

impact on the lives of them or their children.  
My five year-old daughter is too shy to address the panel.  
But I asked her what she would say to you all.  
And she said that she would ask the school to be open all summer.  
She loves her school that much.  
Of course space is an issue in New York City and it's a topic where emotions run high.  
I feel every school would have a playground, but sadly that is not the reality.  
But we're here right now to make the best solution for our children.  
Not for the parents, not for the teachers and not for the politicians.  
But for our children.  
Given that the building locating the schools is underutilized by 465 seats, the solution is to where to locate or children's fifth grade is staring us all in the face.  
Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> [Spanish].

>> I don't need a translator either.  
But I thought it was great when she did that.  
So...

[laughter].

I think I was also at the public hearing last week and I heard parents gushing and gushing about Success Academy.

I don't feel like I have especially amazing story to tell because I'm so impressed by everyone else's but I want to say that this is a very effective school because it allows kids to go beyond what is just merely expected of them but to reach a higher potential.

They might -- my son is reading at a third grade level which is amazing and maybe he didn't need to be doing that, but he is doing that and they encourage him to keep doing that.

Also, I'm simple.

We know that there's space in our building, we know that away really would like to have on the fifth grade within the school, and I know our community needs it as well.

The middle school in our building is also trying to do a great job to be the best middle school they can be.

They're attracting students from two of the most affluent schools in our neighborhood, and I think we're working great together.

So it's not a very difficult question for me.

It seems simple to me and I can't wait to hear all these great stories.

I'm really impressed and happy to hear how wonderful your kids are doing because it's just true.

Our kids are learning because this is what Success Academy can do.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker.

>> Hello.

Good evening.

My name is latoyo redmond.

And I'm here to ask that you vote yes for the expansion to the fifth and sixth grade.

At the end of the day this is about the children, about supporting the continuity of the education they have become accustomed to.

Chart schools are known for results and having rigorous curriculum.

But we have parent workshops we went to one to prepare us for the third grade to teach us how to support our children.

We have workshops to -- for the hundred book challenge to teach us the best books to read on which level to support our kids.

There's a lot of support.

There's a lot support from the principal and from the teachers.

As I've stated at the last meeting we had, my son has a rare disease and one thing that stuck out was in the summertime I received a call from the principal saying I saw this on your son's paperwork.

What is this.

How can we support you moving forward, what's the plan?

And even now, with him starting to have some difficulty, there's a plan for the future.

I'm not jugs waiting to go to a meeting to find out my son is failing.

I'm getting correspondence from the teacher on a regular basis, getting updates daily through the class dojo and different things and also the relationship between our school and the other school is a good one, a pleasant one, and at the end of the day if the adults can take themselves out of it, it's about the children, about supporting the educational continuity of our children so that they can be their best.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Before we go to the next speaker -- I'm sorry, before we go to the next speaker can we have people with tickets 25 to 30, 25 to 30, both yellow and green sides.

People with tickets 25 to 30.

And then we'll hear the speaker on the yellow side.

Thank you.

>> Can I begin?

>> Yes.

>> Thank you.

I'm a parent of a founding scholar.

I didn't do this, did he.

He's going into the second grade.

He goes to bergen beach.

I want to speak as a member of the district 22.

I live in district 22 I would have loved to send my child to a district 22 school but I wanted to give him something that I had when I was young.

My mother sent me to private school.

I went to Brooklyn technical high school.

We're are New Yorkers.

I was not able to see the same thing that I got when I was at that school.

He wasn't getting the same thing.

Times change.

I understand everybody loves Hudde, the people that went there before, times change.

New Yorkers, we're growing.

There's children being born every day, no one is kicking your children out of the school.  
They're not being kicked out.  
The children are there.  
There are more children coming in and that are being born and they need options.  
Accountability.  
This is what my child learns in success.  
He's accountable for his actions, his teachers are accountable for theirs.  
If I need to call my teacher, my child's teacher at 11 p.m.  
she's getting back to me within 24 hours every day.  
Morning -- I'm not saying you don't.  
This is my two minutes right here.  
I'm not saying you don't.  
Every day, morning, noon, night, if I need to speak to the teacher I don't have to wait for a parent teacher meeting.  
High expectations like the teacher from Williamsburg said, they have high expectations.  
They're wondering what goals we're going to reach next.  
Positive reinforcement daily.  
We're not going to focus on the negative.  
They're going to tell you what needs to be done and how to get it done with your child.  
We're all working together, parents, students and teacher.  
My child's first award in the school was an award for integrity.  
He's not just in the school being prepared for state tests, he's being prepared for life's tests.  
Okay?  
[Applause].  
Another thing that's really quickly, as a lot I'd like to touch on, but everyone's like why don't they get their own building?  
We are in New York.  
Where is the space?  
When you look at buildings in the city, they're building up.  
Up.  
I'm not saying that -- you're rooms may not be empty.  
But if the state is telling us they're empty and there's children from New York, these children are being busted in from west chester, not being busted in from Connecticut.  
These are New York children.  
Brooklyn, Queens children, Manhattan children.  
I understand that.  
My child lives in Brooklyn too.

>> Ma'am, I'm sorry, we're going to have to move along  
>> All right.

>> Speaker on the other side.

>> Okay.  
Thank you.  
[Applause].

>> Shhh.  
Next speaker, please.

>> Good evening.

My name is John.

First I want to say that it's very cool to see so many parents who simply care about their kids' education.

Turn out here tonight and take time out from their day.

Very cool.

My daughter is a student at Success Academy.

Cobble Hill.

I'm here to tell you it's not a good school.

It's a great school.

My daughter loves the school.

Today was actually the last day of school.

She's very upset.

that she can't go back for the summer.

I have not been above the first floor of that school's building since I ran the halls as an eighth grader in that building.

So I don't know what goes on upstairs from above the second floor.

I personally don't know what the space situation is.

However, if there is in fact space, I think this is a no brainer to approve another grade for the school.

If the space is there, let Success Academy continue their formula of success.

It works.

We know that it works.

I have friends who ask me all the time when they find out my daughter is in a charter school how she's doing.

And when I tell them is that I say she's thriving.

I'm pretty sure when I was in school and people asked my mom, how is John doing in school, I don't think she said he's thriving.

I think things were somewhat chaotic in the schools I went to I was born and raised in Brooklyn, Success Academy is the incredible experience.

I just want to say bottom line is the school is a success.

I know people have been saying -- I've even heard some personal attacks about people who run the school.

I don't care about politics.

I care about my child getting a good education.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> My name is Rick Pok the printout parent of a Success Academy Cobble Hill 4th grader and I was coming here today to -- hello, Robert -- coming here today to talk about asking you to vote yes for our expansion, but the more I listen, I have to implore you to vote yes for all the expansions because if you listen, Success Academy the Icahn schools they raise the bar.

In a time when everything you read, politicians are lowering the bar.

I want my daughter to go to a school where they raise the bar every day.

Where the principal is out front every day shaking the hand of every student that walks through the door and I don't know how she does it pause she's got four grades now and they know the name, the staff, the administrative staff they know the names of every kid.

