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

**Co-location Extension of Invictus  
Preparatory Charter School @ K218**

**October 10, 2013**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 [Background noise]

3 FEMALE VOICE 1: Hi, good to see you.

4 MALE VOICE 1: - - .

5 FEMALE VOICE 1: Yes.

6 FEMALE VOICE 2: Oh, thanks.

7 FEMALE VOICE 1: Thank you, thanks.

8 FEMALE VOICE 2: Hi, good to see you, good  
9 to see you.

10 FEMALE VOICE 1: I know, - - yesterday,  
11 sorry - - .

12 [Crosstalk]

13 FEMALE VOICE 1: Say that again.

14 MS. JOYCE STALLINGS-HARTE: Good evening,  
15 this is a joint public hearing of the  
16 Department of Education, community education  
17 council and school leadership team concerning  
18 the proposed co-location of Invictus Preparatory  
19 Charter School in building K218 with the  
20 existing schools - - high school 218, - - and  
21 the School for - - an academy of thinkers,  
22 writers and performers beginning in the 2014-15  
23 school year. I am Superintendent Grace  
24 Stallings-Harte. We have asked district 19  
25 community education council and school

1 leadership teams in building K218 to  
2 participate in this joint public hearing. I am  
3 - - tonight invite Janice Ross, principal of the  
4 School for Classics, Lisa Hermann of junior high  
5 school 218 and Frederick Thomas, principal of  
6 Invictus Preparatory - - . From the school  
7 leadership team I'm joined by Erica Perez, CEC  
8 president Courtney Gonzalez and Ms. Barrett.  
9 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose of  
10 this hearing is for you to provide comments  
11 about the proposal. Before I describe the  
12 proposal, I want to make sure that you are all  
13 aware of the opportunity to provide your input.  
14 All those who wish to speak must sign up in the  
15 speaker sign up area located just outside the  
16 auditorium. The sign up list will close in 15  
17 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
18 the order that they signed up; all comments are  
19 limited to 2 minutes. There may be elected  
20 officials who arrive at different times  
21 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak  
22 we will do our best to accommodate them at the  
23 first opportune moment. Those who are here at  
24 the start of the public comment section will be  
25 asked to speak first. In addition, - - any

1 comments and feedback you may have at any time  
2 before the panel votes on this proposal. All  
3 comments will be included in the public comment  
4 analysis to be published and provided to the  
5 Panel for Educational Policy the evening before  
6 the panel votes. That vote is scheduled for  
7 October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Prospect  
8 Heights campus located at 883 - - Avenue,  
9 Brooklyn, New York 11225. The email address and  
10 phone number for comments may be made are  
11 [d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and (212) 374-0208.  
12 Proposal summary: Invictus Preparatory Charter  
13 School is an existing public charter school that  
14 currently serves grades 5 through 7 and is in  
15 the process of phasing in to service - - grades  
16 5 through 8 in building 218 located at 370  
17 Fountain Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208 in  
18 community school district 19. Invictus is  
19 authorized by the State University of New York  
20 trustees to serve students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>  
21 grade. Invictus is co-located with junior high  
22 school 218 - - an existing middle school that  
23 serves students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and The  
24 School for Classics, an Academy of Thinkers,  
25 Writers and Performers, an existing high school

1 that currently serves students in 9<sup>th</sup> through  
2 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Building K218 also provides space -  
3 - , a community based organization which runs an  
4 after school program. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the  
5 Panel for Educational Policy, PEP, approved a  
6 revision to revise the proposal to co-locate  
7 Invictus at K218 from 2011 to 2012 through 2014-  
8 2015 school years. The proposal stated the DOE  
9 would evaluate the space available in K218 and  
10 other district 19 locations and issue a new  
11 educational impact statement for the long term  
12 site of Invictus based on the most appropriate  
13 space available for the 2015-2016 school year  
14 and beyond. The DOE has determined that K218 is  
15 the most appropriate space for a long term site  
16 of this school which is why DOE is proposing to  
17 co-locate Invictus permanently in K218 beginning  
18 in the 2014-2015 school year. At stated  
19 previously, Invictus currently serves students  
20 in 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades and is - - to service  
21 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at full scale in 2014-  
22 2015. The school admits via the charter lottery  
23 application process with a preference given to  
24 district 19 residents and siblings of current  
25 students. According to the 2011-2012 enrollment

