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

**Expansion of Success Bed-Stuy 1
(grade 5 only) in building K033**

January 21, 2015

5:30 p.m.

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. ALICIA WINNICKI: Good evening. We
3 would like to start this joint public hearing.
4 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
5 of Education, Community Education Council, and
6 school leadership teams for the proposed
7 expansion of Success Academy Charter School,
8 Bed-Stuy 1, to be referred to Success Bed-Stuy 1
9 in Building K033, beginning in the 2015-2016
10 school year. I am Community School District 14
11 Superintendent, Alicja Winnicki. We have asked
12 the District 4 Community Education Council and
13 the school leadership teams from the school for
14 the Urban Environment Foundations Academy,
15 Success Bed-Stuy 1, and District 75 K368 to
16 participate in this joint public hearing. I am
17 joined tonight by Aimee Horowitz, High School
18 Superintendent for the Foundations Academy;
19 Kourtney Boyd, Principal from the Urban
20 Environment; and Natasha Gudley, Ms. Longa, and
21 Ms. King, who are members of the Urban
22 Environment school leadership team. Also with
23 me today is Principal Neil Monheit from the
24 Foundations Academy, joined by Vanessa
25 Maldonado, Tayana Johnson [phonetic], Vishu

1 Harding [phonetic], Jenna Ford, and Natasha
2 Goodly, from the Foundations Academy school
3 leadership team. Also today with us is
4 Principal Jocelyn Nedd from the District 75
5 school, K368, joined by Celia Green, Ms. Haynes,
6 Lorna Perkins, and Arnie Goodman, from their
7 school leadership team. And we are joined today
8 by Stephanie Koyle [phonetic] and Principal
9 Javera Kahn [phonetic], from the Success Bed-
10 Stuy 1 school leadership team. We will be
11 joined by the CC president, Tesa Wilson. And I
12 will announce her, once she arrives. This
13 hearing is being audio and video recorded. The
14 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide
15 comments about the-- purpose--can you hear me?
16 Yes. The purpose of this hearing is for you to
17 provide comments about the proposal. Before I
18 describe the proposal, I want to make sure that
19 you are all aware of the opportunity to provide
20 your input. All those who wish to speak must
21 sign up in the speaker sign-up area. Look
22 outside the auditorium. We also have a Spanish
23 interpreter there, available up front, for those
24 who wish to get translation services. The sign-
25 up is in 15 minutes. - - up in order - -.

1 MS. AIMEE HOROWITZ: There may be elected
2 officials who arrive at different times,
3 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,
4 we will do our best to accommodate them at the
5 first opportune moment. Those who are here at
6 the start of the public comment segment will be
7 asked to speak first. All comments will be
8 mentioned in the analysis of public comment, to
9 be published and provided to the Panel for
10 Educational Police the evening before the panel
11 votes. That vote is scheduled for next
12 Thursday, January 29th. In addition we welcome
13 any comments and feedback you may have, prior to
14 24 hours before the panel votes on this
15 proposal. The email address and phone number
16 where those comments may be made are
17 d14proposals@schools.nyc.gov, d14, one four,
18 proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and (212)374-0208,
19 (212)374-0208. So we would like to introduce
20 Tesa Wilson, the President of the District 14
21 Community Education Council. Okay. Proposal
22 summary. Success Bed-Stuy 1 is a charter
23 school, currently serving students in
24 kindergarten through grade four, in the K033
25 Building, where it is collocated with Urban

1 Environment Foundations Academy and the site of
2 District 75 program 75 K368. The purpose of
3 this proposal is to expand the grades being
4 served by Success Bed-Stuy 1 in Building K033,
5 to include grade five, beginning in the 2015-
6 2016 school year. The grade expansion of
7 Success Bed-Stuy 1 in K033 is intended to
8 support the educational continuity of students
9 currently enrolled in Success Bed-Stuy 1. If
10 this proposal is approved, Success Bed-Stuy 1's
11 fourth grade students, who are eligible for
12 promotion, will have the opportunity to remain
13 in Success Bed-Stuy 1 at K033 for fifth grade,
14 beginning in 2015-'16.

15 MS. HOROWITZ: As you may be aware--I'm
16 going to ask if we can hold comments till the
17 comment section. Thank you. As you may be
18 aware, there will be some amendments to the New
19 York State Education Law, which provide certain
20 new and expanding charter schools with access to
21 facilities. In that context, Bed-Stuy 1 made a
22 collocation request to the Department of
23 Education for space in District 14, for its
24 fifth through eighth grades. Although Success
25 Bed-Stuy 1 requested space for its fifth through

1 eighth grades, at this time, the Department of
2 Education is proposing the siting of Success
3 Bed-Stuy 1's fifth grade only, at K033. Details
4 of the proposal can be found in the amended
5 educational impact statement and building
6 utilization plan, copies of which are available
7 here tonight. Thank you. The next presenter
8 will be our CEC president. Okay.

9 MS. TESA WILSON: At this time, I would like
10 my colleague, Celia Green, to join me at the
11 stage, as I know she's preparing to make her
12 statement. Thank you. Good evening. My name
13 is Tesa Wilson. I'm the Community Education
14 Council President for District 14. I'm also a
15 member of the district leadership. I'm a
16 borough president appointee. And I'm also a
17 member of the Chancellor's Bull [phonetic] Book
18 working room. So I sit here with many hats this
19 evening. And I'm going to speak about my
20 feelings regarding this expansion. I'm going to
21 first - -. I really don't need a microphone. -
22 - how I feel about this because I have a lot of
23 passion about this particular issue because I
24 continue to see that the Department of Education
25 has just continuously failed Urban Assembly and

1 the school's - -. We have had a lack of - -
2 engagement regarding what's happening the
3 district, when it comes to collocations.
4 Whether or not you're pro or against - - is not
5 the issue. Every parent has a right to be
6 heard. Every parent has a - -. This is not
7 about choice. This is about engaging the
8 community as to what should happen in said
9 community. And with that, I can say that when
10 we continue to address the Department of
11 Education, we have not had what would be real
12 engagement. Nothing but monologue comes from
13 the top down. And at this point, we have
14 continued to ask that the Department of
15 Education looks, not at that particular
16 building, but the building that is also on the
17 other side of the housing development, and to
18 consider placing all the Success Academy
19 students together in one building.