When you think about it, lowering the bar anywhere doesn't help.

So I just want to leave you quickly with the words of Thoreau who said our greatest fear is not that we set our goals too high and don't hit them, it's we set them too low and we do.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Good evening, my name is Sarah and my son is a second grader at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

We also have twin babies at home that I hope to send to prek at Success Academy one day.

We love our school and I'm asking you to vote yes on the proposed expansion.

Here are just a few things we love about the school.

Tons of communication about the good things and the bad things from his teachers, the emphasize on science, art, math, disciplined environment that let's everyone learn.

Early start to the day that lets me and other working parents get to work.

And just a culture that challenges my child.

I just want to say that this is our community school.

This is my community.

We walk to school.

I run into other parents at the trader Joe's.

This is our community school they've done a great job.

I also understand that good things are happening at the other schools in the building.

But space is limited and there's a huge demand for every spot at Success Academy.

After two years of my son's school I can see it's made a hugely positive difference in his life and the trajectory of the lives of his classmates.

Just the amount he's learned in the past two years it absolutely amazing.

So I believe that we've made such a positive impact in the addition of more space would be a huge benefit to the children, parents and community, please support this proposal to increase space for Success Academy Cobble Hill and vote yet.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Hi.

My name is Andrea Scott I have two scholars at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

As of today they're both second graders, yesterday they were first graders.

I always hear chart schools put into a different category from community schools, characterization that doesn't really make any sense to anybody that's experienced our community.

at Success Academy Cobble Hill so I'd like to talk about community today.

With a very person story.

My daughter lily was struggling with math a bit this year and I understand, I'm not any great -- not auditioning tor mensa any time son myself.

She didn't do very well on a math exam she took in February.

Her teacher called me, was very concerned, my husband and I came in, and her teacher put together an incredible action plan.

Success Academy's Cobble Hill circled the wagons for my child and went above and beyond.

She got incredible incredible one-on-one instruction, we obviously worked with her at home.

Her kindergarten teacher, teacher that's no longer her every day teacher, volunteered to the tutor her and came into school twice a week every day before school at 7am starting in cold deep dark icy February to get help with math.

She just two weeks ago took the end of year math exam and scored 103 percent.  
[Applause].

Lily's teacher called me absolutely giddy.

This is incredible.

And I mean, there's nothing absolutely nothing like seeing a child who doesn't believe in herself learn that she can do something that she's really unbelievably capable.

The next date at school every teacher I saw, teachers whose classes Lily hasn't been in, whose names I don't know, every teacher stopped me to say congratulations.

It was so genuine and widespread and personal.

It's the community that's made this possible.

Without community there's no group of people circling the wagons, without community we wouldn't have these teachers going above and beyond to make sure every kid has the tools to succeed.

Without community this room wouldn't be packed with parents advocating for these incredible schools.

Clearly Success Academy Cobble Hill is benefitting our community.

I think you all know that we can't have too many great schools.

So I am asking you please to vote in favor of the fifth grade space.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker.

>> I'm Sophia a teacher at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

As teachers we're given the 50 of a new class of students every year and are expected to serve them all.

It's our professional responsibility to value the education of all children equally.

The teachers that I work with at Success Academy Cobble Hill are extremely committed, educators and this commitment isn't limited to the students in our school.

Critics who argue that our request for space is indicative of our disregard for the education of global international and star academy students lack an understanding of the moral obligation of teachers.

The administrators of all schools in the building agree allocating additional space for fifth grade enables students to flourish without impediment to the education of the students with whom we share the building.

At teachers we couldn't have it any other way.

Tonight please share your belief in education for all by granting students the space they need to continue on their educational journey.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker on the yellow side.

Shhh.

Next speaker on the yellow side.

Charles and Lily.

>> Okay.

>> Thank you.

>> I am seven years old and my name is Charles.

I love Success Academy Cobble Hill because we have science and chess and sports. School is so much fun. Please give us space for fifth grade. If you do, thank you. [laughter] [Applause].

>> Lily?  
Shhh.

>> My name is Lily and I just surrendered seven last week. And my favorite specials in school is art and sports because -- and dance because I get all those stuff out of my body so I can move around a lot.

>> Thank you.

>> You're welcome.  
[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Good evening my name is Judy but Monday through Friday I'm known as Miss Daimlers where I teach at Cobble Hill. I have some remarks although I'm on summer break as of today and so I'm going to go off script a little bit. I think the biggest point I want to make is that the one thing we're so proud of in our school is our strong sense of community. I don't just mean community that we have with Success Academy because you can see that community right here today and it's very, very strong. It's even greater when you come actually into our school and neighborhood. But not only that we have really strong relationships and positive relationships with our co-located schools with Star Academy, Global Studies and International Studies. Last week on Monday we got a chance to hear from those schools and it sounded like everyone was in favor of this proposal and so I'm going to beg of you have today to also take favor and help support us, help the families of the kids, the faculty, and our entire community to grow stronger. Thank you.  
[Applause].

>> Thank you.  
Next speaker on the green side.  
I mean yellow side please.  
Sorry.

>> My name is Paul Hawkins. Sorry to be addressing you in shorts and a T-shirt, but I'm a father of a rising third grader and it was the last day of school and I take my job very seriously. That's one of the reasons I'm here tonight. I'm in favor of public education. I worked for the Department of Education for a while. I was on the third floor with teacher recruitment and quality. And at the time when the question came up with charter schools the sound byte we used was when they would say are you in favor of charter schools we would all say we're in favor of anything that works for the children of the city of New York.

[Applause].

Another thing we said at the time when we were brainstorming about teacher quality was that teachers don't educate students, teachers educate families. Part of that is the meaning that when my sister's -- when my daughter's sister goes to school next year at Success Academy, the teaching teams that happen dealt with her will recognize her in the hallway and say oh, we know about you. You're part of our family.

We're part of your family already.

Of course I'm in favor of expanding to the fifth grade in our school.

There's room.

We have the encouragement of our co-located schools.

I'm a reluctant political person.

I'm a reluctant activist.

This is really the first time I've spoken in front of a group like this.

And I've only gotten involved because of my daughter and because of the school situation.

But now I write to all of my congress people, write to all of my representatives.

Madam Chancellor I don't know if you picked it up but I sent you a Christmas card last year.

>> Appreciate it.

>> I just want to thank you all for letting U.S. glow about our children and our school.

And wish you all a very wonderful summer and check your mailboxes in December.

>> Thank you, I'm going to ask that speakers with ticket numbers 31 to 35 please come down to the microphones.

Next speaker on the green side.

>> Hi.

Good evening.

My name is dawn Forbes founding business operations manager of Success Academy Cobble Hill.

[Applause].

>> I am so incredibly proud of the school community.

we have created here.

Today our parent community, entire staff and even many of our scholars have come out together to urge you the panel, to approve the proposal that will allow us to have fifth grade in our building.

If the proposal is not approved our raising 4th graders would not have the school for the following year.