1 capacity utilization report or blue book, K218  
2 has a target capacity to serve 1,253 students.  
3 In 2013-2014 the building is serving  
4 approximately 993 students yielding and  
5 estimated building utilization rate of 79  
6 percent. If this proposal is approved in 2014-  
7 2015 - - Invictus' 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades have  
8 fully phased in and the school has reached full  
9 scale. Invictus is projected to serve  
10 approximately 320 to 420 students. Junior high  
11 school 218 is projected to serve approximately  
12 318 to 410 students and the School for Classics  
13 is expected to serve approximately 280 to 320  
14 students for a total of approximately 980 to  
15 1,150 students served in K218. This BOC,  
16 building utilization rate, of approximately 78  
17 to 92 percent. This indicates that there is  
18 sufficient space at K218 to accommodate Invictus  
19 when fully phased in, junior high school 218 and  
20 the School for Classics. Thank you. The next  
21 presenter will be from the CEC, that will Erica  
22 Perez.

23 MS. ERICA PEREZ: Regarding the proposal,  
24 regarding the expansion of Invictus Prep the CEC  
25 really doesn't have a stance on this as far as -

1 - concerns because we just were told this  
2 morning that the - - just found out about the  
3 joint public hearing last night when they went  
4 to a president's council meeting and they were  
5 told by the superintendent. That was the - -  
6 first finding out about the joint public  
7 hearing. So, I wasn't able to really speak with  
8 the parents' association president to know  
9 exactly what their stance is. Thank you. I'm  
10 going to pass it on - - .

11 MS. COURTNEY GONZALEZ: Good evening  
12 everyone. I'm a CEC member and I'm also a  
13 parent to a student that goes here. I say to  
14 you all as trying to co-locate even to expand  
15 I'm really not for it. My daughter starts  
16 school at 8:50 in the morning. That's  
17 ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous because we  
18 have to make a - - for charter schools. She  
19 should not be starting school at 8:50 in the  
20 morning. If I have to be at work at 9:00 and I  
21 would have to wait around for her to go in the  
22 building because the area around here and then  
23 she doesn't get out of school until 3:10. So,  
24 for ya'll to want to expand to another grade,  
25 that's ridiculous. This is - - 218, we - - what

1 was going on is we have to see them make it  
2 convenient for ya'll. And ya'll, we don't have  
3 to do that. These kids were here first. There  
4 time should have already been spent. We went  
5 from - - notified last night of this joint  
6 public hearing. It's not fair. It really isn't  
7 fair. I'm not saying I'm against charter  
8 schools, but ya'll need to - - . Ya'll need  
9 space where ya'll can do what needs to be done  
10 for ya'll's school. And the money that is  
11 supposed to be funded for the public schools  
12 should be going back into the public schools.  
13 As a parent, as a CEC member, we need to get  
14 this together because it's too many co-locations  
15 going on in this district. Why? Because  
16 parents might - - ahead of time so they could  
17 look out for their children. I know for a fact  
18 that she's new as a new principal and I know  
19 this is new to her. I don't know what she - -  
20 in case she knows - - but as far as the CEC  
21 right now, we're not for the co-location. We  
22 don't - - . As far as my concern, I would say  
23 remove the high school, have them be put into  
24 their environment with kids their age. And  
25 there can - - expand - - 218 - - . They just -

1 - capacity with - - new principal. So, let her  
2 do her job first before you add - - else. Thank  
3 you.

4 [Background noise]

5 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: And we would like to  
6 give an opportunity for the principals of the  
7 schools to speak at this time. Is there any  
8 comment that anybody would like to make? We  
9 have Mr. Clifford Thomas from Invictus  
10 Preparatory School.

11 MR. CLIFFORD THOMAS: Thank you. First I do  
12 want to acknowledge CEC member Ms. Burns. I'm  
13 not sure why or how we - - parents association  
14 has not been notified. I know public notices  
15 were posted at least a week ago. As far as my  
16 knowledge goes - - went up for a couple of  
17 weeks. Regarding - - concern about entry times  
18 and exit times, each of the schools here on  
19 campus to schedule its own individual exit and -  
20 - at school which is not used by - - schools of  
21 other schools at other times. So, our entry  
22 exit time should not - - at least not, I mean, -  
23 - does not affect the entry and exit times for  
24 other students. We have our own set of doors -  
25 - doors - - class use the same set of doors.