20 MS. WILSON: Now I state this, not because
21 I'm - - support for the Success Academies. I'm
22 actually saying this because I feel it would
23 better serve this community to see Urban
24 Assembly place them in a location that will
25 allow the school to continue to grow and

1 blossom. And I think that when it continues to
2 be put in a situation where they're facing
3 obstacles that are a hindrance to growth, that
4 it works against this principle, and it works
5 against this community. Now like I said, this
6 is not about whether or not I'm pro or against.
7 I will get into that very clearly, in a few
8 moments. But I think that it would be good and
9 efficient to put the Success Academy schools in
10 one building. And I would like to see this be
11 on record - - in different arenas. And I'd like
12 to be--have it on record that the schools should
13 be placed together. I would like to see them
14 together, so that Urban Assembly would be able
15 to flourish. Now I'm going to also state, at
16 this time, that when it comes to collocations,
17 the Department of Education regularly speaks,
18 like I say, a monologue, where they - -.
19 Community Education Councils are never engaged
20 in a way that you have real parent voice, like
21 community boards, about what happens in their
22 communities. And I also will say that SUNY
23 continues to have a deaf ear, as well as the
24 governor, when it comes down to parenting
25 issues. Now for those of you who may say that

1 this has nothing to do with this argument, it
2 is a substantial part of this argument because
3 parents have continued to say, at the district
4 level, which I represent, that colocations do
5 not work in every situation, that they can be
6 very adversarial and can work against the
7 communities that they house. I would also like
8 to say that this particular school, the Success
9 Academy, does not represent what we see across
10 District 14. We have a lower number of English
11 language learners in this particular school, as
12 well as another number that does not reflect
13 what you see, in terms of the students not on
14 IEPs. But I think that if the two schools were
15 to be housed together - - community, the Success
16 Academies can't grow and develop - -. However,
17 I stand here as a supporter of the Urban
18 Assemblies. And I do think that this expansion
19 would be detrimental to the schools that are
20 already housed here. I happen to have a
21 colleague from District 75, who will be making a
22 statement because I'm sure that the biggest
23 impact would be on her school, in which space
24 becomes an issue because it would then hinder
25 and affect the space that would be required for

1 some students' IEPs. So whereas I am clearly
2 on record - - placements that I am not a fan of
3 collocation, by any means. And I do think that
4 it would be very positive for this expansion to
5 go through because it would not best serve the
6 community - -. Thank you.

7 MS. WINNICKI: I would like to acknowledge
8 Deborah Tyler from Community School District 14
9 CEC, present with us. Now I will turn now - -
10 to Ms. Celia Green.

11 MS. CELIA GREEN: Good evening. I am
12 current PTA president for the District 75 school
13 in this building, our main site here, at P368 K.
14 I'm also a member of--and the first vice
15 president of the District 75 Citywide Education
16 Council. All schools need space. And we
17 recognize all schools need space. All schools
18 need room to grow. So I do understand the
19 clamor for a space to grow. However, our
20 discrepancy is with the fact that for the new
21 proposed utilization plan to come to fruition,
22 one of the students that currently exists in
23 this building would have to leave. The proposal
24 seeks to expand Success' program by
25 approximately 27 rooms. And although everyone

1 here is pro-choice, you know, if you eliminate
2 the only remaining zoned - - school in District
3 14 which exists in this building, then it's not
4 really fair to the students, the parents and the
5 families that live in this community to not be
6 entitled to at least one middle school. We all
7 understand that children do not remain 5-year-
8 olds - -. And again, we do understand the need
9 for space. However, the District 75 school in
10 this building has a unique distinction. Most of
11 our kids are usually bussed from the - - to
12 wherever they go to school because District 75
13 is not - - with the student placement. It's a
14 placement based on services that can be
15 delivered, so if you have classifications, such
16 as autism, or - - syndrome, or cerebral palsy,
17 it's where there is a space available. So you
18 can be a parent of a child - - because that - -
19 is available. Our school here, at P68, has the
20 unique distinction of actually serving a lot of
21 neighborhood kids, who actually have IEPs and
22 did have classifications that need the
23 modifications that we provide. So if you do
24 take us out of the building, we're also going to
25 do a disservice to those - - because now they

1 have to be bussed into - - districts, in order
2 to get their services. And like I said, again,
3 with District 75, it is not enrollment, it is
4 placement. So your placement could be Queens.
5 Your placement could be in the Bronx. Your
6 placement could be in Staten Island. How fair
7 is that to kids in District 14 to have to go
8 that far out of their district to be served?
9 And so - -. I believe in choice, but I also
10 believe that if the charter--I can understand
11 the charter expanding to the fifth grade and
12 becoming a full elementary school. But I do
13 think that you might want to look at some of the
14 other buildings in the surrounding area to have
15 a middle school because right now this building
16 is being used. Thank you.

17 MS. WINNICKI: I would like to invite
18 principals of the schools to please speak. Mr.
19 Monheit, Ms. Boyd.

20 MR. NEIL MONHEIT: Hi. Good evening,
21 everybody. I want to thank you for coming down
22 and joining us tonight. And I want to thank you
23 for being part of our community at large
24 because, really, you represent the community
25 district here. And that's why we're here

1 tonight, to service education for our kids. I
2 came into Foundations Academy late May last
3 year. We were scheduled for 92 students this
4 year. I'm proud to tell you through active
5 recruitment, we've grown to 114 students.
6 That's a 24% increase in our population for this
7 year. Reaching out - - for next year, with the
8 plans and the programs that we've put into
9 place, which is the - - dance program, girls'
10 basketball team, a boys' badminton team, an art
11 program, a girls' - - program, a chess club, an
12 artists' society, an acceleration program,
13 partnerships with - - College, partnerships with
14 NYU, and - - innovation with the community
15 school, in the community school district. We're
16 projecting to be about 215 students next year.
17 So we've got potential. We've done significant
18 - - in our school and to provide services for
19 the community. Part of our program for next
20 year is we plan on becoming a community school.
21 We're one of the renewal schools, and we're
22 going through a successful turnaround, as you
23 hear from the numbers. As we do that, we're
24 going to be inviting the community into our
25 building - - at the moment. And we want to be

1 able to offer - - services to our students and
2 to the community. Some of those services are
3 going to include mental health counseling,
4 health counseling, healthcare in general,
5 women's healthcare for our female students, and
6 dental care for our students. What that means
7 for our students is those students - - and stand
8 - - for several hours, waiting to come back
9 school, we have the opportunity to provide
10 services right in the building, get them back
11 into our classrooms an hour or two later, and
12 back into classes. So we recognize that Success
13 is growing. We recognize that they have a large
14 enrollment. We recognize that UE is growing
15 next year. We recognize that - - 68 is also
16 growing. So we're all growing, in a school that
17 has a little bit of room for all of us at the
18 moment. What we're looking to do is we're
19 looking to accomplish that growth in a way
20 that's meaningful and that works for all the
21 populations that are here. We face significant
22 contributions to the infrastructure of our
23 school, on our floor this year. Those
24 improvements include science labs. Those
25 include air conditioning for our spaces. And