It's hard breaking for me to think that any of our scholars will have to halt the incredible progress they're making and be forced from our school.

I understand how precious every classroom and hallway in our building is.

We do everything within our schedule and power to use each room we're given as efficiently as possible.

For example, right now in one classroom we're utilizing it for dance, for blocks, for small group instruction, even for recess on bad weather days, we use every space we're given to the maximum capacity.

We all know that the issue of space can be a divisive one.

However, at our campus all four school principals are in favor of this proposal.

All that I ask, all that our families ask, all that our scholars ask is that you continue to allow our great school community to flourish.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.

Next speaker on the yellow side, please.

>> Good evening my name is Alice son a founding teacher at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

[Applause]

>> Over the past seven years I have taught in both district schools and charter schools.

I have been privileged to help build communities that allow children to be creative and flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

I have also unfortunately been part of schools that do not make good on their promise to parents to create those communities.

Success Academy Cobble Hill is one of those communities that takes their job very seriously.

We have worked incredibly hard with parents, with families, with scholars, the staff love their job.

It's very important to us to continue to have the opportunity to allow children to flourish, to grow, to have a say in their community.

Please help us continue to afford families that opportunity within our community by voting yes to expand Success Academy Cobble Hill to a fifth grade.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker on the green side, please.

>> Hi.

My name is Rebecca and I'm here today to support the expansion of Icahn Charter School 7 in the building that also houses P.S.

93.

My daughter attends Icahn 7 as a first grader and we've been thrilled with the education she's receiving.

There's space that's currently not being used and which is not been used for years.

The expansion is a no brainer in my opinion.

I've heard several times from opponents of charter schools they understand why charter school parents support charter schools.

I find that statement condescending.

I'm a member of a union and have been for 13 years.

So I understand how that comes into play.

That being said, kids come first.

I'm also a life long resident of the Bronx and actually the sixth generation in my family to live in the Bronx.

I did not grow up in an affluent neighborhood and my public school wasn't adequate so my parents sacrificed to send me to a parochial school for elementary and I went to public school in Brooklyn tech and got to see the finest of what the DOE offers.

That was over 30 years ago and nothing has changed in the Bronx.

I do not feel I can send my child to the local -- my zoned school.

Before you assume this is born in snobbery, our decision is based largely on my husband's experience in Bronx public schools in the nineties.

He was not so lucky as me as he didn't even have parents who could even sacrifice, they had zero choice and sent him to school in the university heights section of the Bronx in the nineties.

My husband was stabbed while walking down the hallway by an unknown person. He was not a bad kid.

But it was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

We will do everything in our power to make sure that our children are never at the wrong place at the wrong time simply because they go to school.

If I lived in many parts of Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island island and even parts of Brooklyn, and even if I was zoned for the few adequate public schools in the Bronx, I would not have to fight for my child's education.

It would be guaranteed.

I applied for good public schools in my district and we were wait listed.

We also applied to Icahn and obviously got in.

If my child was not accepted into Icahn 7 we would have eventually moved to the suburbs because we cannot afford to live in the good school districts of New York City.

Ieksz 7 is allowing my middle class family to live in the city where my family has lived for generations.

We are the type of family you want to stay in New York City.

Thus far Icahn 7 and P.S.

93 have had a good relationship as a parent this is important to me and I look forward to the school's fostering that relationship.

I'm not here to put down P.S.

93 but simply to say Icahn 7 is doing an excellent job and deserves the opportunity to continue to serve the district 8 community in a location that's worked beautifully so far.

I also want to touch on -- I'm out of time.

Have a good day.

>> Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side, please.

>> Good evening.

My name is share lot and I'm a first grade teacher to Ms.

Lily here and I've been teaching as Success Academy Cobble Hill for three years and was a founding teacher there.

Before working at the Success Academy Cobble Hill, I taught both in the public, charter schools, and traditional public schools.

I live in Cobble Hill and just like my scholars I go to school there, I chose to go to Success Academy Cobble Hill.

I work at Success Academy Cobble Hill, and the one thing I really want to focus on tonight is the joy that we have at our school.

This is something that I did not see at my public school that I worked at.

This is something that I did not see at my other public charter school that I worked at.

A lot of parents have been focusing on the scholars' joy and I want to focus on the teachers' joy because I really enjoy working at the Success Academy Cobble Hill.

And not only does the staff and leaders want their teachers to be happy, by planning parties and dinners for us, but the parents also want us to be happy too.

The parents create teacher appreciation week that include homemade breakfast and even massage days for all the teachers and staff.

We have kickball competitions and tug of war competitions with our parents after school on our own time.

As Success Academy Cobble Hill we have leaders, teachers, parents, and scholars that are part of such a joyful community, it would be detrimental to our community and Cobble Hill to not allow us to have space for our fifth grade.

I ask that when you vote tonight you think about the scholars, the parents, the teachers, and the leaders of this joyful community at Success Academy Cobble Hill and you vote yes.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the green side, please.

>> Good evening, panel.

My name is Stephen Lavo.

My daughter attends Icahn 7 in the Bronx.

Icahn 7 is a very, very good school, a great school.

The teachers are great, the principal, everything in the school is great.

I really wish I brought my daughter here.

You will hear some things that will really surprise you.

I think Icahn -- the only mistake was that the oversight was that Icahn 7 we did not wear any T-shirts coming here.

But Icahn 7 is a great school and I kindly ask the panel to vote yes.

7 years ago, a dolphin was caught in an icy condition in Wisconsin, and people from Wisconsin and Chicago, Mississippi, tried to get this dolphin out.

It cost them almost one million dollars.

They invested in projects, they invested in things.

I kindly ask you to invest in people.

Let us invest in Icahn 7, give them a space, vote yes so that all of us together can say yes, we can.

Yes, we can.

Yes, we can.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.

Next speaker on the yellow side, please.

>> Hi, my name is Carrie I'm the principal at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

[Applause].

Just as everyone else said I want to thank you for sitting you through all our comments.

I can't imagine how exhausting this much be. So first of all, I'm so proud of the incredible school community that we've created at Cobble Hill.

When we opened our goal was to create a magical place not just for our scholars but for our families and for our community.

We wanted today build a school community where everyone felt inspired to learn, to explore, to create, to imagine.

Where they felt they could go beyond the bar to reach their true potential and then go even beyond that and higher.

Our goal is not just to create one school but to make sure they're great schools for everyone and right now we have the opportunity to continue a great school for our current children.

Right now we're asking for two rooms.

Two rooms that we can expand to go to fifth grade to provide a continual education for all of our scholars so they can continue building the amazing

substantial relationships they already have with their teachers with their fellow scholars, with their families.

We want to make sure that is a possibility for them.

Because I cannot imagine to say I'm sorry we don't have space for you, you need to go someplace else.

So what I'm asking from you tonight is to say yes to the proposal so we can have those two additional classrooms for our fifth grade space and just to reiterate what so many have said, we were at the hearing on June 1st and all of our other co-located principals were in favor of that expansion.

So thank you so much.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.

Next speaker on the green side.

>> Thank you.

