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

**Leadership Preparatory Charter
School 4's (84KTBD) K-4 Grades with
Existing School I.S. 211 John Wilson
(18K211) in Building K211 - 5/17/12**

1 [START 296_717.MP3]

2 MS. BEVERLY WILKINS: Good evening - - .

3 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
4 of Education Community Education Council and
5 school leadership team for the proposed
6 colocation of Leadership Preparatory on School -
7 - 4th Grade with IS211 John Wilson and Building
8 K211 beginning in 2013-2014. I am community
9 superintendent Beverly A. Wilkins. We have
10 asked the District 18 Community Education
11 Council and the school leadership team of IS211
12 to participate in this joint hearing. I am
13 joined tonight by Dorothy Atkinson, President of
14 the K211 PA, and Heather Dias, Secretary of the
15 K211 PA. Both are members of the school
16 leadership committee. We confirm the attendance
17 of community Education Council members, they
18 have yet to arrive.

19 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose
20 of this hearing is for you to provide comments
21 about the proposed—before I describe the
22 proposal, I want to make sure you are all aware
23 of the opportunity to provide your input. All
24 those who wish to speak must sign up in the
25 speakers' sign up area located just outside the

1 auditorium. The sign up - - will close in 15
2 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in
3 the order that they signed up. All comments are
4 limited to two minutes. There may be elected
5 officials who arrive at different times - - .
6 If they wish to speak, we will do our best to
7 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.
8 Those who are here at the start of the public
9 comment segment will be asked to speak first.
10 All comments will be mentioned in the analysis
11 of public comment to be published and provided
12 to the Panel for Educational Policy the evening
13 before the panel votes. That vote is scheduled
14 for May 23rd, 2012, and it will be held at the
15 William Howard Taft Educational Campus located
16 at 240 172nd Street, Bronx, New York 10457. In
17 addition, we welcome any comments and feedback
18 you may have at any time before the panel votes
19 on both proposals. The email address and phone
20 number where comments may be made are

21 datproposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-0208.

22 Again, you may make comments at

23 datproposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-0208.

24 Proposal summary. The New York City
25 Department of Education, DOE is proposing to

1 collocate Leadership Preparatory High School 4s
2 (84K) to be - - Leadership Prep 4, kindergarten
3 through fourth grade, K through 4, students in
4 building K212, excuse me, K211. K211 located at
5 1001 East 100th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11236
6 and Community School District 18, being in 2013-
7 2014. If this proposal is approved Leadership -
8 - K through 4th grades will be collocated, if
9 this proposal is approved, Leadership - - K
10 through 4th grades will be collocated in K211 - -
11 John Wilson 18 K211 - - 211, an existing middle
12 school that serves students sixth through eighth
13 grade. IS211 Office of District 18 - - Program
14 for Gifted and Talented Students. Building K211
15 also provided space to a community based
16 organization, - - champion and the United
17 Federation of Teachers, District 18 Training
18 Center. Leadership - - 4 is a new public target
19 school that will serve students in kindergarten
20 through eighth grade at full scale. The DOE
21 recognizes that K211 does not have sufficient
22 space to serve all of Leadership Prep 4's
23 kindergarten to eighth grade students. So in a
24 separate educational impact statement, EIS,
25 published in April 2012, the DOE has proposed -

1 - Leadership Prep 4's fifth through eighth
2 grade students with PS279 - - 18K279, PS279 and
3 building 279, K279 located at 1070 East 104th
4 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11236 in Community
5 School District 18 beginning in 2013-2014.
6 Leadership Prep 4 will enroll students through
7 the - - lottery process as mandated by the New
8 York State Charter Law. Additional information
9 about Leadership Prep 4's - - can be found in
10 the EIS. According to the 2010-2011 enrollment
11 capacity utilization report, the Blue Book, K211
12 has the capacity to serve 1,499 students. In
13 2011-2012, IS211 is serving 764 students. This
14 yields a target utilization rate of
15 approximately 51%. This means that the building
16 is underutilized and has space to accommodate
17 additional students. If this proposal is
18 approved, the Leadership Prep 4 reaches full
19 scale in K211 for 2016-2017, the building is
20 projected to serve approximately 1,055 students
21 to 1,174 students. Yielding a projected
22 utilization rate of 70% to 78%. Thank you.

23 The next presenter will be PA President and
24 SLT member, Dorothy Atkinson.

25 MS. DOROTHY ATKINSON: Good afternoon. I

1 want to make it clear that the inherent filing
2 of IS211 is not against parent choice, neither
3 are we against charter schools. What we are
4 trying to preserve is the fact that IS211 is
5 presently the only A+ middle school in - - .
6 IS211 has worked hard to achieve this goal. -
7 - during holiday breaks and when it's close - -
8 for the - - test, they are open on Sunday.
9 IS211 - - school and we service all children in
10 the community. We also host a Thanksgiving
11 feast every November for the community. IS211 -
12 - children at their young ages - - on trips to
13 Washington, Maryland, Boston and all over in
14 order to keep them well rounded. We work hard
15 at moving our level one children to level twos
16 and threes. And our level three children, they
17 move to level four and then they work hard at -
18 - them at that level.

