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**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
DIVISION OF PORTFOLIO
PLANNING**

**Expansion of Clinton from
6-8 to 6-12 at Building M868
[10 East 15th]**

**October 22, 2013
5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. MARIANO GUZMAN: - - community thank you
3 for coming out students and parents and other
4 guests. This is a joint public hearing from the
5 Department of Education and the Community
6 Education Council for District 2 and Clinton
7 School Leadership Team - - Society and Great
8 Expansion Clinton from 6-8 to a 6-12 school in
9 building M868 beginning in the 2015-2016 school
10 year. My name is Mariano Guzman. I'm the
11 Superintendent of Community School District 2
12 and a Chancellor - - this year. I am joined
13 tonight, to my right, by Jonathan Levin,
14 Principal at Clinton; by--

15 [Applause]

16 MR. GUZMAN: I'm feeling proud too because
17 he was the first--he's, like, my first principal
18 appointed as a Superintendent.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. GUZMAN: Shino Tanikawa--

21 [Applause]

22 MR. GUZMAN: --who is the President of our
23 Community Education Council and John Keller, a
24 newer member to our--

25 [Applause]

1 MR. GUZMAN: We should be joined in a
2 little while by Tamara Rowe who is also a member
3 of our Community Education Counsel. This
4 hearing is being recorded which is why
5 everything - - scripted. The purpose of the
6 hearing is for you to provide comments about the
7 proposal. Before I describe the proposal, as I
8 am sure you are all aware of the opportunity - -
9 all those who wish to speak must sign up in the
10 speaker sign-up area located by the door - -.
11 Tamara, as I mentioned earlier, Tamara Rowe.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. GUZMAN: Okay, the sign-up list will
14 close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be given the
15 floor in the order that they signed up. All
16 comments are limited to two minutes. There may
17 be elected officials who arrive at different
18 times throughout the evening. If they wish to
19 speak, we will do our best to accommodate them
20 at the first opportune moment. Those who are
21 here at the start of the public comment segment
22 will be asked to speak first. All comments will
23 be mentioned in the Analysis of Public Comment
24 which is published and provided to the Panel for
25 Educational Policy the evening before the panel

1 votes. That vote is scheduled for October 30,
2 2013. In addition, we welcome any comments and
3 feedback you may have at any time before the
4 panel votes on this proposal. The E-mail
5 address and phone number where comments can be
6 made are d02proposals@schools.nyc.gov and
7 (212)374-3466. Is this number available - -?

8 FEMALE VOICE: I have it posted.

9 MR. GUZMAN: You have it posted and it's to
10 my left, those numbers and the E-mail address -
11 -. The Department of Education tries to
12 increase all the options of students. The
13 proposal to expand Clinton from 6 through 8 to a
14 6 through 12 school initially came from the
15 school community. In May 2013, a great
16 expansion team composed of some of the teachers,
17 staff and administrators so they could form a
18 proposal to expand. That location was supported
19 by parents in the broader school community.
20 This suggests a high level of satisfaction
21 within the school and it's parent body strongly
22 implies that an expanded Clinton serving
23 students in 6th through 12th grade will soon - -
24 the children in District 2 and citywide. In
25 June 2013, DOE officials visited Clinton and

1 conducted interviews with the - - team,
2 concluding that the school is well positioned to
3 be begin successful grade expansion. Clinton
4 must earn a C grade or higher on their progress
5 reports for the 2012-2013 school year and the
6 2013-2014 school year in order to remain
7 eligible for expansion in September 2015. The
8 School Construction Party is presently
9 constructing Building M868 located at 10 East
10 15th Street, New York NY 10003 with a expected
11 occupancy date of September 2015. New Building
12 M868 has been designed to serve students in
13 middle school and high school grades. As you
14 came in, there was a rendition of it right
15 outside. The DOE temporarily sited in this
16 building, St. Michael's, in anticipation of the
17 school's future M868. If this proposal is
18 approved by the Panel for Educational Policy, or
19 PEP as it's referred to, Clinton will be re-
20 sited to M868 and begin it's expansion there in
21 September 2015. Clinton will hold it's 9th
22 grade program in two types of - - program during
23 the first year at M868. At full scale in the
24 2018-2019 school year, Clinton is expected to
25 serve 555 to 625 students in total with three

1 extensions per grade in grades 6 through 12.
2 If this proposal is approved, 8th grade students
3 will be able to apply to high school at Clinton
4 through the citywide high school admissions
5 process for the 2015-2016 school year. Students
6 in enrolled in Clinton as 8th grade students
7 will have admissions priority - - for 9th grade.
8 Thank you. The next member will be... Shino
9 Tanikawa from the CEC. Yes, why don't we - -.