Of covers I had to draw the stick after the principal, but so it is.

Thank you for your time tonight.

I'm a father of three daughters all under the age of eight so please help me, everyone.

Two of them are scholars at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

Now, I'm pretty certain that most of your decisions you need to make are not black and white, but I think at least two cases this evening the facts support that there's space in under utilized buildings, community support and demand for that space, and there's support from the existing principals in the location.

Outside of those facts one of the most important things for smee continuity.

It doesn't make sense to me to start primary education in a building where your building community at 4th grade.

So expand it to fifth grade, allow these kids to continue to nurture that relationship that they've already created with their existing scholars.

And so I would like to you vote in support of those co-locations, thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Good evening.

I know it's been a very long day and I appreciate you listening to my story.

My name is Cynthia de Jesus.

This is my son Gregory.

The reason why I want fifth grade to obtain space in the current location is because I want my son and the other scholars to complete the elementary school years at Success Academy Cobble Hill.

I live in sunset park Brooklyn, I did put my son in the local school P.S.

24 where he attended kindergarten.

But when he did start first grade at Success Academy, he was below average.

With his teachers, Mr.

Eisenger and, Ms.

Jaffy and Mr.

Gladman they have put him to the level where now he was raid for second grade.

Fifth grade space needs to be given.

If it's not given, that means he needs to go back to P.S.

24 where I do not want to send him.

My family works very hard in sending Gregory there.

We commute 45 minutes or more to the school.

But the reason why I do it is because he is worth it and that is why I'm fighting for it.

Myself and other parents here who love Success Academy and the way they teach him and the way that the things that they teach him.  
And that is why I want you to please consider giving Success Academy the space for fifth grade.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Madam Chancellor and members of the committee, thank you so much for your time.

I am a life long resident of Brooklyn, and a life long resident of Cobble Hill.

I am in many ways a product of the public education system.

My father has been New York City teacher for over 40 years, I myself many also a New York City public high school teacher, taught for 17 years.

Between the two of us we've taught in the south bronx, east New York, Washington heights, taught in crown heights and I'm lucky enough to be teaching right now.

I think there's a reason why all of us are in this building at 9:00 o'clock at night.

All of us here.

So did he operated and so focused and the reason of course is that we all know there's an educational crisis in this country.

I think the wolf is at the door, ladies and gentlemen.

And we all know that the world that we're going into is one that increasingly seems to be divided between haves and have notes and all of us here parents from Success Academy and parents from the co-located schools all want what's best for our children.

We all want them to succeed and I know that's what motivated all of you as parents and educate ors to be here as well.

I just wanted to say that as a life long educator, I have been incredibly impressed by the education my daughter and son have received add Success Academy Cobble Hill.

If you're parents and you've spoken with the amazing faculty, the immediate contact from parents, the incredible learning environment which we experienced there, science, school community, but additionally I think what we see here is a strong relationship with the existing schools all of whom also support our co-location.

I say to the teachers from the other schools that we should not fight, that we all want what's best for the children of New York City.

I'm sure that's what you want as well madam Chancellor and all the members of the committee.

Everybody supports what is best for you all which is expansion growth and more resources for all our schools and all our teachers.

Thank you very much.

Please vote yes.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side

>> Hi.

My son just finished kindergarten at Success Academy Cobble Hill and actually the first thing I should say, Chancellor; our wonderful principal who just spoke was outside every day through the frigid winter greeting all the kids, first of all, I hope you enjoy your summer and I don't know if there's a trophy we can get her but it was wonderful to see her even when it was 15 degrees outside.

We needed a place that could keep up with him.

We're so happy that Success Academy ended up being that consume.  
It's amazing how much they trust the kids to be able to learn and how much they are able to learn.  
When I ask him about what he's most excited about for next year his answer was hard math problems.  
Which is kind of incredible and a little surreal for a kindergartener.  
He's so into chess which they also start in kindergarten that on the weekends during free time he wants to play with me and teach me the moves that he's been learning, which is again, pretty incredible for a kid who's only in kindergarten.  
The teachers are very supportive.  
They all know him.  
They all look out for him and not just his home room teachers but all the teachers throughout the day.  
It's also a school that matches the diversity of our neighborhood even more than our district school actually does.  
The other principals in the building support the expansion that we want to do which is wonderful.  
And I think also as other parents said, we were zoned for P.S. 58 which is a great school.  
But it was also as I'm sure everyone knows, credible overcrowded right now. Which is nobody's fault.  
But having an option like Success helps take the pressure off of those schools. Which would just make that overcrowding problem even worse.  
So it's great we have success and I hope you support the expansion for the fifth grade.

>> Next speaker on the green side and can we have people with tickets 36 to 40 on both sides if you could come down to the microphone.  
Next speaker on the green side.

>> Dear panel thank you for coming out and listening to everybody speak about the greatness of Success Academy.  
I'm a proud parent of a child that's a rising second grader.  
At Success Academy in Ben son hurst.  
Not considerable on the agenda but I came to pay it forward because I know that these are the same teachers and staff members that came to support when we were opening up.  
So just as a thank you we came out here and decided to support them as well.  
Initially we came out to support the prospective co-location in mid wood but now that we see there's another Success Academy that needs our support, they should have it too.  
Basically the community of Success Academy doesn't start with only our kids' friends or start with the classmates, it doesn't start with the Success Academy school.  
It goes all around.  
It basically revolves around the entire community and once again it's not only the school.  
This year we had one of the biggest projects on our agenda is to get a playground in our school -- school yard.  
And hopefully that was; going to get accepted.  
So this was a work that not only came from Success Academy Ben son hurst but also our co-locating school.  
So we worked together to get that proposal off the ground.  
My daughter finished first grade reading at an end of second grade level.

For her, that's a big, tremendous success because she came into the school with an IEP.  
IEP that has been in place for her for the last four years.  
So for someone that could succeed, Success Academy is the best place.  
Thanks.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Hi.

My name is Jennifer, and my daughter attends Icahn Charter School 7.  
In the third grade.

I must say we're blessed to have her in that school.  
She's doing extremely well and they're doing a phenomenal job.  
I want to give you a little example.  
There was a time Laura didn't do well on an exam.  
What happened?

Quickly action plan.

Mrs.

Sullivan called me at work to let me know.  
What went into effect?

Lauren was put in tutoring in Saturday academy, progress reports and emails from her teacher.

They stand together.

They support the children in every which way.

This is why I think that we can overcome all of these obstacles, all these students are our future and I know that we're not here to jeopardize one of them.

Just please allow us to take that space and utilize it in a good and a productive manner for our kids.

I feel that anything that's going to better our future leaders we should be welcomed with open arms and embraced.

I want to say thank you to P.S.

93 for sharing their home with us but I know that if we work together we can make this happen Please vote yes.

This must happen today.

Do not leave our children without a school.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the green side

>> Hello.

Thank you for your time.

My story is nothing too spectacular.

Another parent looking for an alternative for the public school crisis.

I wanted to show my support for all Success Academy has done for my two children.

There's a public school right down the street from my apartment literally three minutes away.