19 As I said at the beginning, parents at IS211
20 is not against parent choice. We believe
21 parents should have choice of where their
22 children go to school and the parents here have
23 spoken. They do not want the charter school to
24 be collocated at IS211. The space that the DOE
25 claims that we have here at IS211, we do not

1 have. Major capital repairs are needed in this
2 building and they have not - - all these years
3 that we have asked for them. Are they telling
4 us that now that they want to locate a charter
5 school here that they have the money to do these
6 repairs? While they cut our afterschool
7 programs? We do not have the space because the
8 space that is usable space is presently being
9 used by IS211. - - locate a charter school
10 here would result in a classroom overcrowding of
11 40 children for a classroom. There is no child
12 that could learn in such an environment. And no
13 teacher could teach in such an environment. No
14 child can be placed in a room where the pipes
15 are leaking and mold is growing. No child can
16 be put in a room that has ventilation that is
17 not up to standard, or no ventilation. That is
18 the space they are talking about. Those are not
19 usable space for our children. Not only the
20 colocation increases class size, it increases -
21 - decrease the time that our children have in
22 the gym. Obesity is already a problem in our
23 society. The gym time is the time that only
24 time that some children get to have any physical
25 activity. We do not want cuts - - . - -

1 children - - their lunch and it takes away from
2 the space that our children - - , basketball, -
3 - , dance and afterschool programs. Leadership
4 Prep can collocate if they want, but they could
5 collocate in another charter school that's
6 shared in the same goals and their same values.
7 - - to a staff that has maintained an A rating
8 for four years or more when the rules - - so
9 hard and you collocate another school with - -
10 we are not against charter school, we are for
11 parent choice, just not for a charter school at
12 IS211.

13 MS. WILKINS: Ms. Dias, PA Secretary and SLT
14 member, K211.

15 MS. HEATHER DIAS: Good evening, everyone.
16 - - the plan is to privatize public education in
17 charter schools even if it means destroying a
18 quality school in order to pursue your main
19 objective. And as you start in the poorer and
20 minority - - where we are treated as throwaways.
21 This collocation issue is simply a [background
22 noise]. It pits charter parents against non-
23 charter parents. This is not the real - - ,
24 this is not a let's beat up the charter school
25 today because choices are needed. The real

1 issue is why has the DOE - - . The charter
2 parents claim the DOE refused them. Why is this
3 so? This - - please, focus on why buildings are
4 left unused. Why are we all packed in the
5 already - - public school. We should - - each -
6 - all our children's wellbeing are - - . All
7 the surrounding districts are not treated this
8 way. Why this discrepancy? Why should we be
9 treated less than others? We need to make a
10 change. We need to stand up and let our voices
11 be heard.

12 MS. WILKINS: We have now concluded the
13 final presentation. We will now open the forum
14 for public comments. Speakers will be given the
15 floor in the order that they signed up or - - .
16 We ask that speakers with numbers one through
17 five line up in the aisle here to my right - -
18 numbers one through five. - - the first
19 speaker - - .

20 MALE VOICE: It's okay. This - - is fine.

21 MS. WILKINS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

22 MALE VOICE: Yes, I'm a teacher, I'm a
23 teacher here at IS211. And I've always taught
24 my students, as well as my own children, if

25 FEMALE VOICE: We can't hear you.

1 MALE VOICE: Okay, I'm sorry. I'm a
2 teacher here at IS211 - - . I've always taught
3 my students and my own children if something
4 sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If
5 someone is promising you the moon, be really
6 careful about what they want from you. Because
7 chances are you're getting played. Now, make no
8 mistake, there are people pushing charter
9 schools with a lot of money, influence,
10 politicians, I get phone calls from friends of
11 mine - - saying I don't know what's going on who
12 are these people? They tell me we have a lot of
13 money here, we want you to support charter
14 schools. This idea of colocation, I - - . It's
15 like taking a public swimming pool and putting -
16 - that said you can't go on that side of the
17 pool now, unless you get chosen from a lottery.
18 - - around, but unfortunately there's no real
19 proven idea that collocating a charter school or
20 public school is going to help anybody. - -
21 Prep has a charter school on Lafayette Avenue.
22 Fourth grade students - - for it. So I'm always
23 telling my students, you know, don't just be
24 misled by propaganda, do the research, don't
25 just get swayed by people and their big,

1 grandiose ideas of what's so great. Please,
2 look into it carefully and if it doesn't sound
3 good, you don't have to go for it. Okay?

4 MS. WILKINS: Thank you. - - heard, number
5 two, Alycia - - .

6 ALYCIA: Good evening, parents, faculty and
7 students. I'm a sixth grade student here at
8 IS211. I'm proud to say I'm in-house gifted.
9 Otherwise, the effect of moving another school
10 into this building will disrupt not only the
11 learning process, but also the culture we built
12 here at 211. The teachers develop a great
13 relationship with the students and give each
14 student their own individual attention. For
15 example, I have had had - - situations through
16 the school year. My teacher, Miss Valence
17 [phonetic] and Mrs. Shaw [phonetic] have shown
18 me how much they care about me by teaching me
19 other outlets in which to deal with situations.
20 We also have an extracurriculars, such as cheer
21 squad, [background noise] and tennis. These
22 activities, along with our relationships with
23 teachers, have allowed our school to be
24 successful on many levels. Imagine that you're
25 at home, that's where you live, some family

1 wants to break into your home? Use your
2 dishes? Your towels? [background noise].
3 IS211 is our home. This is where we live. This
4 is where we succeed.