1 We've all talked about that and we have done  
2 what we can to make sure that they're not  
3 interfering with each other's - - . I think  
4 that's really important. I do want to  
5 acknowledge that there are many co-location  
6 scenarios, co-location situations, which are  
7 very contentious. And based on the information  
8 that comes out can definitely come across as if  
9 the targets are pushing out the district schools  
10 or treating the district schools and staff with  
11 disrespect. I think we're really lucky in that  
12 we have a situation here where we have three  
13 schools, there's two district school and one  
14 charter school here. We spend a lot of time  
15 working together and bringing together - - . I  
16 think we spend a lot of time working out the  
17 case of trying to make the best out of the  
18 situation where we do have limited space. But,  
19 each want to provide the best education we - -  
20 each of our - - schools. I think we've done a  
21 pretty job of that so far. I think there's lots  
22 of examples of our active - - . I know Jeremy's  
23 the principal of the High School for Classics  
24 has credibly given us access to high school  
25 students that serve as summer academy tutors for

1 our school. We're - - in the works - -  
2 Saturday academy tutors for our students.  
3 Coming up this month principal - - night - -  
4 planning a book fair we're going to be sharing  
5 together. That's going to happen during the  
6 last week of October and the first week of  
7 November, so I think there are of - - examples  
8 of cooperation. And having three charters - -  
9 schools in the right environment - - people with  
10 families at school that's willing to make sure  
11 of that - - . I am always, always, always doing  
12 my best to make myself available to - - any - -  
13 because I do want to do what I can to address  
14 what I think is honestly an unfair stigma  
15 associated with charter schools. We're not all  
16 the same, we don't follow all the same  
17 principles, we don't - - the same letters, we  
18 don't all have the same funding, etcetera. So,  
19 if you have additional questions, please - -  
20 reach out to - - because I'm happy to answer  
21 directly. With that, I think we're really  
22 fortunate in that we do have such a great  
23 cooperation. We have one of the better - - of  
24 IS318 who has happily trusted us with her own  
25 grandson's educational wellbeing. I think that

1 speaks a lot to what is we're all - - . How  
2 much we've been willing to cooperate.

3 MS. LISA HERMANN: - - throughout the  
4 schedule, the schedule was set before I got here  
5 and approved by the Department of Education.  
6 But, I believe the reason why the children start  
7 age 8:50 because they chose to have their 7 ½  
8 minutes in the morning on Monday and Tuesday.  
9 So, that's why the children start at 8:50 and  
10 they go later in the day so that it goes  
11 seamless with clubs associated with the program,  
12 the 21<sup>st</sup> century grant. And then on Wednesday  
13 there's professional development time for the  
14 teachers to have in the morning and the kids can  
15 come in at 8:50 and Ms. - - she - - family. So,  
16 that's the reasoning behind the late opening.  
17 That the students who need extra assistance can  
18 come in the morning prior to their regular  
19 school day and you'll see that whether it's  
20 tutoring or homework help. Oh, I'm sorry, Lisa  
21 Hurt. I also just wanted to state that two  
22 backpack letters did go out with the calendar,  
23 the PTA, I'm sorry, the parent coordinator who  
24 stepped down. She actually bundled those with  
25 her calendar so, I think they go out. It was

1 two letters that went out - - .

2 MS. JANICE ROSS: I'm Janice Ross, I'm  
3 principal of School for Classics. I was  
4 fortunate to come into 218 in 2008 and was  
5 welcomed with open arms and it has been a  
6 wonderful experience for our high school  
7 students. When - - Mr. Thomas was not - - , he  
8 worked with us. He has never tried to push this  
9 building into utilizing too much space or not  
10 enough space. We have never - - space is  
11 equally given out to each school and so I think  
12 there's a lot of misunderstandings,  
13 miscommunication, but in the end we, the high  
14 school, have worked with IS218 and I'm sure now  
15 we'll working with Principal Hermann and will  
16 continue to work with Principal Thomas. But,  
17 all the children here, there's never a time not  
18 a - - amount of space - - not being used and it  
19 really is fair and I look at the school as a  
20 building. And all the children here are served  
21 properly and with Invictus coming in I think  
22 we'll continue and we'll grow. We'll make sure  
23 that each school and each child has what they  
24 deserve and nobody will have less than - - .

25 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: Thank you, I do want

1 to note for the record that we do have any  
2 members of the school leadership teams of the -  
3 - schools who--

4 FEMALE VOICE 3: [Interposing] I do, I do.

5 [Crosstalk]

6 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: --so, with this - - .