1 that includes a general rebrand of the school
2 that we've been doing. Some of the building
3 utilization plans that we've looked at would
4 include us moving into spaces that would deny
5 our students air conditioning, would deny our
6 students the ability for the infrastructure to
7 support air conditioning. In other words, there
8 would be no electric available, even we put the
9 units in the walls. And finally, one of the
10 proposals suggested that the students not go to
11 the bathrooms all the time, but they wait a
12 little while, they hold it till later. And
13 we're not clear that that's really a good
14 solution for our kids. What we're looking for
15 is electrical distribution, the facilities in
16 the building, including access to electricity,
17 access to air conditioned spaces, and access to
18 bathrooms for our kids. Since we're not a - -
19 school, we anticipate that we're going to be - -
20 for these community facilities that we plan to
21 introduces, both on the first floor and on our
22 23rd floor. One of the proposals that we saw
23 had - - to the fourth floor and sharing space.
24 And that would mean the high school students
25 sharing space with middle school students, which

1 you can think for a moment. That could be
2 students up to 20 or 21 year olds, sharing
3 bathroom space with 10 and 11 year olds, which
4 just doesn't sound like a good idea. So what we
5 are asking for today is maybe a counter proposal
6 to some of the utilization plans that we heard,
7 which would have Success moving up to the fourth
8 floor of the building and allowing us to
9 maintain space on the third floor - - space on
10 the third floor, and allowing Ms. Nedd fourth
11 floor and allowing Ms. Nedd to maintain her
12 space on the first floor as well, to service her
13 students. Thank you.

14 MS. WINNICKI: Ms. Boyd?

15 MS. KOURTNEY BOYD: Good evening. My name
16 is Kourtney Boyd. I'm the principal of - -. I
17 want to first start off by saying that I am not
18 opposed to charter schools. I'm also not
19 opposed to collocation. What I am opposed to is
20 inequitable practices and policies that pit
21 educators against one another and force us to
22 scrape and fight for the barest of necessities.
23 We are fighting for space. We are fighting for
24 funding. We are fighting for resources, in
25 order to ensure that students are successful.

1 The expansion of your fifth grade will
2 perpetuate an inadequate access to the space
3 that we already battle for on a daily basis,
4 common areas, like the cafeteria and the gym.
5 I'm sure you already know that the lunch period
6 starts somewhere around 10:30 in the morning,
7 and the lunch then goes until 1:45, so that all
8 students in the building can have lunch. But
9 the flip side of that is that even though lunch
10 ends at 1:45 for Ms. Nedd's class, she then
11 dismisses her students an hour later. Also, for
12 the gym, I know for us, because we're not able
13 to adequately provide after school time for all
14 the students in the building, we do after school
15 programming before school. So we have students
16 come into the building at 7:00 in the morning,
17 for basketball practice. I know that the high
18 school dismisses at 3:15, and then--but they
19 have students who come back into the building at
20 4:15, so that they can use the gym to get
21 credit. This is not about us hating Success.
22 This is not about us hating charter schools.
23 This is about us wanting an equitable
24 distribution of resources, so that we can
25 adequately provide a quality education for our

1 students. We are all fighting for the same
2 thing. We want the best for your students. We
3 want the best for our students. All we're
4 asking is that when these decisions are made,
5 that these decisions be fair and that these
6 decisions be made in the best interest of
7 students. And what it feels like now--it sort
8 of feels disrespectful to me and my students.
9 I've been in this building for ten years, and we
10 have moved every year, for ten years. Think
11 about what that would mean to your child, if
12 they were not able to establish a school space,
13 a school home. And that is because of different
14 schools coming into the building, of us
15 reorganizing space. And like I said, our
16 problem is not with the collocation. This is
17 the nature of the beast, when you live in New
18 York City. But we need this to be fair, and we
19 need this to be done right. Thank you.

20 MS. WINNICKI: Principal Nedd.

21 MS. JOCELYN NEDD: Good evening, everyone.
22 My name is Jocelyn Nedd. I'm the principal of
23 368K, District 75 school. And as my colleagues
24 have said, it's all about equity and access to
25 the shared common spaces within the building. I

1 don't know if you are aware, but we don't have
2 a library in the building that we can share.
3 Can you hear me? Okay. Currently, we do not
4 have a library in the building. That's a very
5 critical common space for the - - students. We
6 don't have a library because the library was
7 dismantled with the expansion of Success. So
8 that structure does not exist, something as
9 traditional as that, in the building. And - -
10 of the state regulations mandates certain
11 courses and requirements for us. And many
12 times, my colleagues and myself are out of
13 compliance. Why? Because it is very difficult
14 to schedule the required amount of periods
15 needed for kids to have--to schedule that in
16 compliance. We begin our shared space planning
17 very early in the year, and sometimes we're
18 meeting up until the very end, to make sure that
19 everyone has equity in the common space in the
20 building. It's very difficult. And I agree,
21 options are for everyone. But it's just not
22 working the way we need it to work. Now with
23 the expansion, it's going to be more difficult.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. WINNICKI: I'd like to invite Principal

1 Gebria Kahn [phonetic].

2 MS. GEBRIA KAHN: Good evening - -. The
3 proposal, it's - - cut a thousand different
4 ways. But there are two very good reasons why
5 we should have our fifth grade. One, there are
6 relationships built between scholars and peers
7 in the classroom, with their teachers, with
8 their principal. And to end that at fourth
9 grade is such a harsh lesson for them to learn,
10 at such an early age. It's not the type of
11 world you would envision for your child. The
12 second reason--I'm going to try to - - to a very
13 - -. There's 143,000 kids stuck in - - schools.
14 And I refuse to - - fourth graders are literally
15 some of the smartest [background noise]. A big
16 measure of that is last year, 98% of them passed
17 the math class - -. And [background noise]
18 putting us in the top 15 [background noise]. At
19 the end of the day, our fourth graders are ready
20 to be fifth graders - -.

21 MS. WINNICKI: Please be mindful - - list of
22 speakers. And let's be respectful of the
23 speakers list - -. I am now going to call
24 members of the - - school leadership teams. And
25 they are limited to two minutes. And then we

1 will open it to the public comments. So I
2 would like to invite the following - - team
3 members. If you would kindly come to the front,
4 so we can - -. Stephanie Kohl from the Success
5 Academy, Tiana Johnson [phonetic] from
6 Foundations Academy, - - from Foundations
7 Academy, and - - Harding from Foundations
8 Academy. Please line up. I am reading from the
9 list. So please be mindful of - -. Okay?

10 MS. STEPHANIE KOHL: Good evening, everyone.
11 My name is Stephanie Kohl, and I support Bed-
12 Stuy 1, from Success Academy's network office.
13 Very nice to meet all of you tonight. - - Bed-
14 Stuy 1 is one of the top performing schools in
15 the entire state of New York. We are so proud
16 of what Ms. Kahn, and her staff, and her
17 scholars have been able to achieve. But if this
18 proposal is not approves, our current fourth
19 graders won't be able to attend fifth grade
20 Success Academy next year. That's why our
21 staff, families, and scholars are here today.
22 Our families have found a school that works for
23 them. And they should be able to continue their
24 education with us. Our experiences with
25 collocations have been very positive and

1 productive. Wherever we are located, we
2 believe in creating a learning environment that
3 is safe and conducive for learning for all
4 students. This building, K033, has been no
5 exception. Over the years, we have enjoyed a
6 positive relationship with our collocated
7 schools. And we look forward to working with
8 them and with all of you. Thank you.