It's not a bad school but it's not a great school.

So we applied to as many charter schools as we could and luckily we won the lottery and got into Success Academy Williamsburg.

It has been the best thing that's happened to my family.

So now we commute the 30 minutes every day or one hour by train depending on the situation.

It's very hard, but I don't care at all.

Why do we commute?

For the third year in a row?

Because Success Academy has found the winning solution.

It combines rigorous education with fun and confident boosters.

They engage the children.

Teachers are excited to be teaching.

My kids never complain about going to school.

They run right into class every day.

The school is not for everyone.

And the system is not magic.

Because the teachers cannot do it alone.

As a parent, you have to make the commitment to putting the time and effort with your scholars at home as well.

Our parents are committed as you can see by this turn out tonight, these are the same parents that stood with my family to fight for a better education.

In the past three years we've been to Albany twice and marched over the bridge and rallied at City Hall.

Not only for our school but also rallied for success as a whole of all the education.

My son just wanted to say something really quick.

>> My father had me go to 4th grade and also had my sister.

We both love Success Academy Williamsburg.

We both love it.

[Applause].

>> I love my school, and my teachers, and writing.

I love to never and never give up.

I love my teachers.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Good evening and thank you for listening and being here tonight.

After being the victim of the preschool lottery my daughter won the lottery at Success Academy.

For kindergarten.

But she also had the benefit of getting into several good neighborhood schools including Brooklyn new school, spot at GNT school, and so we had a big choice to make and we toured the schools and after touring Success Academy several times, we just knew that it couldn't compete.

Nothing could compete can Success Academy.

It was just the best academic program that we could find hands down.

My daughter has been challenged there every day.

She is doing math at a high level.

She asks every day on the way to school to do math problems, algebra math problems in first grade.

She's reading at a high level and having science every day.

But this is the standard at Success Academy.

Some parents here have talked about setting the bar high and Success Academy does just that.

When I speak to parents at our neighboring district schools and they hear the types of work my daughter is doing, they are amazed and she's not special at Success every child at her school is special.

They all can do this type of work, all do this type of work and success makes it possible.

The demand for Success Academy is very high as you know from the number of applicants to the number of available seats.

And basically what that does is makes parents like me feel guilty for having this opportunity when there are so many children out there who deserve the same opportunity.

And the only way that we can offer them that opportunity is to expand the school to expand the network.

Basically what it boils down to is success works.

Success needs space.

There's space available to Success.

Owe co-located schools don't oppose the expansion so please, let us use the space.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> My name is Jane Mezel from a group called change the stakes which is the parents and educators working together to end the high stakes testing that has taken over our nation's education system.

But we seem to have hit a brick wall.

And we believe that this is because of the influence of the charter school lobby.

I am not taking anything away from anybody parent or child in this room who's enthusiastic about their charter schools.

But I'd like to address you as the panel.

I watched you sit for hours at these hearings and I thank you for your service. But because thematic of you are serving at the pleasure of the mayor, you may believe that you must support his position, you must give Eva what she demands in order to keep her from buping the DOE.

But I'm going to suggest that you might take an alternative approach.

You could turn this logic on its head and vote now to co-location and defy the charter lobby's political strangle hold on us, on their financial extortion of the DOE.

They seem to not be serving the interests of all children.

I've written four questions that I would have liked to have asked Eva Moscovitz but she's not here.

We've foiled them, but foiling takes times and we think you might be able to get some answers.

And I encourage you to do that before you grant her this space.

So here's my first question.

Would you promise in MS50 in the building with MS50, would you promise to not grow beyond the fifth grade, thus allowing MS50 to grow and thrive?

So far everyone who's asked Success Academy that has been turned down. Clubbing elected officials.

They've refused to promise that they would stop at fifth grade.

Another question.

: Why don't you build your own spaces?

When you have -- [Applause] -- when you have associates who are --

>> I don't want to be rude.

Because you're over time.

Go through your questions so the panel can hear

>> I have a paper I can give so you you can follow up on it.

You could build your own space with the money from the hedge fund people and the billion aires who are your associates.

You could stop demanding a disproportionate number of spaces in renewal schools. And you could release a memo that she referred to in an open letter to Mayor de Blasio where she says that the DOE promised her that you the PEP, by June 30, would vote to give her four space and is by November 30 to give her another four.

And that he -- someone at the DOE or at City Hall guaranteed that you, the PEP, workshop vote that way.

I believe that you are free people, you're not doing this as a job, and that you could take a stand and make a big difference.

There's nobody left standing for the children -- for the public school children except you.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Good evening, my name is Israel.

I have two scholars at Success Academy Williamsburg.

And they're currently on the upper floors where there's still a lot of room.

We're taking the least desirable spaces on the fourth and fifth floors where these scholars climb up and down numerous times daily and never complain.

Eventually that space might be somewhat compromised and they might have to share space on the third floor but seems like the space is adequate.

And there's an absolutely sympathetic relationship between the two schools where I I don't think there would be an issue.

To talk about the experience of my kids at the school, it's an accommodating environment.

They provide whatever our kids need.

They're tireless, committed teachers, they're amazing.

And yes the school is rigorous but there's also love and nurturing community.

There's communication.

Always within hours.

Not days.

There are techniques that work so let's learn from each other and implement these modalities through the entire public school system and not just limit to the charter schools but open our doors for other people to share the experience we have.

Success has no secrets at least from my experience.

They've been completely open door and they're proud and confident because they have nothing to hide because what they're doing is working.

They're using techniques that have worked through the schools and other techniques of math and so much other training apparatus that's not unique to them but that they have combined and studied and excelled with that is so effective.

Why not apply them in the regular public schools?

So it's not just limited to our community.

In the case of my son, he has special physical needs and instead of being in a program that focuses on his limitations they focus on his abilities.

He also 10 3 percent on his year end math test.

I have to say that it's a peaceful environment.

The staff, kids, we can make this work.

It's great that MS50 received a grant to improve their facilities.

I don't see why that has any bearing on the slotted space for success.

We all get to grow together.

This is New York City.  
We know how to make the most out of tight spaces.  
Thank you.  
[Applause].

>> I'm going to ask for speakers -- I think we called 36 to 40 before.  
So can we have the speakers with 41 to 45 again for school proposal comment, can you come down and then we'll call the next speaker on the yellow side  
>> Hi.

And as a progressive democrat a Success Academy parent I ask the democratic leaders and educators and politicians, set aside your reconceived notions and come into Success Academy and take a look and look at the facts.

Success Academy opened in 2006 went to lowest income neighborhoods in New York. Harlem and the Bronx.

And have been able to close the achievement and education gap single handedly with math tests scores in top 10 percent of New York City stay.  
New York.

They go to communities and do very well with 7 plus applications per every open seat.

You guys know these facts.

I really want for the democratic party to kind of get on the right side of history when it comes to high performing public schools like Success Academy. Would you guys do that?

Get on the right side of history and support high achieving public schools like Success Academy.  
Please support the co-location.

>> As I was going through the public comment analysis from the last two I looked at the 40 summary of the 40 comments.

