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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION – OFFICE OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING  
Beach Channel HS 100-00**

**January 6, 2010**

1 [START 154\_425]

2 MALE VOICE: - - how many speakers do we  
3 have at this moment?

4 [crosstalk]

5 MALE VOICE: Point of information it's - -  
6 order.

7 [applause]

8 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

9 MALE VOICE: Thirty-five times two is - -  
10 seven minutes. That's one hour and ten minutes.  
11 I think we should provide more time to the  
12 speakers.

13 MODERATOR: - - two minutes. I want to - -  
14 . Excuse me.

15 MALE VOICE: We're not accepting your  
16 limitations.

17 MODERATOR: I want everyone to know that the  
18 e-mail address and phone numbers where comments  
19 can be made can be found in the Department's web  
20 site [crosstalk] schools.NYC.gov.

21 MALE VOICE: It's - - guys, so they can  
22 ignore it.

23 [crosstalk]

24 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah.

25 MODERATOR: Please, please. This proposal

1 is something that the department takes very  
2 seriously.

3 MALE VOICE: Ha.

4 [applause]

5 [crosstalk]

6 MALE VOICE: Well, it's true.

7 MODERATOR: The Department takes this very  
8 seriously and has considered it in a  
9 comprehensive manner. Over the past six years  
10 the department has phased out ninety schools,  
11 and we have opened 335 new schools that have  
12 [crosstalk] marvelous success.

13 MALE VOICE: You're closing schools. You're  
14 closing schools you just opened.

15 [crosstalk]

16 MODERATOR: Excuse me. Excuse me. I'm  
17 asking for the courtesy of you to listen to me.

18 MALE VOICE: Then don't argue - - .

19 [crosstalk]

20 MODERATOR: And I shall, and we all shall  
21 listen - - .

22 MALE VOICE: Tell the truth.

23 MODERATOR: For example, in our new high  
24 schools, our new high schools have achieved an  
25 average four-year graduation rate of 75%.

1 [crosstalk]

2 MODERATOR: That is well above the 60% - -  
3 even though those schools serve some of the  
4 city's highest need students. This proposal  
5 will continue that work. Now, the Department is  
6 not--the Department is not letting any  
7 individual or group for the situation at - - .

8 FEMALE VOICE: Then who is to blame?

9 MODERATOR: Our priority, our priority, our  
10 priority is making sure that all students  
11 receive the best possible opportunity for long-  
12 term success.

13 [crosstalk]

14 MODERATOR: We know--we know, we know that  
15 there are a lot of people including the  
16 principal who was here tonight, David - - , who  
17 have worked incredibly hard every day to support  
18 students in this school. But despite all of  
19 these efforts, the results are not what our  
20 students need or what they deserve.

21 MALE VOICE: - - the resources that we need.

22 MODERATOR: Our proposals, our proposals  
23 were made with great care including careful  
24 evaluation of student achievement data.

25 MALE VOICE: Liar.

1 [crosstalk]

2 MODERATOR: As well as a - - information of  
3 school culture and practices to determine  
4 whether a low-performing school appeared  
5 equipped to turn around quickly to better  
6 support student's needs, and I want to talk  
7 about [crosstalk] what the criteria area.  
8 That's what I'm going to talk about now, the  
9 criteria that were used. The school progress  
10 reports do inform our decision making  
11 significantly making any school that received a  
12 D or an F eligible for consequences.

13 [crosstalk]

14 MODERATOR: We looked at community  
15 satisfaction at each school as indicated in the  
16 Learning Environment Survey Results from  
17 parents, students, and teachers. We also looked  
18 at demand for seats at each school to assess  
19 whether or not city families felt it was a good  
20 option for their children. All of these  
21 measures the evidence supporting our proposal to  
22 close Beach Channel is compelling. The school's  
23 graduation rate has consistently remained below  
24 50%.

25 [crosstalk]

1           MODERATOR: In 2009 it's--in 2009  
2 [crosstalk] the school graduated just fewer than  
3 47% of its students.

4           [crosstalk]

5           FEMALE VOICE: That's a lie.

6           MODERATOR: At this school students fall  
7 behind early in their education making it  
8 difficult for them to get back on track as is  
9 evidenced by the school's extremely low  
10 graduation rate. In school year 2007/2008, only  
11 52% of students accumulated 10 credits in their  
12 first year. In 2008/2009, in 2008/2009 that  
13 figure fell to below 51%. First-year credit  
14 accumulation is an important predictor of  
15 graduation rates, and having only 51% of  
16 students earning 10 or more credits in their  
17 first year does not indicate adequate  
18 preparation of students for college and - - .

19           FEMALE VOICE: So give us resources.

20           MODERATOR: In addition, the demand for the  
21 school is low and is declining. Five years ago  
22 Beach Channel enrolled merely 2,600 students.  
23 Enrollment is now down to 1,345 students.

24 [crosstalk] In September 2009, the school only  
25 received two applications per - - . The bottom

1 line is this. This school has a long-standing  
2 record of academic failure. [crosstalk] It is  
3 no longer a school that students want to attend.  
4 Phasing out and replacing Beach Channel with  
5 high-quality options that students want to  
6 attend as we have already done on the Far  
7 Rockaway [phonetic] campus will help create  
8 [crosstalk] and - - Hill high schools.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Where will the other kids go?

10 MODERATOR: Now, let me be clear about the  
11 consequences of this proposal. All students,  
12 all students currently enrolled in this school  
13 will have the opportunity to graduate from Beach  
14 Channel. We will continue to support the school  
15 during a three-year phase-out process. A new  
16 school, a new school is proposed to open in  
17 September 2010 with a ninth grade, and it will  
18 eventually serve grades nine through twelve. I  
19 now thank you for your listening and for your  
20 courtesy. I look forward to hearing your  
21 comments and questions.

22 First, you are - - listen to.

23 MALE VOICE: You're not the SOB.

24 MODERATOR: Excuse me.

25 MALE VOICE: Please ask your questions.

1           MODERATOR: Before we go to public comment,  
2 I would like to give an opportunity to any  
3 elected officials in the audience and give them  
4 an opportunity to speak before the public  
5 comment starts. I understand Council member - -  
6 is here.

7           [crosstalk]

8           MODERATOR: Hello, Council member.

9           [crosstalk]

10          FEMALE VOICE: - - .

11          [cheering]

12          FEMALE VOICE: Over there, coming in, over  
13 there turn in your - - cards if you want them to  
14 speak.

15          [applause]

16          MODERATOR: Please tell us your name. I'm  
17 going to ask everyone to limit themselves to two  
18 minutes, and this lady will give you a signal -  
19 - .

20          [crosstalk]

21          FEMALE VOICE: Take your time. Take your  
22 time.

23          MODERATOR: Let's be quiet and listen to - -  
24 .

25          MALE VOICE: You're an embarrassment.

1 KRIS: Okay, number one this school, I have  
2 been to it, I have--after that meeting on the  
3 15th, I looked into - - . I came here on my  
4 18th birthday, which is today and [applause]  
5 besides that I have this Powerpoint for the  
6 chancellor, which I was supposed to have a  
7 meeting with, which was pretty much canceled  
8 because he wasn't in the building on the 23rd.  
9 So in the case of--I want to hear answers--I  
10 just don't want to hear answers. I have four  
11 statements to make. My statement to make to you  
12 is that I was listening to everything that you  
13 were saying, and I was waiting for my turn to  
14 speak. And you see the whole thing here is that  
15 you are being pretty much unfair to us here.  
16 You're not giving any answers whatsoever.  
17 You're giving us the impact statement we already  
18 know, and besides that we also have a better  
19 graduation rate than you think. A couple of  
20 years ago if you actually look into the stuff  
21 that's--the statistics that are on the DOE web  
22 site, the quality review says that we're  
23 proficient. Then why are you closing us?

24 [applause]

25 KRIS: That's not going to - - . We have--I

1 have a PowerPoint that I set up and that I  
2 will present later on.

3 [applause]

4 MODERATOR: No, I'm going to ask you--I'm  
5 sorry what is your name?

6 KRIS: - - .

7 MODERATOR: Ms. - - I'm going to ask you to  
8 limit your remarks to two minutes, and then  
9 we'll go on to - - . At the end I would ask you  
10 to [applause] after everyone else has had an  
11 opportunity to speak.

12 FEMALE VOICE: We want to hear - - .

13 MALE VOICE: Two minutes - - two minutes.

14 [crosstalk]

15 MODERATOR: Kris, Kris, how long is your  
16 presentation?

17 KRIS: It's not long at all. I will explain  
18 it to you. I will explain it to you, and that's  
19 it.

20 MODERATOR: All right, give your  
21 presentation, and you can give those cards back  
22 - - .

23 [applause]

24 FEMALE VOICE: Just take that one.

25 FEMALE VOICE: Just take that one, Kris.

1 KRIS: - - I mentioned this at the  
2 December 15th meeting, and I didn't get any  
3 answers so this - - this. Beach Channel was a  
4 really good school before cuts started  
5 happening. We lost all of these programs  
6 through cuts to the school. If you see our  
7 oceanography program, which was the reason why,  
8 the reason why they came to Beach Channel high  
9 school was because of our oceanography program,  
10 because of all the - - programs that we had.  
11 Now that it was cut, we don't have that array of  
12 resources, which we did have. We don't have the  
13 teachers. We don't have the power to do this.  
14 We're geographically isolated.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Yes, we are.

16 KRIS: Not all students will be able to get  
17 into the new school.

18 [applause]

19 KRIS: Students that would have attended  
20 Beach Channel High School will then have to  
21 travel - - .

22 [applause]

23 KRIS: Offer a whole bunch of activities  
24 here. Still, even with the array of resources  
25 that we lost, we still have a lot of sports

1 teams. We still have a lot of school pride.

2 I'm here today because of school pride. I'm a  
3 student here.

4 [applause]

5 KRIS: We're the first - - school to have a  
6 coed - - team.

7 [applause]

8 KRIS: There is additional reasons too.

9 Okay, our band performs at - - concerts and  
10 before President Clinton when he came to Beach  
11 Channel school. We have - - and dedicated  
12 faculty.

13 [applause]

14 KRIS: Our faculty, which is in the - - now.  
15 They give whatever the students need. They give  
16 what we need, and they give the right times.  
17 They give after class, during class, zero  
18 period, and ninth period to help students - - .

19 [crosstalk]

20 [applause]

21 KRIS: The New York schools are all multi-  
22 session and now will become more overcrowded  
23 than they are.

24 FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

25 KRIS: Our ESL and ISS students make up a

1 large part of our population here. Where will  
2 they all go?

3 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah.

4 MALE VOICE: Yeah.

5 [applause]

6 FEMALE VOICE: - - I have the facts to back  
7 it up. We have lost a whole bunch of an array  
8 of resources. Besides the resources that I'm  
9 stating here, we lost a lot more. We lost 32  
10 teachers within one year. You can't say that  
11 didn't affect the school as much as it did, but  
12 since the faculty was so good, it didn't start  
13 affecting us until this year. This started like  
14 two years ago when we started losing staff.

15 I have a couple of concerns about the new  
16 schools too. Why can't the money being used to  
17 open up a new school be used to fix us?

18 [applause]

19 FEMALE VOICE: Fix the problems.

20 KRIS: That's all - - . Will the new school  
21 be any better?

22 FEMALE VOICE: No.

23 KRIS: Why did they allow this school to  
24 fail? Why did you lower--

25 FEMALE VOICE: [interposing] Because we

1 weren't dealing.

2 KRIS: Why did you lower the enrollment rate  
3 last year and to cut services? Why did you cut  
4 funding for programs that were needed here at  
5 Beach Channel? Besides the programs that - -  
6 here, I was part of the - - . I'll be the first  
7 - - class of the small learning communities. I  
8 say [applause] when the school got cut, we lost  
9 the teachers and the students lost the structure  
10 that they needed to actually work here. And  
11 without structure you see what happens, the  
12 school falls apart. So then why did you take  
13 the structure away from us?

14 FEMALE VOICE: - - . [laughter]

15 KRIS: This thing is going pretty slow. Why  
16 were you putting us in an unsafe environment by  
17 accessing vital staff such as teachers, security  
18 agents, paras and assistant principals? I don't  
19 know how that can go on. The school needs a  
20 certain amount of assistant principals. The  
21 school needs--as you can see we are - - school.  
22 We need the amount of school safety agents that  
23 we have. We can't allow any cuts to that. And  
24 paras who walk around with the students that  
25 need a one on one, sometimes we don't have

1 enough now. My concerns--will this new school  
2 offer the same range of activities or services?  
3 Will this school have the same experienced and  
4 dedicated faculty?

5 FEMALE VOICE: They'll have new teachers  
6 with lower salaries.

7 KRIS: Will this new school have the same  
8 student leadership, clubs, college now classes,  
9 community services projects that we have now?

