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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION-DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Grade Expansion of PS 5 from K-5 to  
K-8 -- 12/5/11**

1 0:00:00 (START RECORDING)

2 SPEAKER 1: Good evening, everyone. Welcome.  
3 I am going to give you an overview of the  
4 process. This is a joint public hearing of the  
5 Department of Education, Community Education  
6 Counsel and Leadership Team, for the proposed  
7 Grade Expansion of PS 5 - - K-8 school during  
8 the school year 2012-2013. I am -- Community  
9 Superintendent Yolanda --. We have asked  
10 District 7CC and PS 5 SLT to participate in this  
11 joint public hearing and I am joined tonight  
12 here by the Principal of PS 5 Ms. Mary Balita  
13 (phonetic), as well as - - and SLT member. I  
14 have on my right, CET First Vice President,  
15 Tanya Jones (phonetic). This hearing is going  
16 to be recorded. The purpose of this hearing is  
17 for you to provide comments about the proposal  
18 to expand PS 5 to serve students in Kindergarten  
19 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in building X005. Before I  
20 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you  
21 are all aware of the opportunity to provide your  
22 input. All those who wish to speak must sign up  
23 in the speaker sign up area located outside. We  
24 do not have any speakers at this point. The sign  
25 up will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be

1 given the floor and (inaudible) later on. There  
2 may be elected officials who show up at  
3 different times during the evening. If they wish  
4 to speak we will do our best to accommodate them  
5 at the first opportune moment. Those who are  
6 here at the start of the public segment will be  
7 asked to speak first. In addition, we welcome  
8 any comments and feedback you may have at the  
9 time before the panel or educational policy  
10 folks on this proposal which will be on December  
11 14, 2011. The e-mail address and phone number  
12 where comments may be made are  
13 [d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and the number is  
14 212-374-5159. All comments made at today's  
15 hearing and through the DOE segregated phone  
16 number and e-mail address for the proposal will  
17 be discuss in the analysis of public comment  
18 that the DOE will publish and provide to the  
19 panel or the panel will (inaudible). I am going  
20 to give you a summary of the proposal. The  
21 Department of Education is proposing to extend  
22 PS 5 - Morris to serve students in Kindergarten  
23 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the school year 2014-2015.  
24 PS 5 is an existing zoned elementary school  
25 located in unique school district 7 and PS 5 is

1 currently serving students in kindergarten  
2 through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This is full day, pre- --  
3 program. The Department of Education does not  
4 anticipate that the post grade expansion of PS 5  
5 will affect if pre-kindergarten program. PS 5  
6 will continue to offer pre-kindergarten program  
7 subject to continued funding and demand. In  
8 addition, PS 5 will continue to serve elementary  
9 school students residing in its zone. The school  
10 is housed in building X005 located at - -  
11 Avenue, The Bronx, 10455. The proposal to expand  
12 PS 5 - - school community in response to request  
13 from families comprised of teachers and  
14 administrators submitted to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.  
15 Reconfiguration applications - - also for the  
16 planning in July 2011. After a rigorous  
17 application process, the Department of Education  
18 visited PS 5 in September 2011 and accepted into  
19 view with the applicant team. Concluding that  
20 the school is well-positioned to successfully  
21 begin grade expansion. The Department of  
22 Education strives to ensure that all students in  
23 New York City have access to high quality  
24 schools at every stage of their education. The  
25 Department of Education also believes that the

1 grade expansion of PS 5 will increase access to  
2 much-needed high quality middle school seats in  
3 District 7. Such an expansion will build upon  
4 the rooms of PS 5 which has demonstrated a  
5 strong record of improving student performance  
6 in District 7. If this proposal is approved, PS  
7 5 and its students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will continue in  
8 the 2012-2013 school year. Each subsequent year,  
9 PS 5 will add one grade level until it reaches  
10 its full grade span of Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>  
11 grade during the year 2014-2015. If this  
12 proposal is approved, the current students will  
13 apply to attend middle school at PS 5 through  
14 District 7's middle school choice process.  
15 Students enrolled at PS 5 will have admissions  
16 priority if they wish to remain for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.  
17 Other, eligible 5<sup>th</sup> graders in District 7 will  
18 have the opportunity to attend middle school at  
19 PS5 through additional seats remaining. We will  
20 now follow through with the presentation from  
21 our participants. Ms. - - would you like to say  
22 some words?

23 MS. - - : (inaudible). We wrote this  
24 proposal because in the past we have had many  
25 students and parents state that they wished PS 5

1 would grow to grade 8. We feel that as a small  
2 community that staff, since --, thinks there is  
3 a --, we can give them a quality education, as  
4 well as keep the small community resources that  
5 we have in-house to be able to have them become  
6 working citizens of the community. Our focus for  
7 the middle school is community initiative so  
8 that they will carry on into the neighborhood  
9 and community as potential leaders and carry  
10 that throughout their middle school years, as  
11 well as continued into their High School. We are  
12 hoping that many of our families will support  
13 this initiative by applying to the middle school  
14 choice program which the applications have gone  
15 out. We have not yet received any of those back  
16 because we are not able to do anything until  
17 after December 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope that on December  
18 15<sup>th</sup> we will have an increase -- .

19 MS. SPEAKER: We have no other presenters and  
20 we do not have any speakers on the list so I do  
21 want to the community superintendent that this  
22 is also an exciting time for all of us in the  
23 district and we are very proud of the time that  
24 has been put into this endeavor and I am sure  
25 that this is going to be a successful endeavor

1 for our school. I am very proud of our work  
2 thus far. We welcome any comments and feedback  
3 you may have in the meantime before educational  
4 policy votes on this proposal on December 14<sup>th</sup>.  
5 The December 14<sup>th</sup> panel meeting will take place  
6 at the Mid-town High School, which is located at  
7 48-01 90<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens. The e-mail address  
8 and phone number where comments may be made are  
9 [D07proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D07proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and the number is  
10 212-374-5159. We thank you so much for your  
11 participation and this joint public (background  
12 noise) is now closed.

13 0:08:48 (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.

KGregory

Kellie Gregory

Date: 12/7/11