9 MS. TIANA JOHNSON: Hi everyone. I'm Tiana
10 Johnson. I'm - - at Foundations Academy. We
11 share the school with Success Academy. And
12 through my four years that I've been here, I've
13 experienced many moves, since the four years
14 that I started here. For ninth year, we had the
15 second and the third floor. Tenth grade year,
16 we had the third floor. And once Success
17 Academy was - -, we had half of the third floor.
18 Right now, the shared space--I'm not saying
19 Success Academy is bad. It's a wonderful
20 school. I like the teachers. I like the
21 principal. They are very cheerful and I like
22 the way [background noise] because we have come
23 to a shared space. The gym, our time to do
24 basketball practice is cut short. And we really
25 just don't have the necessities to - - programs

1 can't have them because we don't have the time
2 or the space. Thank you.

3 FEMALE VOICE: Hi, how are you? My name is
4 - - and I'm assistant principal for the
5 Foundations Academy. I joined Foundations in
6 August 2014, and I joined because I saw - - that
7 Foundations had. And - - over the past year,
8 not just over the past year, but the past few
9 months - - and what we will be seeing over the
10 next coming months and next year. I'm excited
11 to know that we're going to be doubling our
12 enrollment next year. And as a community
13 school, we're - - provide - -. I'm a little
14 concerned, obviously, with the current proposal,
15 which - - potentially provide a lot of
16 instability and inequity to our students. I
17 want to address just briefly, since I have such
18 a short amount of time, that schools don't fail
19 in isolation. We fail - - inequity and
20 inequitable practices. And at the end of the
21 day, it's about servicing our students in a fair
22 and practical manner, and coming up with a plan
23 that services all our students and makes all our
24 students feel worthy of achievement and success.
25 Thank you.

1 MALE VOICE: My name is - -. I'm
2 currently a 12th grader in Foundations Academy.
3 - - four years in high school in this
4 Foundations Academy we've moved four times.
5 We've moved from, like Tiana, one of my
6 classmates said, we moved from the second floor
7 to the third. Now we've got the fourth. A lot
8 of this is - - around the word "equality." The
9 schools want us to have more interaction in the
10 boards, the smartboards, sharing the bathrooms.
11 - - smartboards. We just got smartboards. - -
12 kids have smartboards. - - kids - - moving up
13 to the fourth floor. We got taken off all the
14 smartboards - -. Second, - - for us, for you
15 guys to move up than us to move up with--how do
16 you feel--say if your kids was in - -. And you
17 had 12th graders - - bathrooms with seventh and
18 eighth graders. That's not something that I
19 just know you guys would want. 12th graders - -
20 bathroom with seventh and eighth graders.
21 That's--it's not - -. And next thing is around
22 equality. You guys - - equality a lot. We're
23 not going to be able to have air conditioning.
24 We just got air conditioning this year. - - air
25 conditioning this year. - - we had to fight to

1 get air conditioning for kids. - -. We're in
2 class sweating - -. We go up to the fourth
3 floor [background noise].

4 MS. WINNICKI: I'd like--we'd like to call
5 [background noise]. Okay.

6 MS. HOROWITZ: Our next speakers, Jenna
7 Ford, Lorna Perkins, Arnie Goodman, - -, and - -
8 .

9 MS. JENNA FORD: Can you hear me? Hello,
10 everyone. My name is Jenna Ford. And I'm - -
11 at - - Academy. I really do love this school.
12 It's a very good school. I - - people - - this
13 school - - because of the location, the - -.
14 But it's the students. I know that people
15 believe that believe that most of - - bad
16 school. They might fight a lot. They might - -
17 do some crazy things - -. I know that when--I
18 know that the mixture of 11th, 12th graders - -
19 like 11 to 16-year-olds was wrong - - number.
20 But I really don't like the idea of mixing - -
21 with Foundations. There are times when we will
22 get into arguments - - each other. - - that.
23 We don't need violence in our school. And I - -
24 is a good school. - - here. - - sometimes
25 [background noise]. I know that - - but we try

1 to - - down - -. So I just really want us to
2 - - space. There's no space in the - - eight
3 kids sometimes. And - -. So I - -.

4 MS. LORNA PERKINS: - - 358. And - - but I
5 - - the shared space. I think about, you know,
6 how they - - not comfortable in their own
7 school. That's sad. That's - -. Also that I -
8 - fighting. - - like that. - - upsetting as
9 well. And that's - -, you know, it's just an -
10 -. Children - -. That's - - basketball games -
11 - children to grow, to learn, be happy. - -.
12 And I just want to say that I do not - -.

13 MS. WINNICKI: Hi. Hello. The Urban
14 Environment - -.

15 MS. CHRISTINE LANO: Good evening. My name
16 is Christine Lano. I'm a teacher at the school
17 for the Urban Environment. I've been - - eight
18 years. - -. I'm here for our children. We
19 don't have the - - we had, so we have to fight
20 for them. I would like to ask - - this proposal
21 - - that continues - - our children - -. We
22 won't stand for that. Our children are - - too.
23 They need space to learn - -. Thank you.

24 MS. WINNICKI: Thank you. This concludes
25 the list of our official speakers. And now we

1 are going to open the floor for public
2 comments. And I'm going to call the speakers in
3 the order that they signed up. All comments are
4 limited to two minutes. I would like to invite
5 Lia Wilson from Bed-Stuy 1, and Felicia White
6 from the Foundations Academy. Please come up.

7 MS. FELICIA WHITE: Hi. My name is Felicia
8 White. My name is Felicia White. I - - and - -
9 . And - - this space that - - is like--it's
10 just - - because I've been here - - until this
11 school came. And if they take - - and - -. And
12 - - and I've met a lot of nice people.

13 MS. WINNICKI: There was one more student
14 but I don't see - -.

15 MS. WINNICKI: The following speakers,
16 please come up, Dawn Steele [phonetic], Monica
17 Lada [phonetic], Alicia - -, and - -. Please
18 come up.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. I'm
20 going to make this short and brief. I'm here
21 tonight to let you guys know why it's so
22 important that there is a fifth grade next year
23 in Bed-Stuy 1. I have two scholars here, a
24 third grader and a fourth grader, who are doing
25 extremely well. I would hate to have to take my

1 fourth grader - - somewhere else. I don't
2 even know where he would go. So I'd have to
3 take one kid here and another one somewhere
4 else. I'm not just saying that it would be an
5 inconvenience. But he's learned so much here.
6 For him to have to just go somewhere else, it's
7 just--it's not acceptable. It's not something
8 that I would want. It's not something that the
9 rest of these parents should want. And it's
10 something that I will fight for.