7 [Crosstalk]

8 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: Incoming kids. Yes.

9 School leadership team is still meeting - - .

10 MS. BOOKER: Yes, thank you. Good evening.

11 Actually we're going to go home to - - . I was

12 searching - - for a little girl that I worked

13 with, her family wasn't - - home and I worked

14 with her. And the family and I'm proud of that

15 experience so I just have my granddaughter call

16 the mother, say to her that I'm still coming.

17 It's important for me to be here because I'm

18 involved with all three schools. So, Ms. Ross,

19 she has my granddaughter, Tia, who's doing a

20 great job and thank you for just the ownership

21 and the love and different things you're doing

22 with her. And just really thank you, I've said

23 this to you many times. Mr. Thomas, always at

24 the front door leading the kids from day one.

25 And I spoke at the other hearing, Mr. Thomas was

1 there from the very beginning and even when  
2 the - - was cold he was at the front door  
3 leading those children. And I spoke so loud in  
4 volume to - - to children. I do have a grandson  
5 in the program and I just want to let you know  
6 that my daughter said, she's a hygienist and her  
7 father is a manager at the Westchester Hospital,  
8 and she said that she was proud to see how he's  
9 coming home. And she don't have to work with no  
10 homework, he's taking leadership over his own  
11 education. Now, I put that out there in the  
12 front in the very beginning because that's  
13 important. As a teacher in this building I stay  
14 at 218 and I'm very proud and honored to be here  
15 because, again, I have a history because I have  
16 kids who have graduated from this school. My  
17 daughter's in the Marines, passed the Board of  
18 Regents, went on, my daughter, to nurse.  
19 Another daughter's a teacher - - IS 218. So,  
20 this is history. And in this community there's  
21 a lot of children who have passed through this  
22 school and they are serving very important  
23 places in the community, the - - community. I  
24 know there are doctors who came out of IS218 and  
25 there's a lot of history that's is missed, gets

1 lost, and I hope that one day someone will say  
2 the great things that are happening at IS218.  
3 One of the students got into the Regent program  
4 came from my class. And I encouraged that  
5 family all the way to the point where the mother  
6 was saying "- - my child has the - - appropriate  
7 to take any gifted and be in IS218." So, she  
8 kept her child here in the school. And as a  
9 result of that, everyone - - support to that  
10 family and the child got into - - and that was  
11 big for us. And we have so many students that  
12 have passed through - - years who have gotten  
13 into specialized high schools, Bronx School of  
14 Science and also Brooklyn Tech. So, I want to  
15 put that out to you, so we have great things  
16 that are going on in this building. That's what  
17 I wanted to say. I just feel like speaking  
18 about the building and I was - - our family and  
19 I like the fact the spirit, she's tough, she  
20 walks with authority and they listen. So, I'm  
21 hoping to see some - - about school. She has a  
22 vision, a vision for security. We talked about  
23 it - - and a vision of the culture of the  
24 building. Now, this here point, we have a  
25 problem and I spoke with Ms. Ross about the

1 vision for the building, too. But, the  
2 problem is that we have to bring the vision  
3 together to be one big vision in the building.  
4 And it should be not be a situation where we're  
5 divided like the charter school versus public  
6 education versus the School for Classics. It's  
7 about children and - - I say to children in my  
8 class especially when I'm teaching, I say Ms.  
9 Bates always says "Children first" and I have go  
10 to believe that, children first. So, I let them  
11 know that we care about them. But, we have to  
12 have a culture and a tone in our building that  
13 is not - - it's about one big family. Now, that  
14 we have that - - three principals - - and was so  
15 glad to come to one - - . Mr. Morris pulled him  
16 over and that speaks volumes. - - I'm not going  
17 to speak against anything, I just want to see us  
18 grow. We are a - - not by accident. Charter  
19 schools are - - and yes, we do get a lot of  
20 challenging kids, but we don't give up on any  
21 kids that come through IS218's doors. And we  
22 have made a lot of progress for those kids, we  
23 work with them to just have a vision for those  
24 kids. So, I do believe in - - and I see  
25 evidence of greatness coming out of building.