5 MS. WILKINS: Number three please. Thank
6 you.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. I am currently a 7th
8 grade - - student attending IS211. I am upset
9 about the possibility that we may be sharing
10 this school with a charter school. I, along
11 with others, know that a charter school will
12 certainly alter and interfere with our daily
13 routine. For example, our gym schedule will
14 have to be changed and shortened, along with
15 lunch. The effect of having a charter school in
16 IS211 will not be beneficial to anyone. Some of
17 the teachers that we love and appreciate will
18 lose their job. This will make it very
19 [background noise], this will make us - - with
20 the first and second, which will make classes
21 larger. When classes are overcrowded, both
22 students and teachers will suffer. How
23 [background noise]. Please allow me to share
24 some of the wonderful things about IS211. Many
25 of us feel that we are a part of a family at

1 IS211. We create strong bonds with the
2 teachers that will last forever. The teachers
3 guide us along the way of life to be successful.
4 There are many afterschool programs and
5 activities that are both educational and
6 recreational that might be taken away if they
7 follow through with sharing IS211. Again, how
8 is this fair to us?

9 MS. WILKINS: Number four. Mrs. Van Horn
10 [phonetic].

11 MRS. VAN HORN: Good evening, everyone. I
12 have been a teacher in this school for over ten
13 years or more. And today my heart is saddened
14 that they are trying to collocate a charter
15 school in this building. My school was a school
16 that was in need of improvement. We, the staff
17 and students, decided that change must come! So
18 we rolled up our sleeves and we went to work.
19 The diagnosis of the students were mostly level
20 ones and twos, which was unacceptable for us.
21 So we collaborated as stakeholders and changed
22 the ethos of the school. Now I can proudly say
23 we have been an A school for several years now.
24 Now we have proven academics - - and have built
25 strong ties with the community. We have

1 outperformed all the middle schools in our
2 district. We have taken low performing students
3 in the community and transformed them into level
4 threes and fours. Ladies and gentlemen, what a
5 success. Why would anyone - - their progress?
6 According to the data in the school district, we
7 are obviously doing something right. If
8 something is not broken, it doesn't need fixing.
9 [background noise] our staff is capable of
10 implementing the K through eight program that
11 our principal has proposed. However, this
12 proposal was denied. But the charter school is
13 able to do this. Why obstructing us? Why?
14 What do we really want for our children?

15 MS. WILKINS: - - Rhonda - - .

16 DR. RHONDA CAMBRIDGE MILLER: Thank you. Hi
17 everybody. My name is Dr. Rhonda Cambridge
18 Miller and I have two daughters. My oldest,
19 Ashley is four years old now and we applied to
20 several schools for the upcoming academic year.
21 Leadership Prep Ocean Hill was our first choice.
22 Unfortunately she was placed on the waiting list
23 as number 870. Now as a pediatrician who both
24 lives and works in the community, I understand
25 all too well the importance that a sound

1 educational background is and has for our
2 children to succeed in life and become
3 productive members of society. That's why I'm
4 here tonight in support of Leadership Prep 4 and
5 the proposed colocation with IS211. [background
6 noise] just allows another great option for us
7 as parents to be able to send our children to an
8 excellent college preparatory school in this
9 district for free, without regard to income,
10 race, religion and - - and other characteristics
11 of the like. One of the things that is so
12 important to me that I didn't realize, looking
13 at the statistics and I'm not sure if we all
14 realize this, the recent studies have shown that
15 over 70% of the students who attended an
16 uncommon school like Leadership Prep 4, that
17 Leadership Prep is, graduated from a four year
18 college. And this is what we [background noise]
19 for my kids and I want the best for all of our
20 kids and we have to work together to make sure
21 that this happens. And there will be less of a
22 chance [background noise] placed on such a high
23 waiting list, such a long waiting list like I
24 was. So thank you for your time and I look
25 forward to helping all students succeed.

1 MS. WILKINS: Our next speaker - - .

2 MALE VOICE: Good evening. Madam
3 Superintendent and members of the podium, I'd
4 just like to start my brief statement by just
5 asking parents who are 211 parents and 179 - -
6 279, let's just, together, extend a warm welcome
7 to the parents who are visiting this school this
8 evening because all of us here are fighting for
9 quality education [background noise]. It's not
10 about pitting parents against each other and
11 [background noise] fighting against each other
12 when you all care about the same thing. - -
13 you have an environment to get the best
14 education possible, be it in a charter school or
15 in a regular [background noise]. Public schools
16 have charter school - - , it is promoted as one
17 of choice. Unfortunately, this evening and as
18 we move forward, the parents of IS211, their
19 choice have been usurped because they are being
20 forced to accept a proposal which they oppose
21 very firmly. [background noise] and why does
22 choice matter sometimes and doesn't matter when
23 it really should. The - - of the education
24 department that's - - by the implementation of
25 that proposal. And that's where the problem

1 begins. And that's where we have some - - in
2 yellow shirts - - and some who are talking and
3 testifying about excellence at this school
4 because of what [background noise]. I say shame
5 on the Department of Education [background
6 noise]. [background noise] question for you
7 before I sit down. Are there any members of the
8 Panel for Education Policy present here this
9 evening? No member present. Those are the
10 people who are going to make the final decision.
11 Those are the [background noise] here and listen
12 to you. [background noise] public and personal
13 responsibility to be here to hear from you
14 before they make that very final and critical
15 decision about the school environment that your
16 kid is going to attend and get an education.
17 But they have chosen to be absent. How are they
18 going to know about your feelings? How are they
19 going to know about [background noise]. How are
20 they going to know? Do they care? Do they
21 really want to care? [background noise] for the
22 charter school. I have nothing against the
23 charter school, but fair is fair and [background
24 noise]. Why are we here for this part? They're
25 - - decision. They don't care what the parents