10 FEMALE VOICE: Sports teams?

11 KRIS: You see we had the - - for the  
12 community here. We've had it here for 10 years.  
13 Now the students - - since funding was cut we  
14 weren't able to have the budget to do the - - .  
15 That was a big thing here. We had everyone from  
16 the community, everyone that didn't have a place  
17 to be, they came here.

18 [crosstalk]

19 MALE VOICE: You're doing great, Kris.

20 KRIS: The quality rating review rated Beach  
21 Channel proficient. Average class sizes  
22 increased each year, which then affects us even  
23 more because with students not - - . With the  
24 students missing the teachers, the classrooms  
25 get a lot bigger, and when we're talking about

1 within that time period, we started at 24  
2 students in a class. Right now we have a  
3 maximum of 34, and that's because of the cuts to  
4 staff here. There are over 240 students that  
5 need ESL services here, and 239 students that  
6 need IS service here. What happens to them? - -  
7 have drained our school of the students that in  
8 the past would have been a part of Beach  
9 Channel. Why should they be separated by  
10 schools?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Segregation.

12 KRIS: Segregation. You see this has become  
13 - - .

14 [applause]

15 KRIS: - - program, a program that I'm a  
16 part of this past year. Virtual enterprise who  
17 by the way won a city tournament here.

18 [applause] Our whole business - - . You can't  
19 put it any other way. We have no business  
20 program. We don't have any finance. - - .

21 This is what Virtual Enterprise did, a  
22 fundraiser, Virtual Enterprise, which if you can  
23 see is now a blank classroom. We don't have  
24 anything happening in that room, and that looks  
25 like an office.

1           Now, the students that were there, they  
2 succeeded in - - , and I hear and I have friends  
3 that are in a Virtual Enterprise program.  
4 They're doing a lot better now. Then why was  
5 that program cut? - - and leadership classes,  
6 we're unable to have them because leadership we  
7 didn't have enough staff to keep that class.  
8 Fundraising we're not able to fundraise here.  
9 We had a - - Beach Channel law center. Now look  
10 at the program. It's bare. We have a room that  
11 looks just like a courtroom where people were  
12 able to deliberate and speak their mind. That  
13 program got lost in all these cuts.

14           FEMALE VOICE: Shame on DOE.

15           KRIS: We had - - . We did a lot. This is  
16 the leadership here. People made--made these  
17 ribbons. They sat down and made these ribbons  
18 in tribute to 9/11. We had patriotic displays  
19 here, and this is just showing what we do for  
20 the community and how we care about the City of  
21 New York. [applause] The leadership class--  
22 canceled. We had a trip to the Veteran's  
23 Hospital, which we had canceled because there  
24 was no funding. There was no leadership class.  
25 Activities fairs were canceled. This is the--

1 this slide is just showing the Beach Channel  
2 dancers, which we also lost because of funding.  
3 Cooking class was canceled. We have a cooking  
4 room up there, which we can't use because we  
5 don't have enough--we don't have enough teachers  
6 to teach that. The school newspaper, it's  
7 unfunded, cheer leading was canceled, - - shows  
8 were canceled. The oceanography program, which  
9 I talked about, I came into this school for  
10 oceanography. The science, the oceanography  
11 program we had - - program that - - here. We  
12 had--we have a marine biologist. We have a room  
13 where we actually got hands-on experience doing  
14 stuff like this. Our oceanography program as  
15 you can see we did a lot of work in - - day.  
16 Oceanography once - - . We did what we can. It  
17 was an awesome program. Thanksgiving--canceled.  
18 Why? Because of funding that we lost. We  
19 weren't able to do this. This is just the  
20 people - - if you can see every senior center  
21 around the area comes here and they would eat.  
22 And we had student leadership here. Everyone  
23 was here at Thanksgiving giving up their  
24 Thanksgiving to help the community. Our holiday  
25 - - , which still goes on but isn't that high -

1 - because number one we don't have a  
2 leadership class to back it up. These are our  
3 scholarship monies. You can't say that when we  
4 have at least 30 scholarship winners that this  
5 school isn't working. You really can't say that  
6 because scholarships mean that these students  
7 did the best they can here, and they got a  
8 scholarship. I know people that went to Drexel,  
9 all these high-rated schools Valley High--it's--

10 FEMALE VOICE: [interposing] Syracuse.

11 KRIS: Yeah, we have students that are like  
12 everywhere. World AIDS Day, which was  
13 leadership class. I'm just saying this was our  
14 school.

15 [applause]

16 As you can see our school participated in  
17 many important events that we contribute to the  
18 community in many ways. We are supporters of  
19 the community. With that Beach Channel - - the  
20 area will fall, and that's not me just saying  
21 that. This is me through experience. The  
22 students that live within the area come here so  
23 they don't have to go to Adams, or they don't  
24 have to go to - - Hills. The closest school  
25 sometimes that they can get into is here. I

1 mentioned that at the December 15th meeting.

2 Just save our school.

3 [applause]

4 MIXED VOICES: Save our school.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you very much.

6 MALE VOICE: We have a very important  
7 announcement from our City Council member.

8 MALE VOICE: Well, I'm not going to try to  
9 follow that lead because that was just  
10 magnificent, and certainly I think it goes to  
11 show that some wonderful things are taking place  
12 in this building and there are some wonderful  
13 students here. And many of them like  
14 Christopher have some very legitimate concerns,  
15 and at the end of the day that's who we should  
16 be listening to the most, not the politicians,  
17 not the department, but the students. That's  
18 why they're all here.

19 [applause]

20 I just want to say before I begin my  
21 remarks, and I'll keep them brief, first of all  
22 I do want to thank some of my colleagues that  
23 are here and I know that they will address you  
24 immediately after I am done. Council member  
25 James Sanders is on the - - . Please give him a

1 round of applause. He has many students that  
2 attend this school. [applause] Council member  
3 Danny Drum who was just directed to the city  
4 council, and this is not even his district.  
5 Danny came all the way from Jackson Heights, and  
6 he has over 25 years in the teaching profession  
7 as a New York City public school teacher. He  
8 came here to testify today. I want to thank  
9 you for your support. I know that  
10 representatives from - - office is also here as  
11 well as is my dear friend and colleague Council  
12 woman Elizabeth Prowler [phonetic], my neighbor  
13 to the north. I know that Lou Simon [phonetic]  
14 - - District leader, I'm sure that they will be  
15 introduced and allowed to speak at a later time.  
16 I secondly would just like to say a word of  
17 thanks to the Department of Education who did  
18 send the Deputy Chancellor here tonight.  
19 Certainly we don't want to kill the messenger.  
20 You are not the person who signed that piece of  
21 paper that said that this school is going to  
22 close, but I do thank you for coming here to  
23 listen to our concerns and to some of the things  
24 that we have to say. Now we're going to move on  
25 to that.

1           I think that Christopher probably pointed  
2 out more eloquently than many of my colleagues  
3 or anybody here possibly could some of the  
4 unique instances and some of the unique reasons  
5 we need to save Beach Channel High School and  
6 why the Department of Education should not close  
7 Beach Channel High School one of which  
8 [applause] one of which is obviously the  
9 geography of the area. Certainly, Rockaway is a  
10 peninsula, and because of the needs of the  
11 peninsula, because of the lack of adequate  
12 transportation, if they phase out Beach Channel  
13 High School, even if they take the 150 students  
14 that they said they would take in, we already  
15 know that if you have a 14 or 15-year-old  
16 daughter that's going to be a freshman next year  
17 you can't send her to - - . That's not your  
18 fault, but that's closing too. You can't send  
19 her to Far Rockaway High School because that's  
20 already at capacity. She may not get into  
21 Scholars Academy because her grades may not be  
22 the greatest that there are, and that means that  
23 she's either going to have to go into Marine  
24 Park or she's going to have to go into Ozone  
25 Park or Richmond Hill to go to high school and

1 that's a pretty long schlep. They're not  
2 going to get a metro car because the NTA is  
3 taking away the metro car for the students.  
4 [applause] We know that already, and even if  
5 the parents want to drive them to school,  
6 they're going to have to pay the toll to get  
7 over the bridge. Now, that's not your fault  
8 either, but I have a problem in the local  
9 newspaper - - that says Rockaway was bracing for  
10 the perfect storm and I believe that is going to  
11 happen because of the cuts to transportation,  
12 because of the cuts to the private education  
13 that we see out here, and certainly because the  
14 Department of Education decided that for  
15 whatever reason they were going to close Beach  
16 Channel high school. They are creating a  
17 disaster of Biblical proportions, and everybody  
18 is here to say it just can't happen - - .  
19 [applause] It's one thing to complain about a  
20 situation, and I'll be brief. It's one thing to  
21 complain about a situation. It's another thing  
22 to do something about it. Yes, these meetings  
23 are very informative and they're very helpful.  
24 But last month I decided along with Elizabeth  
25 Prowler that we were going to circulate a

1 petition to the school's chancellor not only  
2 calling on the Department of Education not to  
3 close Beach Channel High School and the rest of  
4 the schools that are on the slate but also to  
5 re-assess their process of addressing student  
6 needs. Certainly if you have a fire the fireman  
7 come out and they've got to put out the whole  
8 fire. They don't start three smaller fires  
9 because three smaller fires are easier to  
10 maintain, and what we're saying is that the  
11 process of closing schools does not adequately  
12 address student needs, and we're asking the  
13 department to re-evaluate that. But because of  
14 all the instances out here in Rockaway we are  
15 asking the school's chancellor, every member of  
16 the Queens delegation, everybody that was sworn  
17 in today with the exception of one because I  
18 couldn't get a hold of him in time, but I have  
19 every other council member from the Burroughs  
20 for the -- do not close our school. [applause]  
21 Thank you very much.

22 MODERATOR: Thank you, council member.  
23 We'll take - - Deputy District leader .

24 FEMALE VOICE: I'm sorry. I'm going to ask  
25 you to limit your words to two minutes.

1           MALE VOICE: Sure. Good evening. I'm - -  
2           . [applause] I am a graduate of the second  
3 class of the school very proudly. [applause] I  
4 want to talk about my time at this school and  
5 what it did for me. I came down out of 198  
6 where I got my butt kicked almost every day.  
7 When I came to school it was like a country  
8 club. What did they have? Oceanography, marine  
9 biology, a television studio, a cooking--a place  
10 to go and learn how to cook if the girls wanted  
11 to, or even a man wanted to learn how to cook,  
12 also had auto mechanics, which is not given  
13 anywhere. The auto mechanics shop is still  
14 here. It's in perfect order. The only place  
15 with a hydraulics lift to go fix cars. It's not  
16 being used, okay. You come up with all these  
17 things to close this school. Where are the  
18 Rockaway kids going to go? That's what I would  
19 like to know. [applause] The first - - with no  
20 resources, special ed, special ed, special ed  
21 here and no resources. So I wonder what the  
22 chancellor is thinking about. Where is the real  
23 - - now I know Ms. Dimali [phonetic] was a  
24 superintendent and a good one. - - came here on  
25 the 15th. Michelle - - had to take our

1 problems. I'm glad you're here, but the new  
2 superintendent should have been here as well,  
3 okay. My main question is with them taking away  
4 metro cars, okay, they're trying to reinstate  
5 the toll back on the - - bridge - - . The other  
6 - - pay to cross this bridge. What are you  
7 going to do to help us? Why can't we - - high  
8 school, stay - - high school, keep the - - down,  
9 each and every one of these staff members  
10 received was satisfactory, not - - rated. So  
11 you can't tell me these teachers stink or they  
12 don't - - . They do the right thing. Many of  
13 these teachers are here in the evenings. They  
14 give of their own time to work with these  
15 children. How dare we - - them to tell us  
16 they're going to close the school. Now, what I  
17 want to know is - -

18 MODERATOR: [interposing] Two minutes.

19 MALE VOICE: I'm wrapping up. With the  
20 growth of the Rockaways, we're now about 120  
21 some odd thousand people and more homes being  
22 built as we speak. Where are you going to put  
23 these kids? John Adams and - - Hill have - -  
24 and bursting at the seams. Rumors have it  
25 they're the next two to kick off. What is in

1 your mind, and the last thing I want to say  
2 how dare you ask us to come out to Staten Island  
3 for a public hearing. You come to our community  
4 and - - here. We - - in Rockaway. Thank you.

