
12 Principal Esperance to market her school in a
13 new building to attract, you know, new students
14 and new parents to the school. Those are the
15 concerns that we have at the CEC.

16 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr.
17 Brown. Now we'll reopen for public comments.

18 MS. LINDA CUMMINGS: My name is Linda
19 Cummings, PTA president. And I would like to
20 know, what would be the new entranceway for the
21 school, the entrance that the kids come to,
22 right.

23 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: All right. So do
24 you want to answer that, Estelle?

25 MS. ACQUAN: Just an FYI, in terms of

1 practice, the joint public hearings are really
2 an opportunity for the DOE to hear your
3 comments. And there aren't typically questions
4 and answers back-and-forth, but to your
5 question, those logistics will be worked out
6 with the building council and the borough
7 director of space planning once this proposal
8 goes to the Panel for Educational Policy. And
9 if the PEP approves it, then those logistics
10 will be worked out with the principle leadership
11 and such. So there's no perfect answer to your
12 question right now, but that is something that's
13 going to be worked on with the Office of Space
14 Planning in conjunction with the building
15 leadership.

16 MS. CUMMINGS: Okay, next question is--

17 MS. ACQUAN: [Interposing] So we're just
18 going to be recording your questions and
19 comments from now. Thank you.

20 MS. CUMMINGS: The next question is, will
21 there be safety on the floor for these kids?

22 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: All right, so
23 again, just as Ms. Acquan said, the joint public
24 hearings are not a question-and-answer piece of
25 it. All of those logistics will be worked out

1 if the PEP approves this proposal. All right,
2 so we haven't even gotten an approval yet that
3 this re-siting will take place. That will take
4 place on March 25th. And so, if it's accepted,
5 the principals and the leadership of both
6 schools will work out those issues along with
7 the other divisions of the DOE, whether that's
8 school safety, space planning, and things of
9 that nature. So those questions will be
10 answered at that time.

11 MS. CUMMINGS: All right, thank you.

12 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: You're welcome.

13 MS. AYDDELLE ERICSSON: Good evening. My
14 name is Ayddelle Ericsson. I'm a part of the
15 SLT at P.S. 93. Basically, my concern and some
16 of my questions are worked around safety. But
17 the bigger issue is the fact that with the
18 school coming in, even though it's temporary,
19 once it moves out that space will be open for a
20 potential lottery for another school to come in,
21 and I'd like to know, is there any measure put
22 in place so that will not happen?

23 MS. ERICSSON: I know that sounds really
24 weird.

25 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: No, it doesn't

1 sound weird.

2 MS. ERICSSON: Okay. And one other thing
3 that I must say to you is that we do have
4 elementary school children and we do have junior
5 high school coming in intermingling. Safety is
6 a big issue. We know that kids have hormones.
7 We want to make sure that there is a rock-solid
8 plan in place for bullying--for anti-bullying,
9 and also a plan that's in place so that the
10 intermingling will not interfere with any
11 academic instruction. So I'd like to make sure
12 that there are safety measures put in place so
13 that academics are not interrupted, and that
14 there is no room for error in safety. So if
15 there's a way that something can be worked out
16 so that we ensure that the small children are
17 safe and the middle school kids are safe as
18 well, that would be wonderful. Okay, thank you.

19 [Pause]

20 SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN: Okay. Any other
21 comments? I just want to recognize Mary Wade
22 [phonetic], the UFT District Representative is
23 also in the audience as well. No one else?
24 Okay. So again, d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov or
25 212-374-0208. And so again, just thank you for

1 your participation, and now this joint public
2 hearing is now closed. Thank you.

3 [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. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature *Charlene E. Polovich*

Date March 11, 2015