1 [background noise]. They don't care what the
2 parents from the schools that will be affected
3 by this proposal in very critical ways care.
4 They don't give a damn. They have decided and
5 [background noise] the Mayor and the - - . I'm
6 ashamed of this - - . Why - - education system
7 - - with no leadership and everything is being
8 done to help those who want to prioritize public
9 education. [background noise] charter school
10 against the regular public schools. The charter
11 schools will be established, they'll have their
12 - - and then somebody's going to come
13 [background noise] charter school to hear what
14 they have to say when their space is invaded.
15 [background noise]

16 MS. WILKINS: Our next speaker, Mr. Franklin
17 - - Director from the Office of Senator - - .

18 MALE VOICE: Good afternoon everyone. - -
19 school parents - - matter where you're from.
20 I'm glad to see that there are parents from
21 charter schools here and kids - - understand
22 what we're up against. We're not up against you
23 at all. Let me make it clear before - - State
24 Senator John - - is not against charter schools.
25 He's not against choice. It's the process in

1 which it's being done at this point - - .
2 IS211 deserves the chance to expand [background
3 noise]. - - understand my passion for 211. My
4 sister went to - - , older sister - - my
5 brother, she fought my battles when I was
6 younger. I was always short, right? My - - all
7 my life. At that time 211 had a gifted program
8 - - part of the school at that time. So those
9 folks who are - - know what I'm talking about.
10 I've been here for a long time. And nothing
11 against charter, there are many charter schools
12 - - district that we support and they're doing
13 very positive things. But the struggle that
14 they have with - - still exists. - - we're
15 sharing common spaces and having certain
16 students eating lunch at 10 AM is not healthy
17 for them. So - - is not against your school.
18 This school right now deserves a chance to
19 thrive and to continue to service the community
20 and [background noise] for a long time.
21 Struggled for a long time. And to [background
22 noise] right now to tell them that - - , my
23 question is wherein the building are we going to
24 collocate? The - - building that needs to - -
25 improvement. Where is this school going? Ask

1 those questions. Where in this building are
2 your children going? Because there's parts of
3 this building that they have - - for you that
4 are no space you would want your kids to be in.
5 [background noise] have to put money into the
6 building, right? So we're not against you in
7 any way. Even if it happens, - - , we'll still
8 support the children, we'll support the system
9 because we want them to succeed either way.
10 It's the DOE's system of shoving it down our
11 throat that we're against. If you notice, the
12 system has no check and balance. After the - -
13 , they're not here to hear it. They're
14 recording us. They'll read it. They'll take
15 pieces of it. Okay. But they didn't get my
16 passion. They didn't get the feeling in this
17 room. You can only read those words. Right?
18 Then after that, they vote, the panelists - -
19 seven votes - - , they're going to vote on a
20 block and that's it. Unfortunately that may
21 happen. Maybe not. Maybe not. I hope not.
22 But after that, we'll still continue to support
23 you because we want you to be successful. But
24 understand that we're not against you. And it's
25 - - for them to put us together. Don't fall for

1 the trap. We are under - - one community and
2 we need our voices to be heard and that 211 was
3 successful. And it needs to continue to be
4 successful. And it should be given the respect
5 - - .

6 MS. WILKINS: Those of you holding numbers
7 six through ten, will you please make your way
8 down to the front of the auditorium. Number
9 seven through ten please take a seat. Number
10 six, you're - - .

11 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. Good evening. I'm not
12 really here to go back and forth. I kind of - -
13 everybody. I'm not really here to go back and
14 forth. I definitely, definitely understand
15 where the other school is coming from. I
16 applaud you guys for doing a good job - - . But
17 at the end of the day, everyone's saying it's
18 for our children, it's for our children. But
19 then you're showing your children that you will
20 not accept something new and [background noise].

21 MS. WILKINS: Excuse me, please. Let the
22 speaker have [background noise].

23 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. So - - , you don't
24 have to agree with me, but at the end of the
25 day, it is what it is and this is not a good way

1 of showing them unity and I don't know what
2 else to say to you. I don't know [background
3 noise].

4 MS. WILKINS: Number 7, - - .

5 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. Good evening.
6 Hi, I'm a parent of the - - and I say yes to
7 changes. Changes are good. Changes don't hurt.
8 What I'm here today is to say to you all, as
9 children, as adults, when changes come, look at
10 it and take it with grace. Because as a parent
11 of - - school, I have to make a way for my
12 children. I am also a parent of three other
13 children that went to regular public school, I
14 am [background noise].

15 MS. WILKINS: Just a moment. Just a moment.

16 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

17 FEMALE VOICE: What?

18 [background noise]

19 FEMALE VOICE: I apologize [background
20 noise]. I'm a parent of three children that
21 went to regular public school and what it is, is
22 now, 2012, we say yes to charter schools. My
23 child started charter school three years ago.
24 - - the first day he came back, he said,
25 "Auntie, I'm going to college." And he didn't

1 just say I'm going to college, he told me
2 where he was going - - I am going to be a
3 scientist. My three children that I have raised
4 have never come home with that kind of
5 philosophy. And I say [background noise]
6 changes is good because the fact is [background
7 noise] colocation, colocations say let's share.
8 Let's share a space. Let's welcome the charter
9 school [background noise] all about great
10 education. Great education. [background noise]
11 anything away from IS211. We [background noise]
12 enhance it [background noise].