11 MS. MONICA LADA: Good evening. My name is
12 Monica Lada. And my daughter is a first grade
13 scholar at Success Academy Bed-Stuy 1. And
14 initially, listening to this, I'm sure you might
15 think, "Well, your daughter is in the first
16 grade. Why does this matter?" It matters
17 because this is her home. Prior to coming to
18 Success Academy, I had some challenges with the
19 public school system. And so I decided to put
20 my daughter in private school. And I figured,
21 if I'm paying for it, then she's getting the
22 best education. But she wasn't. I was faced
23 with apathetic teachers, administrators who had
24 political issues, and it was really a challenge.
25 They were unofficially labeling my child as a

1 problem child because she would go in the
2 classroom, do all of her work, and want to do
3 something else. And there was nothing there for
4 her. So she would engage the other children.
5 And I was getting calls two and three times a
6 week. And I was beginning to think, "My God, is
7 something wrong with my kid?" I had a friend
8 who had a son in - - location of Bed-Stuy 1.
9 And every time I'd talk about problems, she'd
10 talk about all the success that he'd been
11 having. And so I filled out the application
12 because I tried to - - the process and when I
13 first entered, when she was in pre-K, they told
14 me only 80% of the children are going to make it
15 in. My child was part of the 20%. And I didn't
16 have her in pre-K with the public school system.
17 So getting her into Success Academy, I talked to
18 the administrators and I told them about the
19 challenges that I'd experienced with her in
20 private school, and my concern for her, moving
21 forward. Within five days of her being here,
22 they made an assessment that my child was not a
23 problem, that she actually just needed to be
24 engaged, that she's a really smart child. And
25 they promoted her already. And [background

1 noise] recognizing her ability [background
2 noise] about - -. They are professionals. They
3 respond to you. They answer your questions,
4 your concerns, and they care about the kids.
5 And I'm sure that we all care about children.
6 If I don't fight for my child to have the space,
7 and she's in fifth grade, then I don't have
8 another option. This is it. We want the space.
9 We need the space. I'm sure we can come to some
10 kind of amicable and fair agreement.

11 MS. ALICIA NEPTUNE: Good night, everyone.
12 My name is Alicia Neptune. I am a kindergarten
13 teacher at Success Academy. [background noise].
14 Thank you very much for coming out tonight.
15 This issue is very important to me. And I know
16 that it's very important to everyone in this
17 room. This is my fifth year of teaching. I
18 grew up in New York City. I went to New York
19 City public schools. And I know what the
20 struggle was like for my parents. They--it was
21 hard for me to go to elementary school. They
22 took off work and looked for a school for me.
23 When it was time to go to middle school, they
24 did the same thing. When it was time to go to
25 high school, they had to do the same thing. I

1 traveled hours to get to school because they
2 wanted the best for me. I think that Success
3 Academy is doing something really wonderful, in
4 that they're offering parents and children an
5 opportunity to get a phenomenal education, from
6 kindergarten to 12th grade. And I would just
7 like to see that that dream, that wonderful
8 opportunity is allowed to happen here, at Bed-
9 Stuy 1.

10 MS. ALISSA BROOKE: Hi. My name is Alissa
11 Brooke, and I am a founding parent of Success
12 Academy Bed-Stuy 1. I'd like to thank all of
13 you for your comments before, and I'd like to
14 address some of the specific things that I've
15 already heard. I want to say, first of all,
16 that I've heard this a lot, about community. -
17 - community school. [background noise]. I want
18 to think about - - [background noise] provided a
19 quality education for the people in this
20 community. I want to address the space issue.
21 I do recall that there was no--essentially no
22 space for the - - school to be here. And we are
23 here. I want to say that I believe that, you
24 know, we can find a way. We can make a way.
25 When there is excellence involved, there is

1 something that we can do, in order to provide
2 our students with space. I also want to say I
3 know we talked about the air conditioning
4 issues, having enough money. Success Academy -
5 - the floors that we currently have. - - now
6 can - - that money. So we continue to grow in
7 this building. We continue to add to what we've
8 already built. I also want to address - -
9 completely sympathetic to the principals' plight
10 about having - -. The fact that I have to come
11 to this meeting to fight for my child to have a
12 fifth grade, oh, it makes me feel like we have
13 nowhere to go. This should not even happen.
14 The level of quality education that my daughter
15 is getting, it's ridiculous that I even have to
16 ask for space. This is ridiculous. - - my
17 daughter - -. She is one of them. She - -
18 fifth grade, a sixth grade, a seventh grade, and
19 an eighth grade.

20 MALE VOICE: Hello. I just have a quick
21 announcement - -. I have a Yukon, license plate
22 GPP3723, that's - - lights on, Yukon, license
23 plate - -. There we go, buddy. All right.
24 Thank you very much. - - two minutes - -.

25 MALE VOICE: My name is - - and I teach

1 fourth grade, here at Bed-Stuy 1. I want to
2 ask every parent here to take a look at their
3 child. Just look at your child and think, how
4 would you feel if you didn't have the best
5 education possible? I'm not saying that that's
6 at Success Academy. I'm saying the best
7 education possible that you can provide, like I
8 would say this is it. Obviously, you agree, or
9 else you wouldn't have your kids here. I think
10 it's ridiculous--give me one second. I think
11 it's ridiculous, and I think--and I feel for you
12 - - that you have to fight for something that's
13 rightfully yours. Your kids should have the
14 best education possible. If it's not there for
15 you in a public school, fine. If you think this
16 is the place, then I'm so happy. I'm proud - -
17 that you are ready, and able, and doing it,
18 fighting for your kid. I'm here because I think
19 that the space that is available in the building
20 will be used beautifully, by - - that I can say.
21 I can speak for them. They are amazing
22 children, who work really, really hard and
23 deserve to get everything that's coming. And
24 that starts with fifth grade - -.

25 MS. WINNICKI: - - invite - - to please come

1 up.

2 MALE VOICE: All right. - - Silver Camry,
3 license plate GFC7081, you're blocking a vehicle
4 that's trying to leave. Anybody, silver Camry,
5 license plate GFC7081. You will be towed soon.
6 All right. Thank you. - -.

7 FEMALE VOICE: - -. I am a third grade
8 teacher, here at Bed-Stuy 1. I was also a third
9 grade teacher last year, so these fourth graders
10 that we are speaking of were my scholars. And I
11 can tell you that they are one of the most hard
12 working groups of scholars you will ever see.
13 They come in. They work hard, and they deserve
14 to be able to have a space to be able to do
15 that, every single day. I also want to say I am
16 an inclusion - - teacher, and I have children
17 who have IEPs. I have a couple of them. And we
18 - - every single day, trying to help them get
19 the best education possible. And we worked with
20 them to make sure that they did. So they
21 deserve the space. They deserve to continue
22 having space. And it's what they need. So they
23 deserve it.