10 MR. JONATHAN LEVIN: Good evening. As
11 Superintendent Guzman, honored members of the
12 CEC and - - will surely tell you, the best
13 schools are places - -. Students come to these
14 schools full of excitement, full of energy, full
15 of - - fueled by - - and sure that all things
16 are possible. The best schools are places where
17 teachers come to them full of idealism and
18 desire, hoping for that reassurement - -.
19 Teachers work endlessly to prepare the right
20 lesson - - feedback, to raise the level of
21 engagement - -. The best schools are places of
22 hope. Parents place incredible trust in us,
23 from the safety they know we will provide, to
24 the hope that we will provide their children
25 with the tools that help them develop to become

1 successful young adults. When I arrived at
2 Clinton, it was - - the right school. Parents
3 felt estranged from the community, the faculty -
4 -. As we walked the building, I was struck by
5 the sense that many people had not been - - the
6 halls seemed empty - -. It was not that they
7 were bad teachers, it was a place where I
8 couldn't see a hope. But as I began to listen
9 to the community - - it was clear that their
10 passion was prevented. They spoke to me about
11 traditions that needed to be modernized and
12 revised. They told me about their favorite
13 teacher and how much of a difference it had made
14 in their own lives because they worked with
15 them. Parents - - for nonprofits and
16 universities. They told me they wanted more,
17 that - - was unneeded and they wanted to feel
18 like they belonged. And when I listened to the
19 teachers speak, they glowed with pride about
20 their curriculum and their teaching practice.
21 Their integrity was - - and they spoke longingly
22 for coordination, collegiality and professional
23 growth. And so, after some listening, I began
24 with one basic premise, that this was a school
25 for - -. We were going to be strong in all

1 academic subjects. We were going to look for
2 the strongest community partnerships. We were
3 going to offer as many hours to perform, to
4 publish and to produce as we could handle. This
5 was going to be a place where dreams define
6 orbits and where we could build a constellation
7 of stars. This was going to be a school that
8 would harness the energy, passion and talent of
9 our parent body. A place that we have to rely
10 on all our parents could offer. By any measure,
11 we are - - already, whether one considers parent
12 involvement, - - in our school, partnerships,
13 school events, surveys, attendance or last year
14 the school report card, this is - -. We are
15 full of artists and writers, mathematicians,
16 historians and scientists and so we come to you
17 tonight full of hope. While we have many hopes
18 for the future, I come for a specific hope
19 tonight as embodied in our proposal. Our hope
20 is for one 6-12 - - at Clinton to begin in the
21 fall of 2015 with our newest - -. We have a
22 clear plan view of teaching and learning. We
23 have a clear plan view about the kinds of
24 connections that are needed with young people.
25 We have a clear form and view about how skills

1 are needed academically, socially and
2 emotionally for someone to survive all the ups
3 and downs of adolescence. Someone asked me the
4 other day what high schools or what 6-12 schools
5 we will look to and who we will imitate. And
6 while we will borrow best established practice,
7 it's not that we're going to look at the other
8 schools. Clinton is a unique place and we are
9 not much for imitation. It is my pledge to you
10 today that if this proposal is approved, I will
11 take the hopes of this community and harness
12 it's energy, and together we are going to build
13 a world-class school, a model for schools that
14 take pride in the arts seriously, a school that
15 values true - - career preparation and one
16 prepared to welcome - -. On behalf of Clinton
17 and the hopes of our community, thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. SHINO TANIKAWA: Wow, thank you for that
20 inspirational speech. I'm going to break - -
21 statement. I would like to start with the CEC's
22 official position on the matter, which the
23 official position by last term of CEC, we passed
24 the resolution piece in May 2013 in support of
25 the Clinton expansion. The current CEC has not

1 brought it up and I believe all members are on
2 board for the expansion. So that is the
3 official position - - and we are in full
4 support. Not that our voice - - but--

5 [Laughter]

6 MS. TANIKAWA: --for what it's worth, - -.
7 More personally, I'm just astounded to be here
8 tonight. I remember when this journey began, we
9 - - a lot of us for a long time. And then we
10 had a small - - of securing a brand new building
11 which was great, and then we thought there's
12 going to be a high school and we're just sort of
13 like, oh. And then May - - we decided well - -
14 it going to be a high school too. And that was
15 four years ago maybe.