13 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] so we can
14 move through the hearing. Thank you. Number
15 eight.

16 FEMALE VOICE: I would like to say good
17 evening to the panel, to the - - IS211 and to my
18 leadership teachers [background noise] thank you
19 - - family [background noise] school and how
20 proud that my children are given an opportunity
21 to do what they have to do in this world to give
22 back to this community. My mother made me give
23 back and they are going to give back too. It's
24 okay if we share. Sharing is caring, children.
25 Sharing is caring. Everybody [background

1 noise]. [background noise] share every single
2 day. If you have two children, you say give
3 your brother and sister your candy. Give us a
4 piece of this building. Stop being stingy.
5 [background noise] it's okay for children to eat
6 at 10:00 in the morning. You know why? Because
7 our children [background noise].

8 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] Thank you.
9 Kathleen Ferguson [phonetic].

10 MS. KATHLEEN FERGUSON: Thank you, everyone.
11 Both my daughter and my granddaughter
12 [background noise] school. I'm here tonight in
13 support of the proposed colocation. First and
14 foremost, parents need to teach their children
15 some respect. You can have a rally, you can
16 disagree, but there's a way to do everything. I
17 know for a fact that [background noise] families
18 are excellent partners when it comes to sharing
19 space. All families and teachers - - excellent
20 education for their children. That both schools
21 can - - . Leadership Prep School will be a
22 great partner at K211 building because of the
23 [background noise] and the respect that they
24 teach and show all of their [background noise].
25 Everyone [background noise] education.

1 Leadership Prep can and will provide that and
2 K211 - - getting that as well. - - . Bottom
3 line-selfishness, anger and disrespectfulness
4 does not belong in education.

5 [background noise]

6 MS. WILKINS: [background noise]

7 FEMALE VOICE: I am here. I'm a veteran of
8 this community. I've been here most of my life.
9 My sister here attended 211. I am not biased.
10 We live in a house and we coexist great. I want
11 us to have - - , I wanted my children to come to
12 PS279. The principal told me - - could not
13 accommodate my two children - - . We get up at
14 5:00 every morning to go to another district - -
15 . Every morning to go to another district
16 because you guys couldn't accommodate us. I pay
17 taxes in this community. I deserve a right for
18 my kids [background noise] he is 100%, as you
19 said, for charter schools. What is the problem?
20 [background noise] attend private school. It is
21 not an option right now, but I hope that for my
22 children it will be an option. [background
23 noise] education. All of our children need a
24 great education. It's not about public school
25 versus charter. It's about all of our children

1 [background noise] education [background
2 noise].

3 [background noise]

4 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] number 11.
5 Number 15. Number 11, please step to the mic.
6 That's LaToya Jones. Those of you holding
7 numbers 12 through 15, you may be seated to my
8 right. Are you Miss Jones?

9 MS. LATOYA JONES: [background noise] Hello
10 everyone. I am a parent [background noise]
11 absolute support of the coexistence of the
12 uncommon school coexisting with the traditional
13 public school. I come in peace and my heart is
14 definitely for the children. I take my hat off
15 to every educator in this room, whether it be
16 uncommon or tradition, I know your job is not
17 [background noise]. I have three children in
18 the uncommon school, which were on a waiting
19 list. I chose the uncommon schools because they
20 were able to meet my children at their
21 individual needs. My son needed structure, my
22 daughter needed one-on-one. The other one is
23 coming up and she's doing fine. But the charter
24 schools truly sweat the small stuff. They do
25 not leave your children behind. They were able

1 to support me because I am an advocate for the
2 future of my children's education. And
3 [background noise] they have a responsibility to
4 give back to the community once they are well
5 educated. And I just want to thank you all and
6 let you all know that we need to learn to
7 coexist and not [background noise]. Because
8 it's not about us, it's about our children.
9 Thank you.

10 FEMALE VOICE: I'm here to make [background
11 noise] proposed [background noise]. I'm an
12 uncommon school parent of a third grader and
13 [background noise] charter school [background
14 noise] share space in partnership with PS309.

15 [background noise]

16 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. I'm here
17 tonight in support of the proposed colocation.
18 I'm an uncommon school parent of a third grader
19 [background noise] where the school shares space
20 in partnership with PS309. [background noise]
21 supervised another great option here at K211.
22 [background noise] work in partnership to the
23 academies to ensure that every student learning
24 in this building [background noise] the best
25 educational opportunities possible. As parents,

1 we have high academic hopes for our children.
2 We dream of seeing our children receive an
3 acceptance letter from a great college - -
4 university and then graduate ready to take on
5 anything. The reality is - - takes preparation
6 with intention to make this possible.
7 Leadership Prep 4 is a college preparatory
8 option that provides academic fundamentals and
9 rigor to direct students who - - achievement.
10 Seven out of ten uncommon high school students
11 graduate from a four year college [background
12 noise] education of academic excellence and
13 prepare students here in [background noise] for
14 higher learning opportunities also. Leadership
15 Prep 4 is truly thankful for this opportunity to
16 serve [background noise] another great school
17 and continue the uncommon track record of being
18 a good neighbor in a shared space here in
19 building K211. Thank you.