24 FEMALE VOICE: - - currently a third grade
25 teacher in the - - specialized classroom - -.

1 And I just want to say that - - teacher's
2 perspective, one of the most important things,
3 as a teacher, is to make sure of my--all of my
4 children and all of our children truly are in
5 love with learning, and develop a passion for
6 having more, having the best education possible.
7 And I can say, in every single classroom, if you
8 walk in, it is absolutely magical, scholars who
9 - -, scholars who love - -. They love doing
10 every single - - in the class. And that is
11 absolutely critical for our scholars - -. So
12 our children absolutely deserve a space in fifth
13 grade, to continue with their magical learning
14 experience.

15 MALE VOICE: Okay. Good afternoon. I am
16 the proud parent of a scholar of Success Academy
17 Bed-Stuy 1. We do have a lot of issues here - -
18 up on the stage. We heard that a lot of kids
19 were bussed from the other side of the earth.
20 We heard about equity, common space. And most
21 of you - - expansion. Do you know that with the
22 expansion, you're also - - education, which is
23 the main focus? Okay. One thing Success
24 Academy has going good within this building, top
25 five in the nation--15, and in the top 15. Do I

1 hear anyone else say that within your school?
2 I think not. Okay. Also - - this building is
3 also being under-utilized. We talk about space.
4 It's not all about space. Folks, it's about
5 education. Okay? So that's the end of that
6 program. Again, my name is Ernie Patton
7 [phonetic], and I approve of this message.

8 FEMALE VOICE: - - and my scholars - -. I'd
9 like to start off by saying Ms. Wilson - - about
10 failure. And I'd like to talk about failure
11 because the - -, traditional public schools has
12 failed my child. It will not fail him any
13 longer. We found a home. And to deny these
14 children the right to continue to be successful
15 is beyond sickening. The fact that the majority
16 of people here are Success Academy families - -
17 it says something. It says something. I - -
18 everyone - - in the Department of Education. I
19 pulled my child out of the gifted and talented
20 program, and brought him here. And we will go
21 nowhere else. This is where we will stay. I am
22 sorry. I'm sorry that families don't feel the
23 way we feel, but - -. And you know it works.
24 I'm a parent. It works. I'm a parent before
25 anything else. I will not fail my child. If

1 you deny us the space that we need for our
2 children to continue to grow, it's doing just
3 that. Thank you.

4 FEMALE VOICE: What I'm going to discuss
5 this evening, a couple of days ago, we
6 celebrated Martin Luther King's birthday. - -
7 talk about what the history of desegregation is.
8 This education fight that we're having now, we
9 should not be having. All kids are equal in
10 education. They should all be getting the same
11 education. That's not happening. People - -
12 all kids - - United States of America, okay. I
13 am sorry. I am so sorry that every kid in this
14 school - - my kid - - fight for them - - an
15 education, where they live, who they date. It
16 doesn't matter - - fight, to stand for what you
17 believe in. We go and do rallies. We go and do
18 all this. But it's a learning lesson because
19 why - - kid - - parents doing tonight. But what
20 you need to do is go home and talk to your kids.
21 - - if - - kids there to fight for them.

22 [background noise] for their kids, - - education
23 - - with a great quality education - - fight - -
24 .

25 MS. WINNICKI: - - call Ms. - -, Ms. - -, -

1 -, Ms. [background noise]. Please come up.

2 MS. WHITSON: Thank you - -. My name is - -
3 Whitson. And I currently have two children
4 attending Urban Environment, one who is in
5 seventh grade, and the other one is in eighth
6 grade. - - two things that I'd like to bring to
7 your attention. The reason why I chose this
8 school for my children to attend is because it's
9 a community school that was here first. Over
10 the past several years, I've watched as the
11 space within the school became more limited and
12 difficult to accommodate - - classes,
13 assemblies, and after school activities. This
14 school building has three sets of bathrooms, one
15 gym, and one lunchroom. And there's four
16 schools. Urban Environment begins from grades
17 six through eight. This is a time where
18 children are in their early teens. They need
19 space to grow. They have to share the lunchroom
20 with the high school, Foundations Academy,
21 meeting at lunchtime, Urban Environment on one
22 side and Foundations Academy on another. Is
23 this fair? Urban Environment--this is
24 inappropriate. High school students are
25 approaching adulthood and are more - - things

1 that junior high school children should not be
2 around. No disrespect, but I see signs saying,
3 "Don't evict us." Somewhere along the lines,
4 there has been a misunderstanding. Urban
5 Environment is not trying to evict anyone, but
6 is it fair to let another school grow, while
7 ours stays small? We already have about 15 - -
8 sixth, seventh and eighth grade. In - - allow
9 our children to grow, just like any other high
10 school. Most of you are not in the school
11 building and don't know what our children go
12 through, so it's easy to say do this or do that,
13 or move this class or this school to that space.
14 Through it all, let's be fair? This is a - -
15 school. We are all in it together, but let's
16 respect the purpose of the school and why it was
17 built. And that is to serve the students' with
18 what they need. Thank you.

19 MS. ERICA LOWE: - -. My name is Erica Lowe
20 [phonetic]. I am a fourth grade teacher at
21 Success Academy. I am so proud to be here, to
22 show you all that--I have been here for two
23 years and enjoying--I'm learning along with
24 these scholars. We speak about growth, the
25 amount of scholars--the amount of growth that

1 these guys have made in the last two years is
2 exponential. They have deserved the space that
3 they've gotten, all this time along. And they
4 deserve even more space to go on, to grow even
5 more. They need the opportunities that we've
6 given them, and they deserve more from here.
7 Thank you so much for being here.

8 MS. VANESSA VALEZ. Good evening, everyone.
9 My name is Vanessa Valez [phonetic]. I'm a
10 proud parent of - - all great teachers, Ms.
11 Jeanine and Mr. Ramirez - - this year, in fourth
12 grade, great teacher - -. I just want to say to
13 my Success Academy family, I love you all. And
14 I'm standing up here with a ball in my stomach.
15 Why? Because I love my child, not only him but
16 each and every child in here, in our family. We
17 are standing strong. We are all here for our
18 kids, and there is one reason why, because we
19 want the best for them, okay? I feel today, we
20 can make this happen. Every parent can make
21 this happen, as well as anyone can make it
22 happen, whether a parent or not because you want
23 to see the children excel. My child has gone
24 above and beyond than what he was in a regular
25 district public school. In Success Academy

1 Charter School, public school, and I emphasize
2 public, he's shining. We have teachers that are
3 friends, that are family, most of all. I can -
4 -. By the way, - -. And my scholars are
5 sitting here. And as I see my kids doing
6 homework. I see my kids reading. I see parents
7 that I know. I see parents that - -. I'm just
8 so happy to be here and I'm so happy that this
9 is practically - - with my BS1 family because
10 we're here to fight [background noise]. I'm
11 going to pass the microphone to another parent -
12 -. She's going to be speaking in Spanish. But
13 this is just to make a point. We are in this--
14 we have a language [background noise], part one.
15 Part two, next week - - do this.