And I noticed that only two of them mentioned that there was some support for the co-locations.

Can you guys take a look at this?

This really is not fair.

There was more than -- I know there's some items that were greatly expanded. Out of 40 you have two for and 38 against.

That's not fair.

Can you just take a look and clear it up?

I appreciate it.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Good evenings, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for having me speak here tonight.

I'm here to ask you to vote yes on the expansion of Icahn Charter School 7.

I'm a proud parent of two wonderful children, one them who's currently in the first grade at Icahn Charter School 7.

I don't know where to begin to tell you what an amazing school this is.

And what a terrific job they're doing.

When my child -- when my child started kindergarten add Icahn 7 at the beginning he struggled a lot academically.

But with the wonderful support from the teachers at Icahn 7 and the extra attention they gave him, he is now a thriving student.

They gave him son the extra attention to improve in math and reading.

And my little boy who's very shy is now very expressive and talkative person you'll ever meet.

He has improved in all areas now academically and socially, and it's because of the amazing and supportive staff at Icahn Charter School 7.

I honestly don't know what I would do if my son wasn't in this school.

And as a parent, I'm grateful for all that this school has provided for my son and I would a hundred percent want him to continue to attend this school as far as it takes him.

So please say yes to the expansion of charter school No.

7 because they have earned it, and most importantly, because our children needs them.

Thank you for your consideration.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity.

I am Sharon Hawker a concerned parent of proposed co-location of Success Academy.

To be co-located in Andries Hudde JHS 2 40.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

The classes that are being proposed to go to discussed are currently being used for tutoring in math, tutoring in reading.

We have science lab, we have a room that we grow plants.

All the spaces that Success Academy think is there, there are no rooms in Andries Hudde.

We also use the proposed space for partnership with Brooklyn college, have computer classes, chest in the classrooms.

The plans that our new principal has, I need you guys to give Ms.

Vertinelli a chance, she's a new principal trying her best.

Every day when I drop my child off to school she's out front greeting each and every child.

I know some principals that some are here -- I hear the same of Success Academy. But we have caring teachers at Hudde.

Our teachers are out front and they're greeting each and every child.

When school is dismissed.

The teachers are out front to see the kids get on the school bus.

Our principal is out front to see that the children get on the school bus, to see that the children are not lingering about.

To see they're not getting in trouble.

To see that they're being good kids.

>> Take your time.

Finish your point.

>> The plans to expand are already in the works, creating magnet working programs with P.S.

119, school-based projects, learning partnership with P.S.

119, making partnership with district 22 and parent coordinators are the kind of things that are being taken care of under Andries Hudde right now for the advantages of our students.

As a member of this growing governing body you are in a very unique position to weigh the facts and balance the scale.

Please know that Hudde is not a failing school.

Hudde is one of the few public schools who can make this statement.

These teachers there are passionate teachers.

I get a phone call from the math teacher is my child is missing works I get an email.

There are concerned teachers and staff who work diligently with all our students given the limd --

>> I'm sorry now I do have to ask you to try to wrap up

>> I'm going to wrap up right now.

I thank you.

They're doing a job as and parent of the school and Hudde I entrust my child with these teachers and staff every day and I can tell you that they're doing a great job.

So please do not encumber Hudde with another school in the building.

It will not be a progressive one for either school.

These children are all our schools and we've got to find another solution.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Hello.

Good evening, everybody.

My name is Sherri Ann a parent of a kindergartener in Icahn Charter School 7. I'm here to ask you to vote yes to the expansion of Icahn Charter School 7 just because I love that school.

I can't picture my daughter in another school.

She's doing amazing since the minute that she started that school, they have helped her learn so much.

She's reading on a first grade level.

I'm so proud of her.

And she's also very excited to go to school every day.

The staff, the principal, the teachers, the kids, they're all great in that school.

And the way they coexist with the other school P.S.

93 it's amazing also.

They have a wonderful relationship.

Every time I go there I see kids from P.S.

93 and Icahn Charter School 7 going into school at the same time.

And they love each other.

I feel that we should expand within that school to allow the school Icahn Charter School 7, to continue to do the great work that they're doing with the kids and helping them reach their fullest potential.

Say yes.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

And can we have -- if you have tickets from I'm going to say from 41 through 55, if you could just, green or yellow, consume proposals.

What we'll do, I'm going to come to the next speaker on the yellow side.

Are the speakers here for let them play?

You guys can just divide yourselves up on either side and we'll move to general comment after we finish the school proposals.

Next speaker on the yellow side

>> Thank you very much.

My name is Andrea Perotti a proud and loyal and happy teacher at the Andries Hudde middle school and I'm theory urge you to please, please, please vote no for the co-location.

Our school is fabulous.

I can't even tell you how exceptional and wonderful our children are.  
And what the other speakers have said is absolutely true.  
Those rooms are in use.  
We have after school programs using them, chest in the schools using them.  
Tutoring going on.  
We have all kinds of activities and we also have a wonderful new principal who  
has revised our scheduling for next year and one of the things that's on the  
table which we're threatened with losing are student advisories.  
Now, I want to speak a little bit about community because I've heard a lot about  
community tonight.  
And we're in a community that, frankly, is not getting massages and not shopping  
at trader Joe's and not wringing our hands about not moving out the neighborhood  
because someone who's middle class might go there.  
We're in a community where we work hard.  
Parents are busting their posteriors.  
And being with us every step of the way.  
But not every parent in our community can negotiate the tedious process of a  
lottery to get a lucky needs blind acceptance at a charter school.  
Not every parent can participate with us at the level.  
And this is a wonderful community.  
I don't be grudge any parent a wonderful short term solution and a great  
education for their kid but I do grudge a political system that's practicing  
divide and conquer, separating people, creating a privileged class, and this is  
all stuff that's going on in the city.  
Our students and our parents are busting themselves to get ahead and stay ahead  
and stay at parity.  
And they need -- we don't need to lose our space.  
We need to grow, we need to thrive, we are a community, and we are flat bush,  
east flat bush, kanarsi and east New York and we don't need anybody coming in to  
take our space.  
We need to be allowed to exist and to stay strong.  
Please -- and I am pleased and privileged to be a part of this community and to  
have been a part for many, many years.  
What we have is vital, it is alive, it is committed, and we need to stay.  
Please find in our favor and give us time.  
Thank you very much.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Mohammed, a student at industry national community high school and  
leader at NYC.

I'm here today to testify about sports starting by thank you Chancellor Farina  
nor to the letting me play the sports I want.

And 36,000 students of color with almost no sports.

One question I wonder if you could answer for me today.

Will you be satisfied if your child goes to a school with no sport?  
s?

And one thing you demand now that this new generation will never give up on  
what they want and the I'm here telling you Chancellor that will never give up  
protesting every day and demanding you for our demands and giving me the right  
to play.

You're making me feel that I'm living in 1965.

I will tell you today welcome to 2015.

I want you to stay on my side and let me play the sport I want not what you given us the sport that we don't like.  
Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> I'm a parent.  
Of Andries Hudde.