20 MS. WILKINS: Number 14. [background noise]
21 no, I called for Shawn [phonetic] - - , number
22 12. I'm at number 14. Who's holding 14? I'm
23 sorry, please state your name.

24 FEMALE VOICE: My name is - - .

25 MS. WILKINS: - - I have here.

1 FEMALE VOICE: I'm holding number 12. I'm
2 sorry, I didn't hear 12. I heard you say 11 to
3 12 come and line up and I did.

4 MS. WILKINS: Okay, not a problem. You're
5 Miss Branch?

6 MS. BRANCH: Yes.

7 MS. WILKINS: Hello Miss Branch.

8 MS. BRANCH: How are you? So, good
9 afternoon everyone, how are you? I am so proud
10 to be an uncommon parent. I have two children,
11 both attending Leadership Prep Ocean Hill
12 Charter School, which has been a great asset to
13 my family as well as my community. So I stand
14 here on behalf of representing Leadership Prep
15 4. Speaking of Leadership Prep, my children, as
16 I said before, both attend Leadership Prep Ocean
17 Hill and they're already teaching my children to
18 have respect and give service back to the
19 community. My six year old son, right here, my
20 first grader, already has decided to cut his
21 hair every year in June to donate it to the
22 American Cancer Society [background noise] give
23 back [background noise]. [background noise] my
24 daughter, and I heard somebody say it before,
25 came home on the first day of school excited

1 about going to college and already knowing her
2 graduation year. So I [background noise] my
3 child to her telling me that she wants to go to
4 college. What college she wants to and what she
5 wants to be already [background noise] my
6 daughter, Keisha, who's going to be a doctor.
7 That's what she wants to be. So I [background
8 noise]. I stand here as - - one of the lucky
9 parents because I am not worried whether my
10 children are being bullied at school. I am not
11 worried if my children are being abused mentally
12 or physically at school. So [background noise]
13 plus parents who are on a waiting list waiting
14 to receive a simple white piece of paper so they
15 can get [background noise] their choice, I ask
16 you please allow Leadership Prep 4 to come in
17 [background noise] more than just sharing space.
18 It will be more than sharing space and - -
19 education for our scholars, thank you.

20 MS. WILKINS: Is someone number 14?

21 [background noise]

22 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, parents. Good
23 evening [background noise] everybody [background
24 noise]. I came here with my [background noise]
25 to tell you how great [background noise] support

1 Leadership Prep 4 and then I became angry.
2 Angry that as a taxpayer in this community I
3 have to be subjected to this kind of abuse so
4 that my grandchildren should have a decent
5 education. Parents at this school, I understand
6 how you feel. You have a right to be angry. We
7 should not have to fight [background noise]
8 where we pay such high taxes. [background
9 noise] all want our space. I want my own space
10 for my grandchildren. I don't want them to come
11 here where they are not wanted. [background
12 noise] choice [background noise] lunch and a
13 good education, I have no choice, but to choose
14 to collocate. I don't want collocate, I have no
15 choice. Just like you. I know how you feel.
16 But I have no choice. So parents, I'm saying to
17 you-don't get mad at me, I didn't make the
18 rules. I don't like the rules. But I have no
19 choice, but to abide by the rules. I want my
20 grandchildren to get a great education. I
21 [background noise] they do provide great
22 education. I have other nieces and nephews at
23 other schools that are not doing so well and I
24 have some in other public schools that are doing
25 great. The fact is we want a great education

1 for our kids. I'm pleading with you-we will
2 be great neighbors. We will be so [background
3 noise] you will be surprised. [background
4 noise]. Thank you.

5 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] number 15.
6 Number 15. Audience members holding numbers 16
7 through 20 please make your way down to the
8 front of the auditorium. Number 16 please take
9 the mic. Seventeen through 20 please be seated.
10 Thank you. Number 16, Jose - - . Number 17,
11 Carrie - - .

12 CARRIE: Good evening to everyone.

13 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] please.
14 Please proceed.

15 CARRIE: Good evening. I'm an uncommon
16 parent. I'm here tonight in support of
17 Leadership Prep 4. I'm very honored and proud
18 to have my three sons in schools that have
19 always been great partners in our community. My
20 son, my three sons attend two other schools. I
21 have one son who attends [background noise]
22 Middle School. I have one son [background
23 noise] to a traditional public School. And I
24 have one son that attends - - charter school.
25 Two of these schools are collocated with two

1 other schools. One is the [background noise]
2 and PS267. I personally know all three
3 principals of these schools. Our three
4 principals have worked together to create a safe
5 and thriving environment where all children can
6 acquire a good education. A few weeks ago we
7 installed a brand new playground where all our
8 children can play [background noise]. All of
9 the schools work together to make this happen.
10 We are a family. At [background noise] our
11 schools and our parents know that it doesn't
12 matter who or where we are, we must work
13 together to [background noise] strong
14 communities. And I know that entire [background
15 noise] community is working together to ensure
16 each child has an exceptional and extraordinary
17 education that will prepare them to greatness.
18 So, therefore, I know that we are all working
19 together to create the best possible options for
20 all our children. Thank you.