5 [applause]

6 MODERATOR: Council member - - ?

7 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, my name is  
8 Councilman - - and I'm here to represent Council  
9 member Elizabeth Prowler who fully, completely  
10 and adamantly supports what our Council member  
11 Eric Ulrich has presented in terms of  
12 petitioning to keep the school open. It is  
13 evident to me, I am a resident of Richmond Hill  
14 and I am crushed to see what is happening in my  
15 local high school, and I would be welcoming the  
16 local residents of Rockaway but I know you can't  
17 fit, and they haven't fixed the problems at  
18 Richmond Hill High School so I can't imagine how  
19 we could help you if you came up there.  
20 Obviously, the closing of this school is  
21 neglecting the very children we currently serve,  
22 the marginalized and the most vulnerable and  
23 this is not the way to run society. One other  
24 thing I want to mention is as I looked over the  
25 handout from the - - proposal of the Department

1 of Education, third paragraph is the proposal  
2 to phase out and eventually close Beach Channel  
3 is based on the Department of Education's  
4 determination that the school lacks the capacity  
5 to improve student performance. So whose fault  
6 is that? Is that the children? I don't think  
7 so. Is it the faculty here who is giving away  
8 far and above what anyone could give? I don't  
9 think so. I can see a hidden purpose here.  
10 It's like a deliberate, slow death.

11 FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

12 FEMALE VOICE: And there must be something  
13 behind that. Finally I just want to say that if  
14 the entire council has, the Queen's council  
15 members have supported Council members Ulrich's  
16 petition and you the parents are here and you've  
17 heard from the gentleman, Chris, the students  
18 are united, how can a chancellor not listen to  
19 us. Thank you very much.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Just--I  
21 have one announcement. I am being advised that  
22 a grey Nissan Altima is either blocking or is in  
23 an illegal spot so whoever has that - - car  
24 needs to go out and move it. I'd like to ask  
25 Council member Sanders to talk to us.

1 [applause] Thank you, Council member.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Good evening. As -  
3 - always interesting to be here, and I tell you  
4 as a former school board president, I learned  
5 many years ago that when we got rid of the  
6 school boards there would be no one to appeal to  
7 that we would have absolutely no one to appeal  
8 to and I heard - - that the state has to change  
9 this law otherwise we're just in this bind.

10 [applause] Now, let's be clear. There are  
11 problems. As a Rockaway person myself having  
12 been born in - - when I hear of a graduation  
13 rate of 60% or less, you're talking about when  
14 the schools fail, prison does not so we have to  
15 do something. But the question becomes what is  
16 this something, and the DOE has not made a case  
17 that what you're bringing in is better than what  
18 is. If you can't--if you can't tell me that  
19 what you are bringing in will improve and do  
20 better than what I had, why on this planet  
21 should I go to the way you want. That case is  
22 just not being made here. The cuts that we are  
23 enduring out here are incredible as they are all  
24 over. I am aware of the state funding problems.  
25 I am aware of the federal government's funding

1 problems, but we must find a way to adequately  
2 fund education. We must find a way to figure  
3 out how you can get these--something. You just  
4 can't expect kids to be - - doing reading and  
5 writing. School has to be more than that.  
6 School has to be holistic and reaching all of  
7 the different ways of getting to people.  
8 [applause] With that in mind I urge us, we need  
9 to take a step back. It seems to me that we are  
10 rushing to a conclusion before coming up with a  
11 reason why we need to get there. The case has  
12 not been made to close this school. Until that  
13 case is made, I don't believe that we should do  
14 it. We must find a way to get beyond 50 and 60%  
15 to get to 80 and 90% that these students deserve  
16 and everybody deserves, and there are many ways  
17 of getting there. Some ways may include keeping  
18 the school open. I urge us all to look at this  
19 thing in a rational fashion. Thank you very  
20 much.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you. [applause] Council  
22 member Drum.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DRUM: Good evening, my name  
24 is Daniel Drum, and I was sworn in today as a  
25 new member of the city council. And I actually

1 ran as a member, to become a member of the  
2 City Council because education has always been  
3 my passion. I was a New York City public school  
4 teacher for 25 years, and the proud of - -  
5 chapter meeting for teen years as well. And I'm  
6 going to tell you - - and I hope you'll get this  
7 message back to the chancellor as well. I have  
8 never seen the Department of Education in a  
9 worse state than what I have seen under this  
10 Chancellor. It's very, very unfortunate. And I  
11 want to tell you some of the reasons why I feel  
12 that way. If you'll look around and you see the  
13 people who have come here to participate tonight  
14 and your resistance to allowing them to have a  
15 voice, to have a give and take, to have a  
16 question and answer session with you and the  
17 pushing back of parental involvement and teacher  
18 involvement is a disgrace.

19 [applause]

20 We as council members are pledged to fight  
21 this and to - - to move forward with allowing  
22 the parents of New York City to participate in  
23 their child's education and to allowing other  
24 people as teachers, elected officials to also  
25 have a say in terms of what goes on in the

1 Department of Education. I pledge that to  
2 you tonight. Additionally, your attempts to  
3 close this school are fraught with fraud. I'm  
4 going to tell you why. [applause] What have  
5 you done to support this school?

6 [crosstalk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DRUM: What have you done to  
8 provide the programs and the additional funding  
9 and the resources that a school you say is in  
10 need of closing that you try to provide before  
11 you actually went out to close the school. What  
12 type of communication have you had? What type  
13 of outreach have you had or given the principal  
14 of this school to bring an impact, to discuss  
15 these issues with people in the - - in which we  
16 live in. So much of what has gone on under this  
17 Department of Education has been a lot of smoke  
18 and mirrors. [applause] Well, yes, I would  
19 like to go on though because I'm going to tell  
20 you this is something that's very passionate,  
21 and the way that you move people along in these  
22 sessions is also problematic, okay. And you  
23 need to hear and you need to respect what is  
24 being said to you from the community.  
25 [applause] And I'm very, very sorry that you

1 don't seem to want to be able to do that, but  
2 we are determined tonight that we're going to  
3 make sure that you hear what goes on about the  
4 closing of these schools, and when we get back  
5 to the City Council, we're going to make sure  
6 that this is made known to the rest of the City  
7 as well. So, I'm here tonight to say to you do  
8 not close these schools. We have almost every  
9 City Council member that's signed on to this  
10 petition saying the exact same thing borough  
11 wide, and we're going to stand up to you on - -  
12 for a good long time.

13 [applause]

14 MODERATOR: Thank you, - - . We have - -  
15 from the - -

16 JODIE SHAPIRO: Thank you. My name is Jodie  
17 Shapiro [phonetic]. I'm representing  
18 Assemblywoman Nordine Feffer [phonetic]. She is  
19 the representative of the Rockaway Peninsula. I  
20 just want to say a resounding thank you both  
21 Councilman Drum and to Council woman Prowler for  
22 joining us here in the Rockaway Peninsula in our  
23 fight to keep Beach Channel high school open.  
24 Beach Channel High School is an outstanding  
25 school. [applause] We know that. I mean Chris

1 said it so eloquently. It's something that we  
2 from Rockaway and any of the surrounding areas  
3 know first hand. I mean this is our school.  
4 This is our community school. This is where we  
5 come for all of our community events. This is a  
6 community school. This is Rockaway's school,  
7 and Dr. Morris has a huge amount to do with that  
8 and we thank him for that. [applause] Assembly  
9 woman - - is to provide quality education for  
10 all of the students of the 23rd Assembly  
11 district, but it's also to provide quality input  
12 for the students, families and community that  
13 those schools are in. The school government's  
14 legislation mandates that that happens. There's  
15 been quite enough discussion this evening that  
16 you're in violation of a number of the school  
17 government's legislation. Our attorney right  
18 now is looking into that, - - on the cell phone  
19 this evening. They presently are looking into  
20 that. Any and all violations will be brought to  
21 your attention. We will make sure that you are  
22 in strict adherence to all of the school  
23 government's legislation. For - - for the  
24 school government's legislation was because you  
25 do not welcome community, and parent, and

1 student participation. I mean it is obvious  
2 by the actions of the Department of Ed, I'm  
3 sorry, has taken in the past, and it seems to be  
4 quite obvious again this evening. We will be  
5 speaking with David and many others tomorrow to  
6 make sure of your strict adherence to this.  
7 Beach Channel high school is our community high  
8 school. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you, are there any other  
10 elected officials here? I have - - . Okay,  
11 we'll now open the floor for public comment.  
12 Please refer to the number on the blue card that  
13 you received when you signed up, and I'm going  
14 to ask that those with even numbers as we call  
15 your name or number can come up to this  
16 microphone on your left and those with the odd  
17 to line up there. I ask that you begin to make  
18 your way to the microphone according to numbers  
19 if you have one, two, three or four. That would  
20 be good, and as I say to make sure that all who  
21 have signed up have time to speak we are going  
22 to ask you to limit your comments to two  
23 minutes. After a minute and a half there will  
24 be a sign telling you there's 30 seconds left  
25 and you should start winding up. Our first

1 speaker, number one, and forgive me if I don't  
2 get these names correct, is Terry Ross.

3 TERRY ROSS: - - I'd like to thank the  
4 panel, Department of Ed, the mayor and the  
5 chancellor for the great job that you guys are  
6 doing in systematically destroying education in  
7 New York City. [laughter] I don't understand  
8 why you're doing it. I open up the paper.  
9 You're closing schools that - - kids the  
10 students. Let's cut the charade. It's not  
11 about the students. It's a business to you  
12 guys. It's a business to the chancellor. It's  
13 a business to the mayor. It's a business to the  
14 Department of Ed. And they're just businesses.  
15 Closing schools I hope you realize that you're  
16 displaying economic and sociological racism.

17 FEMALE VOICE: That's right.

18 TERRY ROSS: The people and students in this  
19 community who live in this community you are now  
20 displacing to other parts of the city for them  
21 to attend to get an education, which they have a  
22 right to receive, and you're forcing them off of  
23 the peninsula and out of this community to  
24 attend other schools. So once again I'd like to  
25 thank you on the great job you're doing.

1 [applause]

2 MODERATOR: Speaker number 2A, Rosenstein?

3 ANDY ROSENSTEIN: Andy Rosenstein [phonetic],  
4 thank. I want to start by saying that I am a  
5 teacher. I am a Beach Channel graduate. I  
6 lived in the Rockaway community, and I - - .  
7 [applause] You stated earlier that the DOE  
8 takes the closing of a school seriously. Yet  
9 all the actions that the DOE has shown prove  
10 otherwise. I was at the last even here on  
11 December 15th, which was just shameful. Ms. - -  
12 was condescending to the parents, to the  
13 teachers, and the students and everyone that  
14 showed up. She refused to answer any questions.  
15 Her only statement was I cannot answer that or I  
16 cannot make that decision, not - - that she was  
17 a representative of the DOE and that was her job  
18 to address and answer those questions. I then  
19 traveled to - - to give that presentation to the  
20 Chancellor the day before - - with Tom Warden of  
21 the city, and he's not in the building. I would  
22 continue to get the run around. Then as was  
23 pointed out you can just look at all the budget  
24 cuts and cuts that happened to the school, and  
25 that just makes everybody wonder. What makes us

1 think that what happens in the new school is  
2 going to be any better based on y our previous  
3 treatment towards our - - .

4 MODERATOR: Mr. - - I'm going to ask you to  
5 - - .

6 ANDY ROSENSTEIN: Thank you. That's just  
7 another example of how you don't want - - here.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you. Number three, Ms. Is  
9 it - - ?

10 FEMALE VOICE: I'm here.

11 MODERATOR: Number three?

12 FEMALE VOICE: Hi, my name is - - . I'm a  
13 long-time resident of - - Beach Channel High  
14 School in the graduating class of 1988. When I  
15 was a senior, there was - - and all kinds of  
16 programs, and I had the good fortune of meeting  
17 a very great French teacher who became my mentor  
18 and my friend 25 years later, and I'd like to  
19 pass the mic to him to continue my thoughts.  
20 Mr. - - .

21 MALE VOICE: Thank you, - - . [applause] -  
22 - that are here tonight. I'll tell you - - MS53  
23 formerly known by IS53. That was the worst  
24 school in the Rockaway. Today thanks to the - -  
25 that have been - - this school is now in the top

1 - - . Actually, it was - - . Actually, - -  
2 was in the Daily News as one of the most  
3 improved schools in New York City. Our report  
4 card is in April 96.5 with - - . This happened  
5 because - - for closing. When I was sent to  
6 MS53, I was told to phase it out, and I refused  
7 to do that in the name of the children. I spent  
8 my 20 years of--right here at the - - High  
9 School as a teacher, as a dean, as a coordinator  
10 of the student cafeteria, as an assistant  
11 principal. I cannot stand by as an educator and  
12 as an experienced who saw the need to keep the  
13 school open. This is the only - - school we  
14 have in the - - . We have great teachers here,  
15 and the same students that come to Beach Channel  
16 High School, these are the same students that  
17 were - - . Yet they made progress. They - - .  
18 Only give a chance, give a chance to the school.  
19 Give three years to those teachers. Teachers -  
20 - you have to do better. You have to show them  
21 that you all can do better. Assistant principal  
22 you have to show them you can do better. My  
23 colleague, my colleague, Dr. - - let's present  
24 it to the panel, let's send it to the Chancellor  
25 and tell the Chancellor here is our plan, give

1 us a chance. We can - - the school for the  
2 betterment of Rockaway and of all children.  
3 Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Speaker number four, is it  
5 Christopher? Christopher?