Please, please, please vote no on the proposal of a co-location of Success Academy charter school with Andries Hudde.

My children are not numbers.

But living, breathing, curious and highly intelligent since it of New York City and Andries Hudde students.

They deserve to have a quality education at Andries Hudde, they deserve full use of the building.

Adequately timed lunch periods and smaller class sizes.

Those unused classrooms?

house labs, health computer rooms, STEM related programs and tutoring programs for math and reading.

In addition, special needs children receive extra attention.

Teachers will not be able to use their precious lunch periods to tutoring opportunities because they will end up having to share classrooms if Success Academy charter school moves into the building.

If Success Academy co-locates with Hudde it will attempt to grab more rooms one day soon because as you know time flies.

As you can see with the school in the Bronx that's what's happening now.

The community is already congested with traffic.

It takes children and families six minutes to cross the treat.  
street.

Some children take bus and is can't even go to the school busses because of the traffic.

If you allow the lower grades to go to Andries Hudde via Success Academy charter school we'll have so much more traffic and believe me, nostro in p avenue is very, very congested.

Vote no on the co-location of Success Academy charter school with Andries Hudde.  
Thank you.

And one more thing.

It has nothing to do with the co-location, but we need hearings screenings back in the schools.

There's no reason that a child in the fifth grade is hearing impaired.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> I'm from international community high school.

I have a question for you Chancellor Farina.

Why can't I have the right to have a sport?

Why can't those 17,000 students of color have the right to play high school sports?

Chancellor I bet you didn't know this, but New York City has the most segregated high school system.

17,000 students of color go to a high school with no sports.

55,000 female students go to high school with no soccer.

Why Chancellor Farina, why do I have to suffer this much?

Every Wednesday for 11 weeks now.

And we haven't heard from you.

And mayor, you heard us and your mayor heard.

I'm protesting in front of your office every Wednesday.

The violating the rights Civil Rights Act of 1964.

And believe it or not.

I am a young black girl from 2015.

Not from 1990s.

It is unbloofbl and sinful that you see young students protesting in front of your office every school day, every Wednesday, to fighting for their rights in 2015.

And the positive thing I think personally thank you you for sending your Chancellor Elizabeth rose to come to our school and talk to us.

We also are asking for sports.

Not only for our school but for all New York public schools.

Chancellor Farina we're begging, you I am begging you, help us.

I need sports.

We need sports.

It helps us and motivates us in school.

So please help us with sports.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> My name is Ann for nearly a decade I have been a New York City public school teacher and I'm here standing with the let them play young people.

I'm also a member of teachers unite an organization that's worked diligently to provide and fight for restorative justice in the system.

he city.

Occurred to me as I was on the train ride that there's no language more universal than soccer.

Soccer has ended wars.

And that as I've worked in schools, there's no relationship more profound than the koech student relationship.

And in those 10 years as a New York City public school teacher I spent nine of them watching the Bronx being destroyed.

Four years of my teaching were spent at hearing after hearing hearing young people talk about their school being destroyed.

And here we have young people coming in and asking for sports and I felt nothing but absolutely compelled to stand here with them and agree with them.

Our schools are being torn apart and we have this opportunity to provide sports, to reunite some of these campuses and I just hope we can fine the money to do that.

The last thing I'd like to say is that I'd like to point out or -- as I read the newspaper I hear the mayor's office and Chancellor's office is talking constantly about transforming school culture, about bringing in social, emotional sports and it's hard for me to hear that rhetoric and then hear young people constantly in the news talking about how they want a sports team.

And I think we need to think deeply about the schools we're creating and I can't go to my school every day without saying that I didn't say something.

So thank you very much.

Enjoy your evening.

>> My name is Kathy Coal and I'm here in solidarity with the New York City let me them play and students that want to play sports. Find it truly unbelievable that here in 2015 in the greatest city in the world that almost 40,000 children have no or very limited sports. I felt it was my moral obligation to speak about this and on their behalf. I'm speaking for them and all the children in the New York City school system. I am in the unique position to be a vendor for the New York City school system. For the past 30 years, specific to gymnasium safety. I'm aware of systemic noncompliance with the safety law, unique to New York City and New York State education department. 409f enacted in 2001 after the death of a second New York State student crushed and killed in their electric gym divider. This law requires safety devices to be installed to stop the forward or backward motion of a partition if it senses a child in its path. Annual training of the operators and annual maintenance of this equipment so that it works as intended when installed in 2001. I have reach out to mayor Bloomberg and in fact he did investigate my allegations and hundreds of partitions with missing safety devices were stopped, they were funded in 2001 by the New York State legislature but not installed until 2011. The common denominator with this unfortunate fact of missing safety devices is that now the majority of the schools that have no sports also had no safety devices installed until I begged marry Bloomberg to investigate my valid complaints. Another common denominator is the funding. The senate sponsors of of this law told me in 2009 that it is adequately funded and unfortunately ly the funding is not making it to the schools. The sports are funded and unfortunately it's not making it to these schools. Is this a coincidence or a violation of their rights?

>> Just a few more seconds, ma'am

>> And I do have copies of a DVD I'd like too give to the Chancellor. I produced them at the request of the commissioner of education and they're for the staff training aspect of the law. So I'd like to present you with those and I'd be happy to work with you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Good afternoon.

I'm a junior at international community high school. I'm also one of the student leaders who are leading the NYC let them play. Chancellor Farina, I'm not here today to remind you that your PSAT deny the right of black and Latino students in New York City to have access to sports. Because you already know that. Chancellor Farina, sports is important in our life. And helps students build encourage. And makes students alert and physically strong p good health is one of the most important benefits of sports. By playing sports, students learn how to deal with difficult situations. Sport is a good diversion and gives students energy to learn their lessons well and gives students the break from everyday boring life. It's now only by being in class that students learn leadership and how to work as a team. By playing sports, students learn these skills as well.

The most important thing about sports in school is that it keeps students in school.

Sports decreases drop out in school.

That's why it's not fair that your PSA give all this opportunity that support offers to students at high schools with the most white students and leaves students with one hundred percent student of color with almost no sports.

That's the reason why since 2011 the NYC let them play have been in New York City high school.

That's the reason why on March 25 of this year, we came to protest in the City Hall during the public hearing.

That's the reason why we are coming out every Wednesday at five p.m. in front of City Hall to protest.

That's the reason why we, the NYC let them play student leader, are asking you Chancellor Farina, the Mayor de Blasio, and all our elected officials to stand with us to fight for the civil rights of black and Latino students.

We're asking you to force them to stop violating the right of black and Latino students.

Thank you so much.

>>

>> I'm David Garcia rose he Been suspended dean at international community high school.

I am product to have stood side by side with the student leaders as we implemented these six steps in our quest for high school sports equality.

Step one.

Gathering information.

Since 2011 we've been the leading researchers on high school sports access in New York.

We were shocked to discover New York City has one of the most separate and unequal high school sports systems in the country.

Step two.

Education.