21 MS. WILKINS: Number 18.

22 MS. BRANDY BOWMAN: Hi. My name is Brandy
23 Bowman [phonetic]. I'm the ESL teacher at IS211
24 since 1996. And I've worked in District 18
25 since 1984. Both my children were educated here

1 by choice and are highly successful and I
2 value the public education that District 18
3 continues to give - - . In 1996, the year I
4 started working at IS211, Hilary Rodham Clinton
5 told us that it takes a village. Raising a
6 child depends on the - - and direction of
7 family, school and community. Not for profit
8 charter school. IS211 is [background noise]
9 community middle school. We serve all students
10 in the community. We do not handpick our
11 students after a lengthy and rigorous
12 application and interview process. As a barrier
13 free school, we educate and nurture general
14 education students in addition to children who
15 are visibly handicapped, mentally challenged and
16 English language learners [background noise].
17 Most private schools will only accept students
18 who they deem to be above average. All children
19 are not entitled and deemed eligible to attend
20 charter school. About eight years ago-

21 MS. WILKINS: [interposing] Excuse me.

22 Please let the speaker have [background noise].

23 MS. BOWMAN: About eight years ago we became
24 a city school. A school in need of improvement.
25 We changed and we reorganized and we became

1 three highly successful academies. Since that
2 time, we have consistently been graded as an A
3 or A+ school. Our students have not only
4 exceeded far beyond the DOE's expectations, but
5 we continue to - - . Our norms are way above
6 the norm. I was told that at the time, okay?
7 And we do not decide which children attend our
8 school based on their race, their religion,
9 their language or their lack of a handicap. We
10 are a village, we have become like the - - of
11 eastern Brooklyn and we would like to continue
12 and expand our school so that we could share our
13 wealth of knowledge and nurture - - children to
14 succeed. Not only academically, but in life.

15 MS. WILKINS: Number 19 [background noise].

16 MERCEDES: I'm sorry, this is not - - , this
17 is Mercedes - - , because - - had passed me
18 this. Because I have to run. My name is
19 Mercedes - - . And one other thing that I've -
20 - district is about school education. Now, that
21 - - just mentioned, one thing - - all parents
22 here, we all have children, we want the best for
23 our children. First we need to analyze who put
24 us in that situation. We can agree to disagree.
25 But sometimes - - have to go deeper. We still

1 have a good school. The school is an A+.
2 When we - - charter school, it was for a school
3 that was failing. Apparently this school is not
4 failing. We - - that we have, we're
5 underutilized. But the principal that - -
6 having an A+ school put a proposal - - . Why?
7 The location needs some work and a lot of - -
8 that they - - why we did not get the capital
9 budget to do so. It's a play. The play is - -
10 , we don't have to sit here and fight each
11 other about how [background noise]. We can
12 agree to disagree. But the bottom line is right
13 now IS211 can have the [background noise]
14 proposal. We're going to have to - - , because
15 the parents over here understand what's going on
16 and I'm sure you guys are well educated as well.
17 That's - - you're here. You're fighting for
18 your children. [background noise] I have four
19 beautiful children biological and - - one. Four
20 of them. The first one - - , the second one - -
21 , the two little one - - ,so that - - I love
22 education. [background noise] and I am a
23 registered nurse [background noise]. So I am
24 with you for education. But the only problem we
25 have is our mayor that - - to sit down here and

1 fight for our children. We should - - because
2 that [background noise] that we can [background
3 noise] before he destroyed IS211 [background
4 noise]. We have location, but right now if we
5 [background noise] the plan is if you're not
6 doing well, then you can go down. But we are
7 doing well here [background noise] and we don't
8 have to [background noise] we have to look for
9 location. I think location is the problem. We
10 can work on this one and then [background noise]
11 children as well. But when they have charter
12 school, they can deny [background noise] but
13 over here we [background noise].

14 [background noise]

15 MS. WILKINS: Numbers 21 through 25.

16 [background noise] please make your way down to
17 the front of the auditorium. [background noise]
18 numbers 22 through 25 please be seated.

19 [background noise]

20 MS. WILKINS: [background noise] will you
21 [background noise] please? Thank you. Number
22 21? Number 22. Number 23.

23 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. My name is - - , I am a
24 parent in support of Leadership Prep 4 being
25 collocated in the K211 building. Collocation is

1 not a problem. I have been a part of this
2 process for two years and [background noise]
3 Collegiate and they were collocated in the PS9
4 building [background noise]. They are great
5 neighbors. The issues that the parents were
6 speaking of, not having gym space, not having a
7 good time to eat lunch, is not a problem. They
8 do. They get along and they are great neighbors.
9 So this is definitely going to work, especially
10 in a space that is underutilized. Uncommon
11 schools do not [background noise], they serve
12 every child regardless of IEP issue, regardless
13 of if they have special accommodations and they
14 have helped my child. When he came in to school
15 and he started last year, he started at a level
16 two. Now he is up to a level five. And that's
17 fabulous. The - - tradition has spanned over
18 into the west coast. When I say that my child
19 comes [background noise] uncommon school, they
20 say wow, we have heard about you guys, you are
21 doing a great job, we know that your child is
22 getting a great education. We would love for
23 our students to be in another school that is an
24 A+, obviously, because that means that we can
25 work together with other people that are

1 educated and understand that it is a free
2 charter school and be able to come and get a
3 great education and collocate in a building
4 where there is space. So thank you. And I do
5 support a collocation.