6 FEMALE VOICE: He went already. Yeah, he  
7 went already.

8 MODERATOR: Oh, okay. Number five, Anderson  
9 - - .

10 FEMALE VOICE: My name is - - Anderson - - ,  
11 and I had three children that graduated out of  
12 this school. First of all, you said 2007 I  
13 question you as far as how many kids graduated.  
14 I went to that graduation. My daughter  
15 graduated in 2007. She had advanced regents  
16 diploma. Her father died of colon cancer. He  
17 wasn't able to go to the graduation, so he  
18 called her graduation day. She went to see him  
19 early in the morning at 9:00, and then she  
20 attended the graduation. So, for seven months  
21 she was going back and forth to the hospital  
22 while her father was in the hospital. She also  
23 - - attended and helped the farmer's market.  
24 What I am saying to you is that you see the  
25 school as a failure. She graduated with

1 advanced reagent's diploma in 2007, a year  
2 ahead of her time. Not only that, her father  
3 had cancer. He died of cancer, and she had to  
4 go and watch him and she also had 10, 15 extra  
5 credits that she wanted to donate to other  
6 students but because her guidance counselor said  
7 DOE would not approve it, she couldn't do that.  
8 So, what I'm saying to you is that we are the  
9 teachers of the children. You are not the  
10 teachers of the children. What you should be  
11 asking for is not more money. You should be  
12 asking for reparation, and if you ask for  
13 reparation from the DOE, you are asking for what  
14 is owed to you. You don't - - have to come here  
15 and be beggars. We are not beggars. We are  
16 asking for reparation, what is owed to us. What  
17 is owed to us is our education, our own  
18 children's education. - - nothing. - - and  
19 everybody - - better speak up. Do you hear me?  
20 You better speak up. All the sisters in the - -  
21 you better speak up. - - you better speak up.  
22 All you - - you better speak up. The time is  
23 not up. We are not up. Beach Channel is not  
24 up. I'm not - - . You better not - - .

25 MODERATOR: - - .

1 [applause]

2 MODERATOR: Number six, - - Anderson. Mr.  
3 Anderson, are you - - ?

4 MR. ANDERSON: Okay, my name is - -  
5 Anderson, and I graduated Beach Channel in 2005.  
6 And I'm also in my graduating semester at a  
7 four-year college. [applause] The thing is  
8 that Rockaway is isolated by water and  
9 marshland on all sides. It takes at least an  
10 hour for most Rockaway students to get to the  
11 nearest decent public high school outside of  
12 Rockaway.

13 MODERATOR: Let's have order please.

14 MR. ANDERSON: Most of those schools are  
15 already over crowded. Beach Channel didn't fail  
16 it's evaluation, and it was stable despite  
17 losing funding and faculty and it was merely - -  
18 . The downward spiral of low performance began  
19 around 2003 when Bernard - - was no longer  
20 principal and - - was put inside the school  
21 where - - was expanded, Beach Channel was  
22 shrunk, the PTA lost power and the student  
23 events and student activities had decreased.  
24 The panel that meets should vote no to closing  
25 Beach Channel High School because not only will

1 this bring a downward spiral to this school  
2 and to other schools they want to add on in this  
3 building, but it also would negatively affect  
4 the community. As most people here live in  
5 Rockaway, they know Rockaway has a negative  
6 amount of--they know Rockaway has a high amount  
7 of crime. Many other students in this school  
8 [crosstalk]. Many other students in this school  
9 who won't be able to get into another school  
10 after Beach Channel is closed, a lot of them  
11 don't feel like traveling and a lot of them  
12 wouldn't want to go to another school anyway.  
13 That will lead to an increase in drop outs and  
14 an increase in gang activity. [applause]  
15 Increase in gang activity and right now in New  
16 York City most places to get a GED you have to  
17 be 19. So that may mean - - drop out when  
18 they're 16--

19 MODERATOR: [interposing] I'll have to ask  
20 you to wrap up Mr. Anderson.

21 MR. ANDERSON: For two or three years those  
22 students will have nothing to do and most likely  
23 would go to crime. That's why Beach Channel  
24 can't close.

25 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number

1 seven, is it Ms. - - ?

2 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

3 MODERATOR: My apologies.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Hi, I'm the parent of a  
5 student in this school. My student, my daughter  
6 because I'm the first teacher she has - - all  
7 right, I teach her the values, you guys do the  
8 rest. She comes to the school sometimes  
9 frustrated. She's not the perfect attendance  
10 student. She's your nightmare student as far as  
11 attendance. Why? Because you take away the  
12 things that motivate a child to come to school.  
13 No student right now wants to learn reading and  
14 writing. They want something to make them feel  
15 good about themselves, which is your programs,  
16 which gives them the extra oomph to want to get  
17 up out of bed, the chorus, the band, the cooking  
18 classes. Those are the things that make these  
19 children feel that they're alive. You learn  
20 reading and writing--that doesn't do nothing.  
21 You've got to teach them values, the things that  
22 make them feel good about themselves. You come  
23 here saying that you're listening to these  
24 parents, you're listening to us, you're lying  
25 because you already set down what you're going

1 to do to the school. You're letting us talk  
2 because it has to be done by law, but you  
3 already made a decision three years ago when you  
4 decided to say we're going to cut these programs  
5 so that everyone fails. You have these teachers  
6 fighting with each other to keep their jobs.  
7 You have school aids suffering, doing work that  
8 they shouldn't be doing, and you sit there  
9 smugly telling us it's time up. Your time  
10 should be up because - - . You failed our  
11 students. You failed our students. That's what  
12 you did here, and for parents who struggles  
13 every day to do what she has to, you blame the  
14 parents. I blame you because you take - - to  
15 accommodate your finances, while you get the big  
16 check and they - - new schools on paper. What?  
17 With no money on the tables. You spend more  
18 money on books and programs to make them want to  
19 come to school is what my students and children  
20 tell me here. So you know what, stop the  
21 charade, and be honest and change your system so  
22 that these people who want to be here, who put  
23 money out of their own pocket - - to do what  
24 they have to do. Don'ts top - - doing what they  
25 have to do which is for the students and

1 everyone here. Because this is a family  
2 affair, and you have messed with a family. And  
3 guess what you're going to pay for it. Thank  
4 you.

5 [applause]

6 MODERATOR: Thank you. Number eight,  
7 Beatrice Corrals [phonetic]?

8 MS. CORRALS: Yes.

9 MODERATOR: Ms. Corrals.

10 MS. CORRALS: I am the mother of seven  
11 children who went to this school. It was a  
12 fabulous place. People came from all over the  
13 city, and our community was blessed to have  
14 this. They all had different talents,  
15 abilities, inabilities, whatever, but they each  
16 found a niche and thank God have been successful  
17 in their various paths that they took. The  
18 basics of a democratic society is a public  
19 education of the highest possible levels.  
20 Without that, you can't call - - . I went to -  
21 - myself while I was in high school. When I  
22 knew the kids that I knew, they - - school. - -  
23 couldn't touch. It was a different time. It  
24 worked out okay, but for - - to succeed, public  
25 education has got to be the best we could

1 possibly offer. So I'm here to say we need  
2 it, our country needs it So thank you.

3 [applause]

4 MODERATOR: - - .

5 MALE VOICE: Thank you. My name is Dave - -  
6 . I am the dually elected - - leader of Beach  
7 Channel and proud of it, but I am equally proud  
8 that I am a product of this New York City Board  
9 of Education. I was educated in the public  
10 schools. My children go to the public schools,  
11 and I seek at times to represent those children  
12 even when the Board of Education tries to stop  
13 me from representing my own children. That  
14 being said, we have an out-of-touch mayor who is  
15 in charge of making these decisions including  
16 shutting this school. We know where it's coming  
17 from, and to show you how out of touch this  
18 mayer is, this is according to - - . When asked  
19 about not having parking at Keystan [phonetic]  
20 Park for residents of the Rockaway - - Public  
21 Park there, he said, well, I have no problem  
22 parking my limousine there. [laughter] That's  
23 why I haven't voted for him, and I'm never going  
24 to be voting for this man even if he runs for  
25 another ten terms, which he'll probably get

1 through anyway. First of all, one thing I  
2 will never accept is a lie. This document, this  
3 educational impact statement contains a bald  
4 faced lie. It states, and I quote that "After  
5 consultation with the - - stakeholders," now  
6 unless you're addressing someone who is  
7 attacking a vampire, you missed the - - leader  
8 of this building. [applause] And this - -  
9 leader says no, and there's a reason. I'm a  
10 math teacher. I can add. I can read numbers,  
11 and I saw that two years ago before you started  
12 amputating the staff of this building we had a  
13 52% graduation rate. Over the last - - we've  
14 lost 57 of those.

15 MODERATOR: I'm going to ask you to wrap up  
16 so we can go to the next speaker.

17 MALE VOICE: I appreciate what you're  
18 saying. However, I'm also going to read your  
19 own statement, your own quality review, which  
20 states that this school is--

21 MODERATOR: [interposing] If you want to  
22 read that statement into the record I will stay  
23 here and listen to it after all these other  
24 people have - - .

25 [crosstalk]

1           MODERATOR: Go ahead, and read.

2           MALE VOICE: These - - school that through  
3 the leadership, vision and resource management  
4 schools of the principal is starting to emerge  
5 from a period of academic poverty. The road has  
6 been long and challenging - - appreciate.  
7 They're beginning to reap the rewards for their  
8 - - and sustainability. Students respond by  
9 attending more regularly, participating more  
10 fully in the life of the school and leaving many  
11 of the cursory issues at the gates of the  
12 building. Much of this transition is due to the  
13 formation of a number of small learning  
14 communities within a large school. Since their  
15 inception three years ago, the positive impact  
16 is striking. Not only has the academics of  
17 individual students risen, but also the effect  
18 throughout the whole school - - all to see.  
19 There is no doubt this one inspirational move is  
20 improving the quality of the student learning."  
21 How in the hell can you say that this is a  
22 failing school? Excuse my French. In addition,  
23 you talk about parental satisfaction. Then why  
24 is it that when I read the surveys it says that  
25 the percent of parents at our school who were

1 satisfied or very satisfied with the education  
2 my child has received this year was 81%.  
3 [applause] That's failing? I consider 81%  
4 success. We can improve, but that's success.  
5 My opportunity to be involved with my child's  
6 education, 83% were satisfied or very satisfied.  
7 How well my school communicates with me, 79%.  
8 The numbers don't lie, you do. [applause]

9 MODERATOR: Thank you, - - . Number ten, is  
10 it - - ? Number ten.

11 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, good  
12 evening. I have just come here, and I have been  
13 - - educational reason. I just want to only ask  
14 one question. What do you want - - this  
15 institution? Education. Do you really want the  
16 education? I don't think that they entertained  
17 all these - - if you want to make a cake, if you  
18 keep on changing the pan without giving - - I  
19 don't think that you're going to end up with a  
20 cake. So, while we - - we need here the  
21 ingredients, the necessary equipment, the  
22 resources. Once we get those kind of equipment,  
23 I think our - - has been served here. As you  
24 know, as I have been watching for the last three  
25 years, you, Department of Education, has taken

1 the biggest school - - so they have changed  
2 the policy to look for a micro management. The  
3 - - schools and institutions have proved it's -  
4 - and - - for so many years. This is a contest  
5 with the schools, and - - school performed good  
6 education once you are given all the resources  
7 and facilities that a particular school needs.  
8 I think we have heard so many times - - the  
9 school didn't get enough support - - so it is  
10 like you now want to go to Manhattan, I don't  
11 take a car because - - what I do. I take a bus.  
12 I walk down and take a subway, and then I go to  
13 Manhattan. I need to go to Manhattan. I just  
14 need to get - - , and it's going to make it past  
15 the - - . So, - - but it is not giving the  
16 right education. And also as I can see by  
17 changing all the institutions from bigger to  
18 smaller, it is developing a bad trend, but what  
19 is the result of - - ? It's that any particular  
20 - - by changing the institutions that they are  
21 solving our problems. No, it is not. So, I  
22 mean I can - - the Department of Education to be  
23 so - - the parents should be given more chance  
24 to give and - - their support--

25 MODERATOR: [interposing] I need to ask you

1 to wrap up please.

2 MALE VOICE: I would like to strongly oppose  
3 the decision of the department of education. I  
4 - - so that the institution can - - do it  
5 before. Thank you, good evening.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number 11,  
7 - - , PTA representative, Doreen - - a PTA  
8 representative. Not here, okay. Number twelve  
9 - - .