16 FEMALE VOICE: - -

17 MS. TANIKAWA: When did you start?

18 FEMALE VOICE: - -

19 MS. TANIKAWA: So it was probably four years
20 ago.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

22 MS. TANIKAWA: - - here tonight, as well
23 those who graduated on who drew the idea and
24 finally we're here tonight. And this is one of
25 those wonderful joint public hearings where

1 we're in support of the proposal, we want this
2 to happen and we are relatively confident that
3 we have the vote to pass this. So thank you for
4 persevering to all of you who didn't give up.
5 Thank you for working with us. Thank you for
6 working so hard, giving of your time, the
7 teachers, as well the parents and students. So
8 I am really honored to be here tonight.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. JOHN KELLER: I'm John Keller. I'm
11 relatively new to the CEC and I just want to say
12 that one of the things that are, you know, that
13 since I've been - - is humbling is to see the
14 energy and power and interest of parents in the
15 community and schools. It's truly humbling to
16 just try to be helpful to that - -. So all I'd
17 like to say is that moving forward, you know, I
18 spoke today with Suzette Roth-Jacobs, I know you
19 have a wonderful PTA and SLC in the school.
20 I'll just commit to working with you as you move
21 ahead on the next two years, you know, to help
22 make all this happen in a way you all want it to
23 happen. I'll listen to as many of you as
24 possible as we get down to the nitty-gritty and
25 after all of the people are in place this moves

1 ahead. So I'll just stop there and say
2 congratulations - -. Thank you.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. TAMARA ROWE: My name is Tamara. - -
5 college and I - - you're here. I see teachers
6 and I see parents who don't even have a child
7 and yet they are interested in the good of the
8 school. This is so exciting. In fact, when we
9 had a conference call yesterday with John, - -
10 let's talk about what we're going to need - -.

11 [Laughter]

12 MS. ROWE: I mean, - - but certainly - - I
13 think it's about, especially when I know that
14 you're going through the high school process,
15 our lines are already buzzing with both the
16 possibility and the challenges. And I think the
17 reason - - the CEC is John is totally in touch
18 with the elementary school piece and I'm really
19 looking forward in being there to help serve as
20 a liaison - - that faces a different set of
21 challenges but one that clearly he is ready for.
22 Because John was right, - - and it's just so
23 amusing to see who's here today and how we - -.
24 So kudos.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. GUZMAN: Before I ask for the next
2 speaker, I just wanted to recognize that Rex
3 Clotage [phonetic] is here, who is a network
4 leader. And I just wanted to say - - this
5 morning in our work, we look - - and sometimes
6 we have it and sometimes we don't. This is one
7 of those times and it's just an incredible,
8 incredible - - after, boy, full parent and
9 community support, the support of the - -
10 officials and I wanted to particularly also
11 mention that Drew Patterson [phonetic] and
12 Jennifer - -.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. GUZMAN: Who are real - -. The next
15 presenter will be Suzette, who is a member of
16 the School Leadership Team.

17 MS. SUZETTE ROTH-JACOBS: My name is Suzette
18 Roth-Jacobs. I am in my second year of the
19 program - - school parent association, and as a
20 result - - SLT. And that work has really given
21 me a chance to see Clinton from many different
22 perspectives. I would also note though that I'm
23 the parent of an - - grader who will graduate
24 2014. So me and my son will not be - - all in
25 the knowledge that we did our best to support a

1 really fine school. If you go to - - then you
2 will have support from - -. You will have
3 teachers who are ready to step up and who are
4 excited about the challenges of expanding our
5 middle school into a new high school that is
6 true to the mission of Clinton and true to
7 Clinton culture. And you will have
8 administrators who are up to the challenge of
9 expanding our middle school into a new high
10 school. John's a good colleague and a good
11 manager. He is the - - of Clinton. He's
12 respected by faculty, by students, by parents
13 alike. I can tell you I have really come to
14 value his sense of humor, the clear eye that he
15 has on our academics and this community - -.
16 And I will even say that he's developed his eye
17 even towards the arts. I think communication
18 has really improved at Clinton during John's
19 tenure and PAS - - to get information out to our
20 parents and our community in a timely fashion.
21 I would also say that during John's tenure,
22 we've - - partnerships. We've gone from one art
23 partnership with the City Center - -. Thank you
24 very much.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. ROTH-JACOBS: - - this is a unique
2 opportunity and we are excited about it.
3 Together, we built that culture that's more than
4 just the building and it's more than just a
5 middle school and we are - -. Now for just a
6 second, I'm going to step out of my role as
7 PASLT to talk to you as the mother of a
8 Clintonian. In my son's experience as many
9 indicated, there is absolutely a place for an
10 arts focused 6-12 that is not foundation based.
11 Not every kid that goes to - - individual
12 artists. Not every 5th grader has - - and not
13 every 10th grader know how she feels to be on
14 stage. Clinton is a place where all students
15 can fully experience, perform and experiment,
16 develop their interest in the arts even before
17 they feel proficiency in one particular media or
18 arts thing. But it's more than that. - - to
19 all students - - bear on their academic subjects
20 and to bring their academic life with them into
21 the visual arts classroom and into performing
22 arts. That kind of interdisciplinary dialogue
23 back and forth between two things that are
24 artificially separated, that makes for great - -
25 arts and furthermore it makes for great scholars