16 [Spanish 74:13-76:03].

17 MS. WINNICKI: I would like to ask Adria
18 Clash [phonetic], - -, Grace McArtie [phonetic],
19 - -, Samantha White, and - - to come up, please.
20 - -.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, ladies and
22 gentlemen. My name is - -. I am - - at Bed-
23 Stuy 1 Success Academy. - - fourth grade
24 teacher - - fifth grade - -. Now I could make
25 this about me, but it's really not about me. I

1 grew up in District 14. I am a part of the
2 community. Whenever you put kids in a school,
3 no matter where you're from - -. The issue I
4 hear tonight is about community, community,
5 community. Success Academy Bed-Stuy 1 is a part
6 of this community. And our scholars deserve a
7 space for their fifth grade. I mean, I can't
8 even express--I get emotional sometimes when I
9 talk about, you know, my kids, and education.
10 And it's like I said, - - all of our kids. And
11 no, we're not fighting, but we're here to, you
12 know, stand up for what we believe in. And I
13 think it's important for the kids to see that.
14 That's why they are here tonight. So I'm not
15 going to keep you too long, but I will say,
16 think about your child. Think about their
17 education. Think about how hard it is to find a
18 quality education in New York City. It's been
19 like that for a very long time actually. So now
20 we have this opportunity. We need to fight. We
21 need to fight for all children's education.
22 Thank you.

23 FEMALE VOICE: - -. My name is Jacqueline.
24 My daughter is - -. She's in Ms. - - class, in
25 third grade. I want to say thank you to Ms.

1 Kahn for all the teachers at Success Bed-Stuy
2 1, especially Ms. - -, Ms. Parker. - -. When I
3 first enrolled my daughter into this school--I'm
4 one of the founding parents, actually - -. You
5 were here from the beginning. And I've seen
6 great growth in my daughter. She's in the
7 environment - - nurtured. She's loved. She
8 comes home really excited. She actually is
9 excited - - pointed out to me. We've talked a
10 lot about sharing space. - - my daughter - -
11 space to be in school. So my thing is why is
12 there - - Martin Luther King Day, which just
13 passed. We fought for years for equal
14 opportunity for education for minority kids.
15 And here we are, still in the fight. When is
16 this fight going to end? When are we going to
17 stop having to come to rallies or to meetings to
18 fight for space and fight for public education?
19 It needs to stop. We should not be here
20 tonight. We should not be - - to decide - - to
21 get the space for our class, in order to get to
22 continue education. Thank you.

23 MS. GRACE MCARTIE: Hi. My name is Grace
24 McArtie. And I'm a second grade - - teacher at
25 Success Academy Bed-Stuy 1. - - I serve both

1 general education students, as well as special
2 education students. And - - while I - - this -
3 - for every student, I will speak out
4 specifically about the special education
5 students that I serve tonight because I think
6 the preservation of this school and the
7 continuation of their time here is especially
8 critical for their - -. Those students have
9 special needs that we have learned how to meet,
10 year after year because we know those kids. If
11 those kids are - - and sent to another school in
12 fifth grade, they'll have teachers reinventing
13 the wheel, trying to figure out which strategies
14 work for those kids. So I think that
15 specifically for our special education, our
16 students with IEPs, it is necessary that we have
17 a school where the teachers who know them will
18 be able to continue to serve them. Thank you.

19 FEMALE VOICE: My name is Elisha [phonetic]
20 and I also teach a CTT classroom at Success
21 Academy, which means that 30% of the students in
22 my class have IEPs. 70% of the students in my
23 class do not. And my students have already
24 shown unbelievable growth this year. All of my
25 kids are reading on grade level. 11 of my kids

1 are reading beyond the first grade level. At
2 Success Academy, we hold every single one of our
3 students to the exact same very high standard.
4 And when we look at their work, when we look at
5 their results, you can see that. The - - is on
6 the teacher, to figure out exactly what each kid
7 needs, to meet - - super high expectation. As
8 they said, it's our job to figure out what we
9 can do to overcome any learning challenges that
10 our kids have. And it's working. We teach our
11 kids really well here. And we - - year, after
12 year, after year. We're talking about these
13 kids, in this room. And I love them. I want
14 the whole world for them. But at the very
15 least, I want a classroom, so that I can keep
16 teaching them, keep working, so that we can keep
17 succeeding. Thank you.

18 MS. WRIGHT: Hello. My name is - - Wright.
19 I'm a parent of a fourth grader - -. I don't
20 usually speak in front of people. The teachers
21 don't really know that, and I don't like it.
22 But for my child, I will stand up here, for her
23 education. I wanted to speak about an
24 experience that I had with - -. Last year, when
25 she started to struggle a little bit with her

1 grades and stuff, her third grade teacher,
2 which was Ms. Jeanine - - took her one on one
3 and worked with her. And with their help and
4 with mine, my daughter was one of, I think two
5 or three, that got the highest - -. And she
6 also got [background noise] math grade to - -
7 also. So public school is not an option for me.
8 Thank you.

9 CLAUDINE: Hello everyone. I'm - - academy
10 here. My name is Claudine. And I work - - at
11 Bed-Stuy 1. And my daughter is - -. Just the
12 thought of going somewhere else is scary, just
13 the thought of this. I just want to say I
14 started looking for a school for my daughter,
15 way before she was ready for school, I would say
16 as early as when she was four years old. I did
17 extensive research - - with parents. I know
18 that education is the only way out of poverty.
19 And when I found Success Academy, I said, "This
20 is home." And, you know, we're not going
21 anywhere. We're going to stay. We just want
22 the best for all kids in - -. All children
23 deserve a good education. And there is no other
24 option for me. This is it. I'm - -. I live
25 approximately 35 minutes away from there. It's

1 not a challenge. I do it for such grace,
2 such--I'm so energized, just to know Natalia is
3 getting a good education. And that's all I want
4 to say. Thank you.

5 MS. WINNICKI: We would like to invite - -
6 to please come up. - -.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Hello. - - education. All
8 we need - -. Other kids deserve a equal
9 education. Success is a place in our community
10 for - -. I feel we should grow and we should
11 continue to give them a great education because
12 my son may not be in the top 15, the top 20.
13 But every teacher, every board member has worked
14 - -.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. My name is Diane - -.
16 I'm a second grade teacher at [background
17 noise]. - - for three years. So the students
18 who are currently in fourth grade are students I
19 taught in second grade. And I can't say enough
20 about - - ability - -. I was talking with - -
21 and watching one student, who I had in second
22 grade, who came in on a first grade reading
23 level. And now I asked his current teacher what
24 he's doing now. He's way beyond fourth grade
25 reading level, like they're so hardworking - -

1 Natalia Riley's mother, who - -. I remember -
2 -she was in second grade, reading out of - -,
3 which is a fourth grade reading level in second
4 grade. And - - how hard the students - -, the
5 parents, how invested they are. - - their
6 education and how invested the parents are in
7 their kids' education here. And they absolutely
8 deserve space - - here.