10 [applause]

11 LEO CASEY: My name is Leo Casey. I am the  
12 vice president for academic highs schools of the  
13 - - . [applause] A sign of a mature adult is  
14 that they take responsibility for their actions,  
15 and when I sat here and listened to the reading  
16 of the educational impact statement for this  
17 school, it was clear that the Department of  
18 Education is not run by mature adults.

19 [applause] The Department of Education set into  
20 motion, set into motion with its policies the  
21 problems that this school has when it closed - -  
22 Rockaway, when it concentrated the highest need  
23 students in this school, when it made this  
24 school's population 20% students with special  
25 needs, when it made half of them students who

1 have the most severe disabilities, and when it  
2 failed to provide the support that the  
3 Department of Education should provide to every  
4 school the Department of Education and the  
5 chancellor of this school system for seven years  
6 set into motion the very things that they say  
7 today is the responsibility of the teachers and  
8 the students in this school. It is not. This  
9 is a political decision that's being made here  
10 today. [applause] When the broken school  
11 progress reports get As and Bs to 97% of the  
12 elementary and middle schools in this city, they  
13 decided they were going to get the space that  
14 they needed out of high schools, and they went  
15 after high schools with a machete. And they're  
16 closing high schools that don't even meet their  
17 own criteria. They're ignoring their own school  
18 progress reports. It is time for the CDC, time  
19 for the citywide council on high schools to  
20 stand up and say this is wrong.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Wrong.

22 [applause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: This is wrong.

24 FEMALE VOICE: This is wrong.

25 [crosstalk]

1           MODERATOR: Let's see, we have James - - .

2           JAMES: Good evening. I am--I was here at  
3 the parents' Q&A in the community - - , I think,  
4 and I find it incredibly insulting that the  
5 Department of Education would have an  
6 opportunity to answer questions and when they  
7 tried to answer the questions they have  
8 absolutely no answers. It is--the community was  
9 here, parents, kids were here asking questions,  
10 what is happening to us, why are you doing--is  
11 this going on, and they have done absolutely  
12 nothing. Two people from the Department of  
13 Education were here on one night and two people  
14 who unfortunately had no answers and - - because  
15 the Department of Education failed to give any  
16 answers to this community. What - - just  
17 described in the - - here is a description of  
18 neglect. This chancellor has neglected this  
19 community. This chancellor has neglected the  
20 City of New York, the kids of New York, and they  
21 don't care about what it is that we say. The  
22 fact that they are slapping the face of the  
23 community that has spoken out day after day,  
24 spoken out again about what is going on here,  
25 you heard about the City Council, a delegation

1 of Queens who have been sent here opposing the  
2 closing of the school. You hear about the  
3 parents that have come out and said this. You  
4 hear about the students that have come out and  
5 said this, and they have refused to listen. It  
6 is time that the Department of Education listens  
7 to the community. In the spirit of the  
8 government's - - in which a community's voice is  
9 supposed to be heard, it is about time that the  
10 chancellor and the mayor of the city listen to  
11 the people of the City of New York. Thank you.

12 [applause]

13 MODERATOR: - - . Bryan - - , number 14.

14 BRYAN: Good evening, Ms. - - . My name is  
15 - - . If you came to Beach Channel, you would  
16 probably be able to - - .

17 MODERATOR: Well my apologies.

18 BRYAN: Okay, I just have to say, one, that  
19 I work with District 75 and I'm smart enough to  
20 know that you're getting no - - with BOE. They  
21 are not going to invest the money because  
22 Bloomberg has it all. Now, look, you know, I  
23 was sitting down here and I was saying do I  
24 really want to speak to somebody who doesn't  
25 want to speak to me? And I'm also a special

1 educator so I know you're over saturated and  
2 you really need to get up and walk around. But  
3 sadly you were over saturated before we came in.  
4 Now, look, I enjoy doing what every teacher in  
5 here with every student. I saw Chris when he  
6 was a freshman, and I heard him say that he was  
7 interested in being a leader. And I am so glad  
8 that your filthy fingers didn't stop him because  
9 he really achieved what he wanted, and you could  
10 not stop that. But there is one thing that you  
11 need to really understand, okay. You are  
12 mismanaging everything, and you're blaming it on  
13 us. And you have us fighting each other, and  
14 you need to stop because eventually you will  
15 reap the disbenefits of what you're doing when  
16 you're worried about can I make it to my car,  
17 can I go to this store, can I go to this movie?  
18 You need to stop. You need to stop insulting  
19 me. I'm 60-years-old, and you just told me shut  
20 the hell up but please talk. Now look, you have  
21 got to be better listeners, and you've got to  
22 see that we have a wonderful institution here  
23 and despite your nasty - - we are still  
24 together. There is still a big fight, and - -  
25 learners will be taken care of. The special ed

1 kids that you're afraid of will still be here  
2 and movers and--

3 MODERATOR: [interposing] You need to end.

4 BRYAN: --let me tell you you've been able  
5 to - - . Nice not talking to you. Good lesson  
6 in education, all right. You need to come to  
7 this school and possibly learn some respect.

8 [applause]

9 MODERATOR: Number 15, Joe Bowman  
10 [phonetic].

11 JOE BOWMAN: Thank you. I'm so frustrated I  
12 really don't know how to express this, but I  
13 want to thank the community for coming out and  
14 saying what we've all been trying to say. Keep  
15 this school open. You haven't heard one - - one  
16 person say a negative thing, a student, a  
17 parent, a staff member, council people, so I  
18 would ask, I was going to say demand. I ask go  
19 to Mr. - - and tell him to vote on January 26th  
20 to keep this school open. Vote against the  
21 proposal because this community wants this  
22 school open. Please take it back. Keep this  
23 school open. Keep this school open. The sham  
24 that you put on you people did - - I apologize  
25 to say you, but the sham that the BOE put on

1 December 15th, we deserve another question and  
2 answer night. And I'll tell you something,  
3 these people will be here even though they had  
4 to take off time from work and lose money doing  
5 that. Okay. The Mayor was given an extended  
6 period of time for mayoral control of the  
7 schools, and one of the provisions was that the  
8 communities, the parents of schools would have  
9 some kind of say when major decisions are being  
10 made in the community in their school. This is  
11 the only relevant school left in Rockaway, and  
12 this community deserves a say. And I think  
13 they're saying--say it again. Keep this school  
14 open. Thank you.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. [applause]  
16 Seventeen - - , number eighteen.

17 MALE VOICE: Sixteen.

18 MODERATOR: Fifteen - - .

19 [applause]

20 NORM SCOTT: My name is Norm Scott. I'm - -  
21 my time to James E. Turner the -- leader of  
22 Jamaica High School which is the other big high  
23 school in Queens being closed, and that hearing  
24 is tomorrow for anybody down here - - .

25 JAMES TURNER: Thanks, Norm. I'm James

1 Turner. I'm the chapter leader of Jamaica  
2 High School, and I'm here to show solidarity  
3 with the community and the - - teachers, people,  
4 parents, and anyone from Beach Channel. This is  
5 like living a recurring nightmare. It's like  
6 the same story happening at Jamaica over and  
7 over again. I also went to the Bronx and heard  
8 the people from Columbus tell the same story.  
9 We've put out the numbers and showed that these  
10 are good schools, and it seems nobody from the  
11 DOE is listening to us. Proficient quality  
12 review, the parents are satisfied with the  
13 education they are receiving here. The most  
14 challenging students come into the school, and  
15 we're doing the best we can. And people are  
16 making it through. What really bothers me is  
17 they keep talking about this four-year  
18 graduation rate, and it's at only 58%, or 52%,  
19 or 43% have graduated. And it implies that  
20 everybody else is dropping out, 57% are dropping  
21 out. That's not true. With some of the more  
22 challenging students it takes more time. If you  
23 came to a foreign country and had to learn the  
24 language and were told get the degree in the  
25 same amount of time as everybody else, it might

1 take you a little extra time and if it takes a  
2 little extra time you're not a failure, you're a  
3 success. And that school that got that kid  
4 through in that extra time is successful also.  
5 So, let's start talking about how many of our  
6 students are making it instead of talking about  
7 these arbitrary rates, and the state is even  
8 talking about moving to a five-year standard for  
9 graduation. Anyway, is the DOE listening? At  
10 Jamaica on December 16th nobody spoke in favor  
11 of the proposal - - . In the Bronx, Columbus,  
12 another school, nobody spoke in favor that they  
13 should reorganize. Here--

14 MODERATOR: [interposing] - - .

15 MR. TURNER: I haven't heard anybody say,  
16 yes, you should reorganize. Well, listen to us.  
17 We're all saying we have the - - to fix these  
18 places. Listen to what we're saying and help  
19 us. Don't close us. Thank you very much.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you.

21 MALE VOICE: - - tomorrow night.

22 MODERATOR: Number 17, Tanica Jones  
23 [phonetic].

24 TANICA JONES: It's Tanica Jones, and I'm a  
25 member of the community. Not only am I a member

1 of the community but I am a school teacher and  
2 a chapter leader of PS42 right here in the  
3 Rockaway, - - 663, and I was at - - High School  
4 two years ago when they decided to close that  
5 school. And I told them exactly what would  
6 happen--that the students would not have a  
7 choice. You would filter those students into  
8 Beach Channel High School. It was already an  
9 impact school, and then that school would close.  
10 Now you're pushing those students over to John  
11 Adams and Richmond Hill High School, and the  
12 same thing is going to happen. But what you  
13 don't understand is that I understand that this  
14 is a modern day version of Brown versus Board of  
15 Education. [applause] Because you see during  
16 the Civil Rights Movement Dr. King and several  
17 people got together, thousands, and thousands,  
18 and thousands, and thousands of people got  
19 together and decided that you would not drain  
20 one school and then deplete them of the services  
21 for the most neediest students. And that's what  
22 you're doing. You see what you decided to do is  
23 you put school choice in the building, which is  
24 channel here. You gave them the resources and  
25 as you added the resources to Channelview, you

1 drained the resources from Beach Channel High  
2 School, which services the neediest children on  
3 the peninsula. So that's a Brown vs. Board of  
4 Education issue that was already won--civil  
5 rights. You cannot--you cannot service and rob  
6 the neediest children of their public education.  
7 It's illegal. What you're doing is illegal.

8 MODERATOR: I need to ask you to wrap up.

9 TANICA JONES: What I'm going to tell you is  
10 that the parents--you need to stand up here and  
11 - - Office of Family Engagement or - - over here  
12 - - Martinez Gararez [phonetic] office - -  
13 people with these suits on and stuff. You make  
14 sure that - - . You get your lists, and you  
15 write your letters. And you demand that they  
16 give the money to your children. They are  
17 robbing your children. They are stealing the  
18 money, and it is illegal, and it is illegal, and  
19 it will - - .

20 MODERATOR: - - .

21 TANICA JONES: And you need to sue them, and  
22 I'm done. This is a modern day version of Brown  
23 vs. Board of Education, which we already won 60  
24 years ago.

25 MODERATOR: Number 18, Mr. Kaughman

1 [phonetic].

2 MR. KAUGHMAN: Yes, I'm Mr. Kaughman, and by  
3 the way, Deputy Chancellor I do want to say at  
4 least thank you for coming and listening to us.  
5 But I have to tell you as a - - citizen of a  
6 country allegedly ruled by the people as I've  
7 been listening you have to listen to two words,  
8 res publicus and - - . The first word if you  
9 remember that from your high school days deputy  
10 chancellor means a country where the country is  
11 ruled for the good of the people. - - a country  
12 of the people. As I've been hearing here, these  
13 people are telling you and the chancellor what  
14 they want, not what you want to do for them.

15 Studies show adolescents need stability.  
16 Parents need confidence, and the people need to  
17 feel good about what's going on in our country,  
18 and they don't feel these things as you heard  
19 tonight. Adolescents won't grow up to be the  
20 people we want in our community. Oh, they'll  
21 grow up - - , but it's not going to be positive,  
22 and when they come back they won't stay.  
23 They're not going to - - . So, we have to get  
24 rid of the - - , and we have to think about what  
25 is supposed to be. Don't you remember school

1 dances? Don't you remember drama clubs?  
2 Don't you remember your alma mater? If the  
3 chancellor keeps on opening and closing schools  
4 every two years, there are no more dances,  
5 there's no alma mater, there's no - - , there's  
6 nothing but disenchanting adolescents who are  
7 going to be growing into people who are going to  
8 come into your community and you're not going to  
9 like it because these adolescents are not going  
10 to be happy. And how can you have the people  
11 feel any confidence in you if on the web site  
12 right now, Deputy Chancellor you know this, on  
13 the web site right now it says the school is  
14 proficient. It says last year that the parents  
15 were happy, and now you're telling me that  
16 they're not. But your--your own web site says  
17 they are.