1 and fine citizens. When arts and academics,
2 our lives are richer - -. Lots of schools have
3 that - - lose that and our students lives are
4 richer for it. Finally, I haven't been - - who
5 has - - so I think that I speak well to the - -
6 and to work with different community - -. My
7 son is - -. He's on a - -. It's his third year
8 at school. He's on student counsel for the
9 second year. He's been - -. He's all that and
10 maintained a really solid GPA and he still can
11 get - -. Differentiate education, serving a
12 diverse community - - --that's exactly what we
13 want and exactly what we need - - school in a
14 dynamic multi-cultural citywide - -. - -
15 public? You betcha. We're out for - -?
16 Without question. I'm here to add the voice of
17 my son and the voices of all of our children
18 when somebody asks them where do you go to
19 school. You have the foundation you need to
20 continue an outstanding middle school and to
21 develop an outstanding high school. I encourage
22 you - -. Thanks.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. LIZ CRAIG: - - My name is Liz Craig.
25 My name is Liz Craig. - - my second child.

1 MR. GUZMAN: Miss? Miss, could I just
2 interrupt for a second? So we're now going to
3 end the formal spot and open it up - -.

4 MS. CRAIG: I'm sorry, did I - -.

5 MR. GUZMAN: And we're going to have a
6 student speak first. So if I may? So we now
7 have concluded the formal presentation and we're
8 going to open up the floor for public
9 conference. Speakers are going to go, - -, the
10 floor in the order that they signed up. And Liz
11 was right, she snuck up at second and we had
12 multiple lists. So begin with - -. All
13 comments are going to be limited to two minutes
14 and our first speaker is Taylor Barr who's a 7th
15 grader at the school.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. TAYLOR BARR: Hello everybody, my name
18 is Taylor Barr and I am a 7th grade student here
19 at Clinton School for Writers and Artists. I am
20 Deputy Chair of the Student Counsel and I
21 represent my - -. But today, I'm here to
22 represent all the students of the wonderful
23 community that is Clinton. As students here, we
24 really love the school and - - to be a high
25 school. We have a lot of pride in our school's

1 focus on the art and writing. If you didn't
2 know - -. Clinton is an amazing community which
3 allows students to do their best and makes
4 school a safe and enjoyable environment. For
5 students to be placed here - - and bring in
6 their art to each of their classes. Instead of
7 just focusing on just one art, such as acting,
8 we are able to score - -. Clinton High School
9 would be a small school which is pretty rare,
10 and it would be a writing and art based school
11 which is even more rare. As a high school, we
12 will - -. We will take students who are
13 passionate about the arts, which allows - -
14 students to have more of an opportunity to do
15 what they love. The teachers at our school are
16 always willing to help us whenever we need it,
17 whether it's our schoolwork, homework or
18 personal issues. - - they can really understand
19 us on a personal level. This also has
20 maintained a high grade on the progress report.
21 Clinton High School students will be great role
22 models who middle school students will come to.
23 Clinton has already proven itself as a great
24 middle school in which students enjoy themselves
25 and then succeed, so there is a good chance that

1 they'll succeed as a high school as well. - -
2 different high school will disrupt the Clinton
3 community and so why not just build off the
4 great community we already have.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. GUZMAN: I'm going to, as I mentioned in
7 my introduction, we do have someone who is
8 representing our elected officials, Assembly
9 Member Gottfried, Gottfreid's office, and Bianca
10 MacPherson is here. And so, Bianca, would you
11 like to come up and speak?