1 My granddaughter's getting ready to go to  
2 college, but she's already at college because  
3 Ms. Ross got her into a Saturday college program  
4 and my grandson, in closing, he has a vision for  
5 a life to be a medical doctor. He will be of  
6 the - - Morehouse, other places. So, we have to  
7 look at the vision in this building and continue  
8 to work together. We don't - - the vision, we  
9 don't need to be divided. The only part that I  
10 have a little problem with is not - - looking at  
11 whether everybody was informed about the being  
12 here. That was a really a concern for me  
13 because we wanted to - - . So, I'd like to see  
14 parents come out. I like to see everybody  
15 getting along. And I really think that that's  
16 going to be negative. And sometimes we - -  
17 about that, too. But, let them see that we are  
18 united in terms of educating the children. It  
19 is children first. The last part I want to say  
20 is budget wise we struggle with public  
21 education. Sometimes we do get mad. I'm going  
22 to say it. We get mad when we see where charter  
23 school being scored - - what I was saying and it  
24 gets - - and I know that you already know this.  
25 Sometimes your budget doesn't pay the rent then

1 that becomes an issue, we have no money to  
2 spend for your kids and we don't get nothing. -  
3 - money and I have to say because I don't want  
4 to live with in terms of having to create  
5 smiling faces when their children, I can't buy  
6 the uniforms. But, so we - - this problem and  
7 we don't want the state, we don't want any other  
8 agencies, just look at charter school - - in the  
9 public education. How do we support charter  
10 schools and public education? That's my  
11 position. How does it do that? How can we come  
12 together and where's the - - in this building  
13 that we can become a role model for the students  
14 - - . That's all I want to say. Can I go?

15 [Crosstalk]

16 MS. ROSS: Thank you.

17 FEMALE VOICE 2: We're lucky to have you and  
18 we're lucky to have your children.

19 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: All right. We have  
20 now concluded the formal presentations. I do  
21 not have - - .

22 [Crosstalk]

23 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: Okay. And our  
24 speaker list is closed, so I really want to  
25 thank everyone for coming out today. Again, we

1 welcome any comments and feedback that you may  
2 have at any time before the Panel for  
3 Educational Policy votes on this proposal at its  
4 October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting. The email address  
5 and phone number where comments may be made are  
6 [d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and (212) 374-0208.  
7 Thank you for your participation. This joint  
8 public hearing is now closed.

9 FEMALE VOICE 4: Excuse us, excuse us. Our  
10 PTA president, IS218, would like to say a word.

11 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: There was a section  
12 you had to sign up in order to speak. So, can  
13 you talk - - . One minute - - because now we  
14 have to - - .

15 MALE VOICE 1: - - can you - - .

16 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: Now we have to  
17 reopen. Okay.

18 [Crosstalk]

19 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: All right. The  
20 meeting will be reopened. We do have the PTA  
21 president for 218 who would like to speak.  
22 Thank you.

23 [Crosstalk]

24 MS. ESTHER INCE: Hi, good evening. I'm - -  
25 Ms. Ince. And the first time I heard of this

1 meeting was last night. I had no idea what  
2 the meeting was about, never got email, a  
3 letter, nothing. So, I take - - . I - - what  
4 is going on because and I looked - - .

5 [Crosstalk]

6 MS. INCE: So, it's going to happen, right?

7 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: It's at the end of -  
8 - .

9 MS. INCE: Pardon?

10 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: It's at the end of  
11 the - - .

12 MS. INCE: No, I have no information. We  
13 could - - . I have no information. So, I'm - -  
14 . Can I have someone inform me of what the  
15 meeting is about and what's--

16 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: [Interposing] No.

17 MALE VOICE 2: Giving you the courtesy - -  
18 of the meeting - - but since we only - - you got  
19 - - just - - comments for the record.

20 FEMALE VOICE 5: What she's trying to say is  
21 that - - they did not give the SLT information  
22 so how - - SLT then - - .

23 [Crosstalk]

24 MALE VOICE 2: Maybe the - - so would you  
25 like me to - - .

1 MS. INCE: Okay. Well, I'll wait to read  
2 the agenda and have my say - - . Thank you.

3 MALE VOICE 2: All right.

4 [Crosstalk]

5 MS. STALLINGS-HARTE: Thank you very much,  
6 again, we welcome any comments. I will repeat  
7 the comments can be made at  
8 [d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d19proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and (212) 374-0208.  
9 Thank you for your participation. This joint  
10 public hearing is now closed.

11 [END RECORDING]

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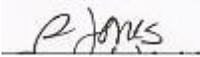
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature 

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 10/14/13 \_\_\_\_\_