18 MALE VOICE: Lies.

19 [crosstalk]

20 MODERATOR: Thank you, - - . [applause]  
21 We'll move to number 20 and to - - . [applause]

22 MALE VOICE: Okay, good evening, staff,  
23 faculty, students, panelists. Thank you for  
24 coming out. First of all, my name is - - .  
25 Thanks for mispronouncing my name for like the

1 500th time in these months, and - - Beach  
2 Channel class of 2007. [applause] And I was  
3 also at the meeting that was here on December  
4 16th where they again had - - questions. And I  
5 obviously am going to have to ask my question  
6 again that I asked at that time. My little  
7 brother has--well, first of all my little  
8 brother goes to Willcrest [phonetic] and it's an  
9 hour and a half train and bus ride. And without  
10 the student metro cars, they're - - . He can't  
11 come to Beach Channel because obviously it's not  
12 going to be here, may not be here, most likely  
13 won't, and so what's going to be our--what's  
14 going to be his fate, where is he going to go?  
15 And I asked that question. I never got an  
16 answer, so I'm asking it again. I want an  
17 answer.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

19 MALE VOICE: Oh, and I have more to say. I  
20 have--my years in high school were like some of  
21 the best years - - high school, some of the best  
22 years of my life. I got to take advantage of  
23 all those programs that you saw that - -  
24 oceanography, leadership programs that - -  
25 community service. They pretty much laid the

1 foundation for my life. When I was in the  
2 oceanography program, it got me inspired to  
3 become an environmental studies major in  
4 college, which I'm in my junior year right now.  
5 And also my love of community service started in  
6 high school when I was in the leadership team.  
7 I got to take part in many events in high school  
8 and around the community. I got to learn more  
9 about my community ever since I moved here in  
10 2000. And also, one more thing, my little--my  
11 big brother is autistic. He came to P233, - -  
12 and he graduated here in '06 and he benefitted,  
13 he benefitted from this school. So, and all the  
14 students that are there now, where are they  
15 going to go? Can you answer that question?

16 MODERATOR: Thank you, - - .

17 MALE VOICE: I'm not done. I'm going to  
18 finish. What I'm going to say is keep Beach  
19 Channel open.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you. Twenty-one, - -  
21 Horn.

22 [applause]

23 MALE VOICE: Thank you very much. I'm a  
24 proud teacher here at Beach Channel High School.  
25 It's great to see alumni here. I thank

1 everybody for coming out and showing the  
2 passion that you have about Beach Channel High  
3 School. I'm not proud of some of the numbers  
4 that you gave us before. I don't think anybody  
5 is. What I don't understand is why the DOE  
6 isn't taking responsibility for those numbers.  
7 We don't [applause] it's an insult to think  
8 that we're satisfied with those numbers. Here  
9 are some numbers from one of your documents.  
10 This is from page six of the educational impact  
11 statement, and it's the money allotment, the  
12 initial cost for your new school. Fixed  
13 allocation for the first year, \$80,000. All  
14 right, approximate variable \$32,000. Fair  
15 student funding, FSF funding, \$225,000.  
16 Children first, \$185,000. That's a total for  
17 the first year of \$412,000 just for the initial  
18 start-up costs for your new school. Then it  
19 says every year thereafter you're going to get  
20 another \$310,000. This is for a total of \$1.3  
21 million, \$1.3 million in start-up costs. Just  
22 think what Beach Channel could do with that \$1.3  
23 million. It also says on page seven that once  
24 the phase-in is complete, it's going to get \$1.8  
25 million per capita funding. Beach Channel got

1       \$1.1. The numbers don't match up. You have  
2       deprived the school. You have pulled resources  
3       away from it. We have watched--I've watched my  
4       colleagues leave the excess, some of the best  
5       teachers we have. I've watched the principal  
6       struggle to try to keep this place afloat with  
7       these budget cuts and you're sitting there and  
8       you're saying the best idea is to close it. I  
9       don't get it.

10               [applause]

11               MODERATOR: Thank you very much. - - .

12               MS. VINCENT: My name is - - Vincent. I'm  
13       currently a senior at North Carolina State  
14       University. [applause] And my major is  
15       actually biological oceanography. When I  
16       graduate, I'll be the only African American  
17       female in that class, so I'd like to say - - .  
18       But what I'd like to say is that the only reason  
19       I think I've gotten that far is because of Beach  
20       Channel. When I was here I started in the  
21       oceanography program in my freshman year,  
22       actually before freshman year, the summer  
23       program, and that was one program that I hear is  
24       now cut. Then there is arts event, which I saw  
25       when I was here it kind of dwindled. We didn't

1 have drums. We didn't have money to buy  
2 drums. The marching band was the heart of the  
3 school even with - -. Another thing, tech prep  
4 it was a program that I came to school early for  
5 and learned computers, all kinds of things, how  
6 to write letters, resumes, things like that,  
7 that's gone. These kids aren't ready to go to  
8 the next level. We're taking these programs,  
9 and they're not ready to go to college to get a  
10 - - like that. Now that's all in this one  
11 community. You take that away, what happens?  
12 These kids have nothing. Now, that's you all,  
13 but to the kids they can't take away the  
14 inspiration. They can't take away the  
15 inspiration. They can take away all of these  
16 programs, but you just have to know to keep  
17 trying. They'll take away these programs, and  
18 they'll think that it does something to you.  
19 But you can find that resource. You can go out  
20 and you can do the best you can. Don't let them  
21 take your pride away from you and your hope.  
22 That's all I'm saying. [applause]

23 MODERATOR: - - . Number twenty-three,  
24 Isabella Gonzalez.

25 ISABELLE GONZALEZ: Hi, my name is Isabella

1 Gonzalez, and I'm currently a freshman. And  
2 when I applied to this school I was told that  
3 there was law and a criminal justice program,  
4 which I found out that was cut. Oceanography,  
5 not here. So pretty much I was cheated of my  
6 education. I am here to - - . I don't want to  
7 be a robot, come here, go to school, go to  
8 school, go home, read, write, okay, that's  
9 great. I want to do more. I want to have  
10 after-school activities because like right now  
11 I'm on the drama club. I'm going to be doing  
12 Shakespeare. And I want to do more. I wanted  
13 to be in the oceanography club. I want to  
14 become an officer, learn how to - - justice,  
15 criminal rights, I wanted to do more than this.  
16 I don't want to just be here, go home. I just  
17 want to learn more; I'm sick of being lied to.  
18 You told us that you were going to help us.  
19 You're not helping us. You're listening to what  
20 we're saying, but are you really even hearing  
21 what we're saying? You're just kind of, okay,  
22 your time is up. I don't care. I'm pissed off.

23 [applause]

24 MODERATOR: Number 24, - - Vincent.

25 MS. VINCENT: Yeah, my name's - - Vincent.

1 I'm a - - senior at Beach Channel High School.  
2 [applause] We had drama club here. Everybody  
3 loved it. I hate to see it go. Ms. - -  
4 teacher. We really don't want to see her go.  
5 None of the teachers want to see her go.  
6 Basically, and there's also Renaissance, Art,  
7 Music, Dance, which was cut, which really a lot  
8 of people like dance, a lot of people would like  
9 to dance, do other stuff, which some of them was  
10 cut and now they're like what am I going to do  
11 now? Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: - - number twenty-five, first  
13 initial - -.

14 MICHAEL HEINZ: Yeah, first initial - - .  
15 Yeah, my name is Michael Heinz, and I am - -  
16 Beach Channel High School. I was class of 2008.  
17 [applause] And I currently attend the City  
18 College of New York. I am a sophomore and a  
19 political science major. And when I attended  
20 Beach Channel High School I remember the first  
21 time that I walked down the halls and I entered  
22 into class. And you know a lot of people are  
23 afraid on their first day of high school so I  
24 sat in the classroom. I didn't say anything. I  
25 was very nervous, and I sat in my first English

1 class. And I remember I had a teacher, I  
2 don't remember his name, but I sat in the  
3 classroom and by the time I ended the period I  
4 was in stitches and laughter. The guy made me  
5 laugh so hard and you--I felt so thrilled to be  
6 a part of the community. And so time goes on, I  
7 came through sophomore, junior, senior year, and  
8 I successfully graduated from Beach Channel High  
9 School was a part of its - - program, was a part  
10 of the AP classes, which I've heard is  
11 dwindling.

12 MALE VOICE: Cut

13 MICHAEL: Or gone unfortunately, and these  
14 were things that inspired me. I can remember -  
15 - a team that I helped with Coach Sullivan to  
16 continue to thrive. And this tennis team did  
17 well for a while, and it inspired me to come to  
18 the school because I had a passion for the sport  
19 of tennis. So, when I read in the newspaper  
20 that Beach Channel High School is closing down,  
21 and my mother told me, and she was one of the  
22 first people that told me I was very confused  
23 because I thought to myself this is a great  
24 school. What's going on? And but then I  
25 remembered when I was graduating a lot of

1 teachers came up to me and said, you know, I'm  
2 not going to be here next year, and those were  
3 some of the greatest teachers that I've ever  
4 had. They challenged me through and through.  
5 I've seen when I had college chemistry with a  
6 great science teacher that no longer teaches  
7 here, I was challenged. I did not think I was  
8 going to pass that class. It was very tough,  
9 and when you take those courses away, you take  
10 away those core elements which shows you're able  
11 to - - to succeed. And I think that it's not  
12 Beach Channel that is failing. I think it's the  
13 Department of Education that is failing.

14 MODERATOR: I need to ask you to wrap up.

15 MICHAEL: In a minute. I think the  
16 Department of Education needs to - - started  
17 with the mayor of course. I'm not going to  
18 really get into that - - , but what is happening  
19 here is not student's, parent's fault because I  
20 have seen teachers. I had a teacher, he is  
21 sitting here in the audience, I'm glad to see  
22 him, I had trouble with math when I was in high  
23 school. I had huge problems with math, and he  
24 would sit there until 3:30, 4:00 in the  
25 afternoon or until I got the material.

1           MODERATOR: I need to ask you to wrap up.

2           MICHAEL: If you do not continue to have  
3 that - - school that has provided that because I  
4 don't see that in a lot of places if we get rid  
5 of that, then we get rid of everything that lets  
6 everyone grow up. And this is unfortunate, and  
7 I'm sorry that I have to stand here and deliver  
8 this address. You know, I'm sorry to hear that  
9 a school that I am an alumni of would end up  
10 closing down because what am I going to visit  
11 the next ten years. What am I going to tell my  
12 children. Listen, I went to that school. That  
13 was a great school that I attended. I would  
14 send them to that school, and to hear that it's  
15 going to disappear. [applause] I have two  
16 brothers--

17           MODERATOR: [interposing] I need to ask you  
18 to wrap up.

19           MICHAEL: I have two brothers, class of '92  
20 and '93 who came to this school. One is a  
21 gynecologist. The other one is a vice president  
22 in the financial industry. What is going on?  
23 There is nothing wrong with this school. My--

24           MODERATOR: [interposing] Wrap up.

25           MICHAEL: Thank you, guys. Good night.

1           MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Okay. -  
2 - from the University of Connecticut.

3           MALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. As you  
4 all know, I'm a student or a former student.  
5 I'm an alumni from the class of 2008.  
6 [applause] And I had the opportunity to take  
7 advantage of many opportunities that were  
8 offered to me here at Beach Channel High School  
9 such as AP classes, which thanks to those and I  
10 passed great. I'm now a junior in my second  
11 year of the University of Connecticut already,  
12 you know, and to me that's a big accomplishment  
13 right now. One thing that I've noticed right  
14 about education is the bigger the classrooms the  
15 less attention you get, right? And the less  
16 attention you get the less motivation, and the  
17 less motivation, you don't go learn anything in  
18 school. So, from my point of view, why are you  
19 cutting down so many teachers, cutting down so  
20 many programs because next to those I was  
21 offered a - - . And I would like to see future  
22 generations take advantage of those, you know,  
23 and recently I was - - opportunity incorporated,  
24 and right, and one of my vows that I swore when  
25 I became a brother was to take initiative and

1       wherever there was injustice to stand up to  
2       it.  And that's what I'm doing right now because  
3       I don't want to see any little kids in the  
4       streets where they could be, you know, instead  
5       in their home studying, you know.  I also was  
6       captain of the baseball team, which I was very  
7       proud of, you know, [applause] and I don't want  
8       to see these kids, you know, just settle for  
9       less.  I want them to start - - like I did, you  
10      know.  I remember in my class there were only  
11      two kids that would actually like went to big  
12      schools, and to me that's just a disgrace.  Why?  
13      Because all the kids don't know about the  
14      opportunities that are out there.  Okay, now I  
15      want to ask you to tell the chancellor don't - -  
16      that this is not the last time that you're going  
17      to hear from me or I know for sure you're going  
18      to hear more from these people here.  Why  
19      because they're dedicated, and because knowledge  
20      is something that you should not waste.  Thank  
21      you.