9 MALE VOICE: How are you all doing? - -.
10 [background noise] Success Academy students.
11 I've been here since first grade - -. I'd just
12 like to say - - I want to speak to the
13 leadership at Foundations Academy. - -
14 understand that you're all advocating for you
15 all's school, but leadership has failed you all
16 because, you know, - - failed to build a
17 community. You have failed to - -. They have
18 failed to talk to, you know, the DOE - -. They
19 have failed to - -, you know. They have failed
20 to - -, as far as - - schools, I think they
21 should both have their separate space because
22 that would be two successful - -. Thank you all
23 - -. You know, you guys have created all these
24 programs - - for so long. But, you know, you
25 guys all - - these programs, - - basketball.

1 And we just got air conditioning. To be
2 honest, I'm not - - popularity, but, you know,
3 sending my kids to Success Academy - - anybody
4 at Foundations Academy. - -.

5 MALE VOICE: [Spanish 90:11-90:52].

6 MS. WILSON: Good evening, everyone. My
7 name is - - Wilson, and I'm the proud parent of
8 Leah Wilson, a third grader. The only thing I
9 want to mention is unless you go through what a
10 parent like me go through, you will - -
11 understand. I - - expect people to understand
12 because I have a child here, at Success Academy.
13 I also have my son somewhere else, at PS269. My
14 daughter, a second grader, is helping my son, as
15 a third grader, from another school. Now you
16 don't understand - -. We don't want - -. We
17 just cannot afford to have our black kids - -.
18 If I tell my son to pick up a book right now and
19 read, he'll say, "No mommy." Within ten
20 minutes, he falls asleep. My daughter, I have
21 to tell her to stop reading. [background
22 noise]. She likes to read. When I first came
23 here with my daughter last year, another school
24 told me--public school told me that - - was so
25 great and everything. She - - she scored poor

1 on everything. And fortunately, when I came
2 here last year, - - told me, unless I do
3 something with your daughter, I do not see any
4 hope. - -, Ms. Little stayed her every night
5 and - -, every night - -. Thank you.

6 MS. MARION: Good evening, everyone. My
7 name is - - Marion [phonetic]. And I'm a fourth
8 grade teacher at Bed-Stuy 1. I've been here for
9 the past three years, and I've been able to
10 watch these students grow. Our fourth graders
11 have been taught by this - - team of teachers,
12 since they were in the first grade. Because of
13 that, because we are a family, our students
14 literally have an entire team of people fighting
15 for their success, day in and day out. I'm here
16 for the kids, at the end of the day. And all I
17 wanted is for them to continue growing and
18 getting better, and to have the opportunity for
19 continued success. Thank you.

20 MS. WINNICKI: - -, - - Johnson, - - Ford,
21 and Latoya - -, please come up.

22 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening everyone. My
23 name is - -. I have a daughter in 11th grade,
24 in Foundations Academy. My daughter is on the
25 honor roll. She loves school. One of the

1 reasons - - my child. One of the reasons I
2 kept her at Foundations Academy is because she
3 loves Foundations Academy. She loves the staff.
4 She loves her peers. And I thank God for her
5 teachers, throughout the years. Now I sat here
6 and I listened to all of the comments, all the
7 speeches. And somehow I - -. And we teach our
8 children about bullying. But I think that we're
9 being bullied. And it should not be. - - were
10 asking, we were - - the Board of Ed for our
11 smaller classrooms, because the classrooms were
12 - -. And here we are today, still fighting.
13 Now I've heard parents - - this is their home.
14 They're not going anywhere. So I want to ask
15 you, what [background noise]. Now - - the best
16 for their children. You have parent teachers -
17 - students are a reflection of what they've been
18 taught. And I heard some parents - - teaching
19 the children - -. The teachers that are here -
20 - what you have taught them. And I feel - - so
21 much - -, that - - the fourth floor Success, and
22 make Foundations Academy stay on the third
23 floor. That's my solution - -.

24 MALE VOICE: We have two more speakers, so
25 we ask everyone to stay, for the speakers that

1 are up there, please. Thank you.

2 MR. CARL JOHNSON: My name is Carl Johnson.
3 And my daughter, Felicia White, was up here
4 earlier. She's from Foundations Academy. - -
5 Success Academy. - - Success. - - because some
6 of these students, the middle and the high
7 school kids, you all want to - - school. - - go
8 outside. Your kids can't - - because these kids
9 - -. I think that Success should get their own
10 school. You all - -. But think about these
11 kids that - - kids - - do the right thing in the
12 school. And now you want to try to - -. Then
13 they're going to be safer standing across the
14 street - -. That's what I got to say - -.

15 FEMALE VOICE: My name is [background
16 noise].

17 MS. WINNICKI: Let's give our speaker our
18 respect right now.

19 FEMALE VOICE: My name is Latoya - -. I
20 have a child in kindergarten at Success Academy
21 Bed-Stuy 1. And - -. I come here as a
22 visionary. I don't know how many of you - - but
23 I taught - - teaching. I taught in a - - pre-k
24 classroom. I - - pre-k classroom. And the
25 vision for universal pre-k was school readiness.

1 When my son left U pre-k, he was not ready for
2 school, and I was nervous. When I got the
3 lottery--when I won that lottery - - I was so
4 nervous because of the success that - - this
5 school. And I didn't know if my son was ready -
6 - place and such a place of learning. When I
7 got here, to the orientation, I had so many
8 questions. How can I prepare my son for - -?
9 How can I get him ready because I know he was
10 leaving with not much of learning anything in U
11 pre-k, a place that was invested in school
12 readiness and talked so much about school
13 readiness. Ms. - - came and she said, "Bring
14 your child. I - -. And we will - -." And now
15 my son is in kindergarten, and he's reading at a
16 first grade level. [background noise] children
17 - - first grade level in the class. [background
18 noise]. He wakes up at like 5:30 in the
19 morning. My kindergartener wakes up at 5:30 in
20 the morning - - to go to school. - - and
21 learning. And the - - education. The - -. I
22 say - -. Please don't take it away.

23 MS. WINNICKI: Thank you. That is--the
24 speaker list is now exhausted. Again, we
25 welcome any comments - - to 24 hours before the

1 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this
2 proposal at its meeting, next Thursday, January
3 29th. The email address and phone number where
4 comments may be made are
5 dl4proposals@schools.nyc.gov or at (212)374-
6 0208. Thank you for your participation. This
7 joint public hearing is now closed.

8 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

6
7 Signature *Michelle R Killen*

8 Date January 24, 2015
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