6 MS. WILKINS: Ma'am, which number are you
7 holding?

8 FEMALE VOICE: Twenty five.

9 MS. WILKINS: Number 24? [background
10 noise]. Number 25 - - Gonzales. Are you
11 holding number 25?

12 FEMALE VOICE: Number 25.

13 MS. WILKINS: And what's your name, ma'am?

14 CATHY: I'm Cathy.

15 MS. WILKINS: Thank you.

16 CATHY: Hi, I'm, I just want to say that I'm
17 a very proud uncommon parent. I have two
18 children in two different uncommon schools. My
19 daughter was placed on a waiting list for
20 Leadership Prep. Despite the lottery. And it
21 took all summer long to finally get that call.
22 And I cannot imagine the [background noise]
23 other parents that are still waiting for their
24 call. Allowing us to collocate [background
25 noise] that so [background noise] charter school

1 like [background noise] waiting for
2 [background noise]. I want to thank everybody
3 for coming out. IS211 is a great school.
4 Leadership Prep is a great school. And one plus
5 one equals two great schools [background noise].

6 MS. WILKINS: Numbers 26 through 30 please
7 make your way down to the front of the
8 auditorium to my right. Number 26 is at the
9 mic, 27 through 30, please take a seat. Number
10 26? Number 27? Twenty seven? Twenty eight.

11 FEMALE VOICE: Number 28. On behalf of
12 Councilman Charlie Barron who had to leave. He
13 asked me just to let everyone here know that he
14 stands in the same position as the parents of
15 IS211. He believes that we are an A school, we
16 have shown that we are capable and we are able
17 and we should be given the right to - - . Thank
18 you.

19 MS. WILKINS: Thank you. Number 29. Number
20 30. Those of you holding numbers 31 through 35,
21 please make your way down to the front of the
22 auditorium. Line up in front of the mic to my
23 right. Number 30 is at the mic. Thirty one
24 through 35 please be seated. Thirty? Thirty
25 one. Thirty two. Thirty three. Thirty four.

1 I'm sorry, let me stop. What's your name,
2 young man?

3 DESHAWN: My name is Deshawn [phonetic].

4 MS. WILKINS: Thank you Deshawn. That's 34,
5 thank you.

6 DESHAWN: I'd like to say good evening to
7 all the parents and faculty and all the students
8 who came out. I just wanted to start with
9 saying that this is not just a school. This is
10 a family. What we create here is not just
11 learning, but a bond. We come here not just to
12 learn, but to create a friendship of education.
13 As the charter school said, yes, I believe that
14 sharing is caring, but when we're sharing and
15 caring together, do you know what we are
16 actually putting together? Do you really think
17 about what you're really putting together? The
18 craziness. All the - - between all the eighth
19 graders and all the little kids - - , all the
20 little kids mixing with them? All the
21 belligerent fights that are going to occur? Are
22 you really going to go for this? - - 211. Look
23 how many students we have here who wanted to
24 participate to keep our school as 211 and 211
25 only. Yes, I do - - for charter schools and I

1 believe that charter schools are great. But
2 at the same time, 211, we have our rights. We
3 have our rights to become the perfect school - -
4 school who we are. We are an A+ school. We are
5 a multicultural school. As others said, we're
6 not just one - - school, we are a multicultural
7 school who has people who are black, white,
8 Latino, Latina, all around the world. Nobody is
9 an outcast because we are all one. I thank
10 everybody who comes out tonight and just want to
11 end up saying take your time to think about this
12 because - - our school, think about the decision
13 you are making. - - .

14 MS. WILKINS: Number 35. Numbers 36 through
15 40, please make your way down to the front of
16 the auditorium. Please line up to my right.
17 Number 36 is at the mic. Thirty six. Thirty
18 seven. Thirty eight. Thirty nine. And 40.
19 Numbers 41 through 45, please make your way down
20 to the front of the auditorium. Number 41,
21 please line up in front of the mic. Number 41.
22 Number 42. Number 43. Number 44. Number 45.
23 Numbers 46 through 50, please make your way down
24 to the front of the auditorium. Line up to my
25 right. Number 46 is at the mic. Number 46.

1 Number 47. Number 48. Number 49. Fifty.

2 TIANA: Hello.

3 MS. WILKINS: Hello Tiana [phonetic].

4 TIANA: I go to - - and I think that charter
5 schools are a great idea, but I disagree with
6 the little boy who was before me because he said
7 that there are going to be problems between the
8 little kids and eighth graders. But if they had
9 an A+ school, why would they treat us that way.
10 And also if they were an A+ school, they would
11 be [background noise] and they would be
12 [background noise] other people come and they
13 can still keep up an A+ average at the school
14 because in our school we have to get to school
15 at 7:15 and have lunch at around 1:00 and that
16 is very, very hard to do. - - we have a very
17 good school and before everyone, people who
18 support public school disagree and they start
19 shaking their heads, I would like to say that if
20 they really cared about children and their
21 education, they would let us become because as
22 parents said before me, they want to go to
23 college and this school teaches us that you can
24 be good enough to go to college and have a great
25 education.

1 MS. WILKINS: Number 51. Number 52.
2 Number 53. Number 54. Number 55. Number 56.
3 Number 57. The speaker list is now [background
4 noise]. Again, we welcome any comment or
5 feedback you may have at any time [background
6 noise] Panel for Educational Policy votes on
7 this proposal at the May 23rd, 2012 meeting. The
8 email address and phone number where comments
9 may be made are datproposals@schools.nyc.gov and
10 212-374-0208. Thank you for your participation.
11 This joint public hearing is now closed.

12 [END 296_717.MP3]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature



7 Date May 21, 2012
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