22            MODERATOR:  Thank you very much.  Number 27,  
23      Melissa Coca [phonetic].  [applause]

24            MELISSA COCA:  All right, I'm going to go on  
25      the record by saying I don't like public

1 speaking, I really don't, but here's the  
2 thing. I grew up in Bay Towers, which is right  
3 across the street. I went to PS225, and then I  
4 came to Beach Channel. - - went to St. - - and  
5 then I went to Beach Channel High School, and  
6 Beach Channel High School is some of the best  
7 memories I have, and then I came back here to  
8 work as a - - worker while I was going to  
9 college, and then I came back here again as a  
10 paraprofessional in PS256. And now I'm teaching  
11 English seven years in - - , and I have to tell  
12 you that I'm a little upset. I feel like you're  
13 taking away our alumni. The place that we could  
14 always come back to, and the place that we could  
15 always call our home, and the place where we  
16 could always say this is our school. And I feel  
17 like everything that I've accomplished here as a  
18 teacher, and as a student, and as a  
19 paraprofessional is just being pulled out from  
20 under us. We're being told we're sub-standard.  
21 We're being told that this school and anyone who  
22 graduates from it apparently hasn't done  
23 anything because we're not worth anything. And  
24 I think that is a sad, sad situation, and on top  
25 of that I just want to say that I don't think

1 you guys know - - because I've grown up in  
2 Rockaway, my grandmother grew up in Rockaway, my  
3 mother, my father, my cousins, everybody grew up  
4 there, and I got to tell you, I don't know  
5 anyone who has ever volunteered to go over the  
6 bridge to another school. There are people who  
7 come over the bridge here, but we don't go over  
8 the bridge there. So if you think that by  
9 closing down the school and making - - schools  
10 and all the other kids -- go. You know, where  
11 are they going to go? Well, they're certainly  
12 not going to go over the bridge, and so if  
13 they're not going to go over the bridge, you're  
14 going to have dropouts, you're going to have  
15 crime rates. I mean I've seen what's happened  
16 to this town. I lived on 89th Street, okay,  
17 and--

18 MODERATOR: [interposing] - - .

19 MELISSA COCA: --just - - your car to the  
20 supermarket, people are shooting things at your  
21 car from across the street - - . It wasn't like  
22 that when I was growing up, but it's like that  
23 now, and those are the kids that come to this  
24 school, those kids that lead those kinds of  
25 lives are the kids that come to this school.

1 And you guys are taking away what they have,  
2 and it's really a terrible, terrible thing.

3 [applause]

4 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number 28.  
5 Is it monitor - - you, sir? [crosstalk] I'm  
6 sorry.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, my name is - -  
8 , and I'm the CPH rep for Queens. I represent  
9 the parents here. My attendance and  
10 participation in this hearing does not imply  
11 that I or CPHS support or had any involvement  
12 within or work - - decision to close Beach  
13 Channel High School. [applause] I am concerned  
14 that the DOE was here on December 15th because I  
15 was in attendance, and the parents were assured  
16 that the questions that they asked would be  
17 circulated in a list and there would be answers  
18 to each of those questions. So I am demanding  
19 that DOE honor what they said they would do on  
20 December 15th. I am demanding that DOE present  
21 those answers to the CCHF by 9:05 tomorrow  
22 morning to [CCHF@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CCHF@schools.nyc.gov) because we were  
23 told that's what was happening and I was  
24 assuming that they carried out. I also have  
25 documentation that I personally wrote down the

1 questions that the parents in the community  
2 asked at that hearing and I will ensure that  
3 they align to what was done that night because I  
4 was present. Last but not least, the question  
5 tonight was for CCHF to say, for us to say that  
6 it's time for them to say that this is wrong.  
7 In order for us as - - CCHF representatives to  
8 represent you adequately, the parents must come  
9 out. They must come and support us. They must  
10 tell us what their needs are. We have not heard  
11 from the parents of Beach Channel High School.  
12 I know -- because he's the parent at another  
13 school in the district so I've had confrontation  
14 with this. But we have not received enough  
15 outpouring from the community to CCHF so I'll  
16 give you that e-mail address so you can flood it  
17 tomorrow. Just do it until after 9:05. It's  
18 [CCHF@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CCHF@schools.nyc.gov). I'll back it up with my  
19 e-mail, - - .net. Send it to me. Send it to  
20 them. I need your feedback in order to  
21 represent your views. Thank you. [applause]

22 MODERATOR: Thank you, - - . - - , number  
23 29.

24 MALE VOICE: Good evening, my name is - - ,  
25 and I'm going to speak for - - . I am a - -

1 graduate of 2007, and I thank my family, Beach  
2 Channel High School for all that. I now have an  
3 associate degree in city - - for  
4 electromechanical engineering technology in the  
5 span of two years, and I'm going for my  
6 Bachelor's in computer engineering technologies.  
7 And I totally - - to the family members that I  
8 have - - . And if - - close this, I will not  
9 have a home to go to. And these are - - .  
10 Students who are transferred out are still  
11 considered Beach Channel high school students,  
12 but when they graduate from another school, the  
13 other school is going to get the credit, no  
14 credit from us, the credit that they graduated  
15 from. As soon as the school makes AYP the  
16 criteria rate - - the school continues to be  
17 listed as a failing school, no logic in that.  
18 Channelview School and the scholars academy may  
19 not accept students whose grades are below a  
20 certain average so they end up at a Beach  
21 Channel. Many Beach Channel High School  
22 students who are expected to pass reagents, do  
23 not speak English. When things look good,  
24 Bloomberg takes the credit. When they don't,  
25 they want to create merit pay for teachers. No

1 logic in that. [applause] Now, girls with  
2 children who have to travel with strollers,  
3 babies, diapers, bags, bookbags in all kinds of  
4 weather, how are they going to get to school?  
5 Tell me how. You going to have them drive their  
6 stroller across the bridge Just give us - - .  
7 If the phase out is to take three years, this  
8 obviously means that you know we are capable of  
9 graduating the current freshman class through  
10 the impact statement - - capacity to improve  
11 student performance. You know in your hearts -  
12 - . I will if you stop interrupting me.  
13 [applause] Now, it seems to me that the DOE  
14 based on the recent judgment of the DBS is - -  
15 the school right out from under the community  
16 because of politics and money, and - - the  
17 community or the student's best interest are at  
18 the heart of its - - . This is prime real  
19 estate, and right now there is millions of  
20 dollars worth of work being done on this  
21 building. Right before I stepped to the podium,  
22 I received a message by a great man that if you  
23 don't voice your opinion, if you don't let your  
24 heart out to the public somebody will take that  
25 option from you, that right from you. Once you

1 cancel this school, once you shut it down, you  
2 are closing our mouths. No voices will be  
3 heard. Our hearts won't be heard. And for that  
4 you don't get the respect - - .

5 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number  
6 thirty, Lorie - - .

7 MALE VOICE: Hello, as a high school teacher  
8 in Queens, I know - - people let the DOE make  
9 these decisions. They know nothing about  
10 education, okay. Some of them have taught maybe  
11 one or two years at the most. They are not  
12 educrats. You're business people, and that's  
13 all you care about. In fact, if you go online  
14 and look at the backgrounds of some of these  
15 educrats from the DOE sitting before us, you'll  
16 find some interesting information. Take, for  
17 example, the lady who spoke last month at  
18 Jamaica High School, Ms. Debra Person. She is  
19 an entrepreneur. She's a business person, and  
20 she's hell bent on turning every city, every  
21 school in the city into a charter school. She  
22 has even said that teaching is not her calling.  
23 Why do we have people from the DOE, why do the  
24 decision-makers from the DOE have--why don't the  
25 people from the DOE have teaching as their

1 calling? That's wrong. [applause] Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. - - Chin.

3 MR. CHIN: Hi, my name is - - Chin. I  
4 graduated from Beach Channel High School in  
5 2005, and I came to say I want this school to  
6 remain open. It's not the teachers that cause  
7 the problem. It's the parents and the kids at  
8 home. It's what they do for the upbringing of  
9 their kids. If they want their kids to finish,  
10 they will force their kids to go to school and  
11 learn what they have to learn, and it is not the  
12 teachers. It is nobody else but the kids and  
13 the parents, and you guys are not enforcing  
14 enough through the parents that they have to  
15 enforce their kids to do what they have to do  
16 and be--the DOE is closing all the schools and  
17 it's not fair because where is all these people  
18 gonna go. - - bridge, grades don't mean  
19 anything. Yeah, having the highest grade point  
20 average means a lot, but not everybody can make  
21 that goal. Everybody still needs to learn no  
22 matter what. I graduated here with a 75% grade  
23 point average, not by choice. It was because I  
24 was lazy and I - - . It's the student that  
25 brings it out, so the best thing to do is just

1 to leave it open and hopefully the students  
2 will learn more and understand that they need to  
3 buckle down and pass their classes because with  
4 that said the graduation rate will go up and  
5 it's with all the kids. There is no time - - .  
6 If I'm able to graduate from this high school in  
7 2005 and graduate from college in 2010, there is  
8 no problem now. [applause]

9 MODERATOR: Thank you. The next speaker is  
10 number 32, Mr. - - .

11 MALE VOICE: Good evening, as you can see  
12 the protocol machine is in place, and I'm - - .

13 MODERATOR: Could you speak right into the  
14 microphone?

15 MALE VOICE: I'm part of the ten-year  
16 decline, but I happen to hold two degrees and  
17 I'm a member of the federal government, okay.  
18 What's going on here to cite another court case,  
19 it's a clear and present danger. It's a clear  
20 and present danger to this community. It's a  
21 clear and present danger to the communities  
22 around it because you're taking a key element, a  
23 key element away from the community, okay. I  
24 grew up in this school. I had two younger  
25 brothers who came to this school. We've all

1 graduated. We've all gone on and earned our  
2 degrees. Okay, I - - courts. I - - in the  
3 courts. It seems that this school is doing fine  
4 according to all the people that have been  
5 trusted to speak on behalf of I'm assuming the  
6 DOE because I don't know who writes this, who  
7 writes this, but I can see that your impact  
8 statement is just a whole load of bull, okay.  
9 How can you make statements that an essential  
10 element of this to change or to improve all  
11 quality of teaching throughout the school.  
12 Teachers are increasingly making better use of  
13 data to promote the performance and the progress  
14 of the students. This is evidently improving  
15 graduation rates of senior students. How do you  
16 make a statement like that and say we're going  
17 to close a school down. How do you make a  
18 statement that the school improves daily and is  
19 a positive place for young people to learn. How  
20 do you make a statement like that and say we're  
21 going to close a school down. It's a clear and  
22 present danger to everybody. When you close a  
23 school, when you close this school and you open  
24 up another school that has no--that has  
25 basically--that has no precedent, has no--

1           MODERATOR: [interposing] - - .

2           MALE VOICE: I'm reading the sign, what is--  
3 this political machine sign that she has, okay.  
4 When you close this school, you condemn this  
5 community, you condemn the surrounding  
6 communities and you set everybody else up to  
7 fail because what this school has been doing has  
8 been making progress. And me and everybody else  
9 here, the teachers, the students who are here  
10 now, the students who have graduated, are proof  
11 of that.

12           MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

13           [applause]

14           MODERATOR: Claude - - .

15           MALE VOICE: He spoke already.

16           MODERATOR: Spoke already thank you. Then  
17 next is Ola - - .

18           MALE VOICE: Ola.

19           MODERATOR: Ola.

20           OLA: Well, I'm Ola - - . I'm a teacher at  
21 Beach Channel - - . Wow, we just - - . I went  
22 to - - long enough to know that if anybody is  
23 going to do anything it's because they're  
24 receiving something. You guys do not - - . You  
25 do not care about the schools. You probably--

1 no, you do not care about the students and the  
2 community. The reason I can say so is because  
3 what you do is generally - - and sending them  
4 across the bridge or whatever, I don't know.  
5 But it's not fair. I also want to bring up the  
6 fact that - - the students go. Most - - school  
7 in their district, so what makes you guys think  
8 our students will go far away to make it on time  
9 to other schools. Like, it doesn't add up. Most  
10 students will end up on the streets - - because  
11 they can - - . The issue is not the school, but  
12 the community in which the school is surrounded  
13 by. You can change the school, but the  
14 community is still the same - - so it's going to  
15 be like one - - one positive, surrounded by a  
16 negative. It's either the negative influences  
17 the positive or the positive influences the  
18 negative. So you take - - good or to do bad.  
19 So what else do I want to point out? I want to  
20 point out the situation with the race - -  
21 charter schools, and that's why this school is -  
22 - . You don't care about us. How - - lying to  
23 us. Just - - . That's all I have to say.