12 MS. BLANCA MACPHERSON: - - Good evening, my
13 name is Bianca MacPherson and I am representing
14 Assembly Member Richard Gottfried who represents
15 the - - many of the families who will be
16 affected by the proposed expansion of the
17 Clinton School for Writers and Artists. The
18 process by which this new middle school and it's
19 expansion - - is the best of what you have when
20 a community of parents has spoken to the
21 Community Education Counsel, its elected
22 officials, the administration of the effected
23 school and the Department of Education come
24 together to work to find a solution to a
25 problem. The problem here was overcrowding in

1 the P.S.11 building. For many years, the
2 elementary and middle school shared facilities
3 and has a number of students, and each schools
4 expanded, so those became more and more
5 overcrowded. The DOE, parents and the CEC and
6 local elected officials, especially Counsel
7 Member - - worked hard to find an acceptable
8 location for the middle school, and after much
9 work agreed on a site then identified by a
10 parent. It was the parents who wished to take a
11 very successful middle school into a high school
12 and I am pleased that it did come to fruition.
13 Because of this short notice that our office
14 received about this hearing, - -. I share the
15 hope of the community that the expansion and the
16 site are approved for the Clinton School for
17 Writers and Artists. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak on this very important
19 issue.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. GUZMAN: - -

22 MS. CRAIG: Hi, it's me again.

23 [Laughter]

24 MR. GUZMAN: Hi.

25 [Laughter]

1 MS. CRAIG: I'm on my second child at
2 Clinton. I have a 6th grader and an older
3 daughter who graduated last year. So - - could
4 have been so happy there. My older daughter
5 would have been here, but she's - - tonight.

6 [Laughter]

7 MS. CRAIG: Anyway, we're super excited
8 about the expansion and having just been through
9 the high school process, we're, you know, it's a
10 very grueling but very rewarding experience.
11 It's so great they have choice and if you want
12 to go to a middle school and high school. Today
13 however, there's really been no choice for a
14 small arts - - high school with strong academics
15 like - -. So aside from the obvious benefit of
16 this expansion to current - - Clinton middle
17 school students, this group was offered the full
18 city, a wonderful community high school option
19 in a central location - -.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. GUZMAN: I believe it's Michelle Roth.

22 MS. MICHELLE ROTH: Hi, Michelle Roth and I
23 feel like just ditto of everything that was
24 said. Looking at the faces, I feel like I'm - -
25 so just cut it out because my - -. So as a

1 member of the larger community, it's a very
2 welcome asset to the community. As I said, I
3 also have a graduating child, but I also have a
4 graduating 5th grader in a District 2 school.
5 So it's not all selfless. I'm looking at the
6 high school process as well and there aren't any
7 really small arts-based curriculums. There's a
8 lot of science curriculums, there's a lot of
9 humanity curriculum--but there's nothing that
10 really - - arts. And I do think there is - -.
11 So I lend my voice to the support of this new
12 expansion and welcome it to the larger Chelsea
13 downtown area.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. GUZMAN: The speaker list is now
16 exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments and
17 feedback you may have at any time before the
18 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this
19 proposal on October 30th at it's meeting which
20 will be located at 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn
21 10025. They do note address and phone number
22 where comments may be made, as you pointed out
23 earlier to my left. And they are
24 d02proposals@schools.nyc.gov and (212) 374-3467.
25 So, as I said there were multiple lists before

1 it was exhausted, apparently it's not. So
2 we're delighted to hear from Tom.

3 MR. TOM BEYER: Hi, I'm Tom Beyer. I'm the
4 - -. The thing that makes a school, the thing
5 that makes it succeed is a community. Without
6 community, it doesn't happen. No matter how
7 good the curriculum is, it's - - this here is
8 about students. - - this is a place where
9 students will be supported in a way that doesn't
10 have to block - - and arts - - for many years
11 now. - - I've seen students who have had huge
12 problems in dealing with education. They dump
13 them in school, an open education school, - -
14 for many years and all of the students who came
15 to that school were students - -. Other schools
16 - - the school continued - - the student or the
17 student didn't - - the school and the school
18 came up. And we were able to look at these
19 students as individuals and plan the step--plan
20 for almost every - - for 125 students in the
21 school - -. It started as a preschool and then
22 all the way up to high school. It expanded as
23 the administrators and students got older. And
24 I know that is just a wonderful way to just be
25 expanding and have the growth - - because it

1 helps to make the community even stronger.
2 And I've seen that community here. I know that
3 - -. And I know that the - - right here I see
4 in this community is what's necessary to - -
5 students and - - performance. So they're no
6 longer - - trying to figure out what to do, but
7 they're actually finding that one good kernel
8 that comes from who knows where, we never know.
9 But with one little that a faculty member, an
10 office worker, somebody sees that one - - and
11 says, ah, come with me and I'll show you - -.
12 That's it for me.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. GUZMAN: Thank you. Thank you all for
15 your participation. This joint public hearing
16 is now closed.

17 [Applause]

18 [Background Conversation]

19 [END RECORDING]

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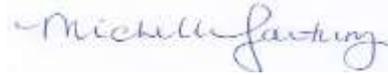
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle Fanning", is written over a light blue rectangular highlight.

Date: October 24, 2013