24 [applause]

25 MODERATOR: Martha Worthy [phonetic]. Thank

1 you.

2 MARTHA WORTHY: Hi, I'm - - . Our students  
3 are more than just a number, but the DOE is  
4 going to make our children statistics. The DOE  
5 can't keep coming into the Rockaways and erasing  
6 our legacies. I'm a graduate of the 1981 class  
7 here at Beach Channel. [applause] I would have  
8 to say that I have been remiss in my duties as  
9 part of the alumni here, but if you keep Beach  
10 Channel open, I will make a pledge to donate my  
11 time, money, whatever it takes to make this  
12 school successful and keep it going. And there  
13 are a lot of us alumni on Facebook, and I did -  
14 - and we do care. So, please do not close the  
15 school. Thank you. [applause]

16 MODERATOR: Thank you. - - Chan, number 36.

17 MS. CHAN: Hi, I'm a member of the  
18 community, and I live just down the block. I'm  
19 also an ESL high school teacher at FDR High  
20 School in Brooklyn. I'm a product of John - -  
21 High School, another large school in Queens,  
22 public education all the way through. High  
23 schools are a community that provides such a  
24 basis, a foundation for these children to grow  
25 up to become successful citizens, and by

1 shutting down large schools that provide a  
2 wide array of services, skills, after-school  
3 activities and as you can see the community  
4 showed such a strong, impassioned voice on  
5 behalf of the school, and if you look around as  
6 you walk in the school has all its awards up,  
7 the security guards are very welcoming, you see  
8 this beautiful auditorium with artwork and very  
9 clean, you know, seating and things like that.  
10 I mean what is the reasoning here for shutting  
11 down large schools systematically throughout the  
12 city and providing instead these tiny schools  
13 that do not have large populations of English  
14 language learners who do on average take at  
15 least five years to graduate as well as special  
16 education students whom I have taught - - and  
17 sex classes that obviously need more services  
18 and more support instead of being taken away  
19 from programs and fundings and large communities  
20 such as this. So, also I'm surprised because I  
21 came here expecting a dialog, and I have not yet  
22 seen one. You know, there's questions that have  
23 been asked. There's - - , and there's no  
24 answers. And all I hear is thank you, and what  
25 does it seem to get you really?

1           MODERATOR:   Okay, thank you very much.

2   [applause]   Number 37, Delores Burn [phonetic].

3           DELORES BYNUM:   Bynum [phonetic].

4           MODERATOR:   Bynum, forgive me.

5           MS. BYNUM:   Good evening, my name is Delores  
6   Bynum, and I've been a resident of the Rockaways  
7   for 32 years.   My daughter graduated in 1995.  
8   Okay, at that time if you were going to Beach  
9   Channel it was one of the top schools in New  
10   York City.   Now, when I left - - when you close  
11   the school down, you're depriving our kids of  
12   their education.   Were you deprived of your  
13   education?   No, I don't think so.   Now, another  
14   thing is when you - - these kids out to another  
15   school, the parents got to worry about the  
16   safety of the kids getting to school and back to  
17   school, back home, I'm sorry, and also when the  
18   kids are coming home, it's late in the evening  
19   because when you bus them out to other schools,  
20   they're going to have many sessions.   Also,  
21   Department of Education, our kids did not fail  
22   them, they failed us.   And this - - our  
23   education and if you bus them out and they're  
24   getting back late, then their parents have to  
25   worry, thank you.

1           MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number  
2 38, Christine Martin.

3           CHRISTINE MARTIN: Good evening, my name is  
4 Christine Martin, and I'm a representative of  
5 the CSA, the Counsel of Supervisors and  
6 Administrators, and I'm just reading a brief  
7 statement. The DOE has announced the closing of  
8 20 schools, some of them with principals, some  
9 of them with new new principals some of them  
10 just beginning to turn around, and they've  
11 pulled eight of them that were opened not very  
12 long ago by the head of the DOE himself,  
13 Chancellor Cline [phonetic]. CSA embraces  
14 accountability and believes that schools should  
15 be closed if they have failed over a period of  
16 three or more years despite receiving full  
17 support from the DOE. We won't tolerate the  
18 propagation of failure, but in the case of  
19 several of these proposed closings we must ask  
20 if some of the schools are being held  
21 accountable while the apparatus that supports  
22 them is not. In those cases, we must inquire if  
23 the schools were really failing and by what  
24 measures were they failing. We must ask if the  
25 Chancellor truly put each of these schools

1 through a thorough process to ascertain  
2 whether they have been provided adequate support  
3 and guidance by their superintendents and SSOs  
4 and if the office of student enrollment had  
5 leveled the playing field. CSA is asking that  
6 the DOE lay bare the process by which they  
7 determined that each of these schools be closed.  
8 In the case of each school we want to know what  
9 the superintendent did besides visiting the  
10 school to announce the closing. [applause] We  
11 need to know how thorough the superintendent was  
12 in the process of helping these schools to  
13 succeed over the past three years. DOE should -  
14 - an analysis of the goal of the appropriate  
15 school support organizations, SSOs, since each  
16 school pays an SSO to advise them on student  
17 achievement, culture principles on school  
18 improvement and perform many [crosstalk]. What -  
19 - service did each of these 20 schools get for  
20 their money? Finally, DOE should assess how  
21 fairly the Office of School Student Enrollment  
22 minimized challenges in their schools that faced  
23 so many other challenges. It is important to  
24 know if these institutions were sent an  
25 unusually large proportion of EOL students and

1 students with special needs. When every  
2 question is asked and answered, we are likely to  
3 discover that some of these schools can't be  
4 saved. We are also likely to discover that many  
5 of them can remain open and thriving with  
6 adequate superintendent and support network and  
7 fair enrollment practices. Thank you.

8 [applause]

9 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number 39,  
10 I have to apologize, the first initial is W, and  
11 I just can't get the last name.

12 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

13 MODERATOR: Oh, my good friend.

14 MALE VOICE: Good evening.

15 MODERATOR: Good evening.

16 MALE VOICE: I'm sitting here, and I'm  
17 listening to a lot of these stories. And 20  
18 schools is a lot of schools to close down at one  
19 time. One of the things that is consistent in a  
20 lot of these schools is that the Department of  
21 Education started phasing out the resources  
22 before those schools got in trouble. I was at -  
23 - a couple of years ago when that school was  
24 announced that it would be phased out, and one  
25 of the things that principal told me is the DOE

1 or whomever is sending her students that are  
2 over-age under qualified but they're not sending  
3 the resources. When you--when the DOE phases  
4 out a school ladies and gentlemen, they will be  
5 phasing out the resources. I'm just going to  
6 have to tell you this, you would have to be  
7 crazy to leave your kid in a school that's being  
8 phased out. From what I heard tonight, they  
9 started phasing out the resources a couple of  
10 years ago. How can you have a school like  
11 Jamaica High School with ten classes for five  
12 teachers. That came up at last month's - -  
13 meeting. Chancellor was there - - . This month  
14 the - - meeting is going to be on the 26th. I  
15 urge you to come to that meeting. I urge you to  
16 e-mail and express your concerns - - . Some of  
17 you might think you do need to change. I think  
18 we need a change. If you're closing down 20  
19 schools at one time--

20 MODERATOR: [interposing] I need to ask you  
21 to wrap it up.

22 MALE VOICE: Okay, if you're closing down 20  
23 schools at one time, then there's a problem at  
24 the top, and that problem needs to be addressed.  
25 Thank you.

1           MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Number  
2 forty, - - .

3           FEMALE VOICE: I'm glad a lot of people  
4 still stayed to hear the last speakers. Thank  
5 you for coming. I'm a homeowner, been here for  
6 15 years, and I come for - - . I taught here  
7 for two and a half years - - on this campus so  
8 I'm aware that there are problems on this  
9 campus, but there are also many, many great  
10 things, some weren't even mentioned. The  
11 teachers here working carefully with the  
12 students, a lot of devotion especially in  
13 activities, the great sports teams, the great  
14 small learning communities, the Thanksgiving  
15 dinner, it really--I went with my children and  
16 it's a wonderful role modeling for your children  
17 to take them to things like that. I'm grateful  
18 that there was a teacher and his students that  
19 did that every year for 11 years. There was  
20 also a family - - teacher of the Gospel choir  
21 that would bring me to tears in this auditorium  
22 when Ron - - passed away several years ago. And  
23 another teacher that - - mentioned is a - -  
24 teacher. I don't remember his name, but I know  
25 the living environments reagents outlined that

1 had my teacher - - the regents at different  
2 high schools. I got a copy of it because it was  
3 so good, and they didn't use the - - regents.  
4 They used his outline. That's great schools and  
5 teachers can do, and principals just need to  
6 support them. Dr. Morris did a great job, and I  
7 saw him here - - . [applause] staying late. I  
8 don't know if he got support, but one thing I do  
9 know is the problems here preceded this  
10 chancellor, and maybe you all should have paid  
11 more attention when there was a revolving door  
12 of principals coming through the school. Many of  
13 you remember a lot of problems. The local  
14 newspaper was - - about it. And maybe you did  
15 need to pay a little more attention. My  
16 impression is that unfortunately looking at many  
17 of the other schools around the city the DOE is  
18 kind of challenged by figuring out how to run  
19 high schools right now. - - .

20 MODERATOR: I need to ask you to wrap up.

21 FEMALE VOICE: That's what I had to say is  
22 that they need to do their homework and go back  
23 to - - and say how can we support those schools  
24 in these communities. This is a bricks and  
25 mortar building with teachers that use their

1 materials, try their best to create new  
2 materials when they have to, you know. You know,  
3 in this country everything has become  
4 homogenized with lots of test prep coming from  
5 other - - people working closely with kids and  
6 the parents working at the materials and  
7 questioning them and helping them has kind of  
8 gone away and that's what I wanted to say.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. - -  
10 speaker. I want to thank each and every one of  
11 you for your participation.

12 DANIELLE: - - something to say. I didn't  
13 fill out a blue card, but I don't think I need a  
14 blue card to speak. My name is Danielle - - and  
15 from listening to everyone here, I wish the  
16 council that - - earlier was still here. The  
17 root of the problem is not just the DOE. It's  
18 DOE aka Michael Bloomberg who - - . This is  
19 what we got, but we can't give up. You have to  
20 fight. Just like the young lady said it's like  
21 Brown vs. the Board of Education. Whoever  
22 started this fight needs to get - - , get the  
23 parents. You need to go out there - - protest  
24 to the mayor, to the chancellor. The reason our  
25 DOE cannot answer the questions is because they

1 cannot. They don't have the answers to your  
2 questions. The chancellor is a puppet to Mayor  
3 Bloomberg. If you all look at it, the reason  
4 why these charter schools are coming up is to  
5 lay his pockets and his apartments. The charter  
6 schools are for the big company - - privately  
7 funded money into these charter schools.  
8 They're getting money from the government, but  
9 they're also getting money from these private  
10 companies.

11 MODERATOR: Okay, I'm going to ask you to  
12 wrap up.

13 FEMALE VOICE: Which is going into people's  
14 pockets and - - .

15 MODERATOR: I'm going to ask you to wrap up.

16 FEMALE VOICE: Everybody really needs to go  
17 out there and fight. Fight - - . I don't know  
18 how long do I have for--before they decide to  
19 close the school, but don't let it happen. I  
20 mean everybody is here for a reason. Do  
21 something about it. Don't sit back and just let  
22 anybody tell you. You - - .

23 MODERATOR: Thank you. I'm going to ask you  
24 to wrap it up please.

25 DANIELLE: Thank you.

1           MODERATOR: Thank you, - - . I want to  
2 say one other thing. [applause] - - I want to  
3 say - - I also want to apologize for the delay  
4 in getting you the answers you asked for last  
5 month. I do predict to you we'll have them to  
6 the - - tomorrow before noon time and you will  
7 be able to get those. Thank you all very much.

8           MALE VOICE: - - would like to say something  
9 right here from the Community Education Council  
10 before everybody leaves.

11          FEMALE VOICE: Thank you, - - . I just  
12 would like to say to you all that the Community  
13 Educational Council is completely in support of  
14 Beach Channel High School remaining open. I - -  
15 and I listened, but the one thing I did not hear  
16 was the - - that the Department of Education  
17 came in and gave resources. I did not hear when  
18 they came in and assisted this school fully to  
19 make it into the school that it ought to be, the  
20 school that it was and the school that it can be  
21 again. I want you to know that we will be here  
22 on the 26th and we will continue to fight for  
23 this school to remain open. Thank you.

24           [applause]

25          MALE VOICE: - - before we all go - - on the

1 22nd of January.

2 [applause]

3 [background noise]

4 [END 154\_425]

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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      Trisha Ruckart

Date            January 8, 2010