We've presented in front of 10s of thousands of people over the past four years from community meetings, principals, elected officials, protests, we've missed no opportunity to educate the public with New York City separate and unequal high school sports system.

Personal commitment.

This has never been about pointing out a problem.

It's a dauksed campaign to define problems, identify solutions and implement solutions.

When we identify the need for a league for small schools we built one and need for an eligibility system that met the needs of English language learners we created one.

And when we saw that small schools didn't have access to fields and kortsd we advocated and secured permits for small schools to play.

We've never wavered from our commitment to continue our campaign until every black and had a Latino student in New York City has equitable access to high school sports.

Four, discussion and negotiation.

With grace intelligence and research we confront the DOE with lays of injustices and a planning for resolving these.

We offered our hand in collaboration countless times as we were met with hostility and punishment.

We spent over a year in direct negotiations with the DOE but could not get a commitment from the leadership to make the dwauk changes needed at the PSAL to bring black and Latino students equal access to high school sports.

Five.

Direct action.

In May of 2014 it was clear the DOE was unwilling to continue good faith negotiations and after three years we began a direct action campaign. These direct actions are designed to impose a creative tension into this conflict supply moral pressure on the DOE to work with us on resolving the continued civil rights violations of black and Latino students in New York City. We're prepared to continue with our direct action campaign next school year but are hopeful you Chancellor Farina are prepared to enter into the final step of reconciliation.

Throughout this process we've always hoped for reconciliation.

Today once again we're here seeking reconciliation.

Kings six steps respect not sequential.

Every day we hope to reconciliation while actively engaging in the other five steps.

Tonight we're here seeking friendship and understanding and an end to this very public batd battle that's consumed or energies for the past few months.

Through reasoned compromise we can resolve the injustices and jointly implement a plan of action.

To do this we ask one thing tonight.

A commitment to a series of meetings this month with the goal of working together to implement a joint plan for next school year that will turn New York City's separate and unequal high school sports system into a paradigm shift in beacon of equality and educational hope for all student athletes in New York City public high schools.

>> That concludes our public comment.

Thank you.

>> Is there someone else holding tickets?

>> We started with that already.

Did you have tickets?

>> I'm sorry --

>> We called folks down from all tickets.

>> Is this general public?

>> It's already -- yes, we started

>> We did both.

If you have a ticket, come -- please come forward.

>> Okay.

I just want to say that we have --

>> I'm sorry, I do want to -- just want to check because I don't want to be rude.

I don't have this many people signed up for public comment so we're going to need to see your tickets.

tickets.

Have them in your hand when you come down to the microphones.

If you did sign up, we will hear you.

>> I'm confused.

Can you clarify something?

Please?

We want to make sure we speak in correct turn.

What portion of the agenda are you in?

>> We're going and hearing public comment from everybody who signed up

>> So people don't have to wait for us to conclude the rest of our business we ask that we would do the school proposal comment followed by general comment.

Now if you either have a ticket left over for school proposals comment or you have a general public comment ticket, please come down to the lines because -- next speaker is on the green side.

In the denim jacket.

>> Okay.

Thank you.

My name is Mary Swe.

Ny from for rest hills.

My two children are zoned for P.S.

186 next year.

And hopefully sibling to follow.

So I already have a sibling for her, but -- you know.

Anyway, so I just wanted to say with we appeared at the May 20th meeting and we appealed to the Chancellor top wait list so long for kindergarten and you guys have pulled through and we really, really thank you for that for hearing our appeal.

And for moving it along.

And I just -- I just wanted to say that -- so next year is around the corner.

And so what we're asking for now, I know your work is never done but we need more transparency from our schools and we have each of the parents in in wait listing process and P.S.

1 four and 196 spoke with the principal I think, but we need more transparency about getting how many rooms are being used for next year and freed up, what purposes.

We want to get started on next year's process sooner.

So this does not happen.

in the spring of next year and all of a sudden it's like oh, my god where did this wait list come from?

So we'd like to get started on that.

And one of the issues we have is that the schools really need more space.

So, for example, P.S.

144 is at 125 percent capacity.

The building is designed for 626 students and has 812 kids.

We need more space not just to avoid a wait list next year but also to give the kids what they need so they don't have lunchtime at 10 am.

So these are things that we need.

We need to know what the DOE is doing for space and it's like pulling teeth. to find out what the actions are.

So if you could, one of our options is why not zone P.S.

303 and that is -- we don't understand why that's not really on the table --

>> Ma'am, we need to you wrap up.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Sure.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I'm here on behalf of the PSAPTA executive board.

As you well know, PSA is facing an overcrowdings issue and has faced is for the last three years or so and there are many many parents on the wait list for PSA kindergarten.

I'm here on behalf of the PSA TPA executive board.

I believe you received a letter from the board prior to this meeting and I'm here just to re iterate our position.

I sympathize with the parents that are on the wait list and it's difficult for the entire community because many of of the parents who are on the list are neighbors, friends, people who want to go to PSA and haven't lived in the neighbor for many years.

I'm here to remind you that the problem with overcrowding has been an issue for many, many years and although now it's becoming public because of the number of parents that are wait listed, it's been a problem for the 700-plus students at PSA for over three years and impacted them all the students, significantly, all the 700 plus students have seen detrimental effect as a result of overcrowding. Third graders have gym every other week.

Kids that are on the individualized education program don't get services as often as they need.

There's no extra space for testing.

There'd graders have no drama.

4th graders have no art.

Fifth graders have no dance.

These are all sacrifices that the current students have made to deal with the short term problem of overcrowding and we're here to encourage you to address the overcrowding on a medium and long term basis and also encourage you not to add an additional kindergarten class to the school because the current overcrowding situation sys untenable and adding more over crowding is not going to solve the overcrowding problem at PSA.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the green side.

>> My name is Brandon Chung a parent over in far rest hills and again wanted to discuss about the school over crowding.

Particularly with PS1 four and 196.

I'm a parent who was wait listed and basically right now I believe most of the wait list has trickled down to none which is great.

And then the following week most of the spaces have opened up we're concerned about going forward.

Kindergarten for next year, basically once they go from first to fifth it trickles down and the problem is over crowding.

We're concerned about that and wanted to check on basically solutions on the over crowding whether it be annexed building or P.S.

303 being zoned and add to the point.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker on the yellow side.

>> Hello, everybody.

Hello, Chancellor Farina, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm here with women behind me we are all pooling our minutes to speak with you tonight.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our perspective.

We're here representing the rising kindergartners who were not given a seat at the zoned school this year P.S.

8.

The school is overcrowded as you just heard.

And you and your team members made a decision to try and help the school lessen its burden.

That decision was to cut a kindergarten class starting next year a kindergarten class that does exist this year.

And we understand this decision was made with good intent and along side people who have only the best interest of the school and its future in mind.

Unfortunately the timing was very last minute and there was no transparency at all in the this decision being made and it's really left us utterly devastated. Families of 2015 kindergartners were completely blind-sided.

We attend every community meeting beginning November of last year.

And were told all options were on table but were never told what those options were.

We were in fact not told to be concerned, I'm sorry, told not to be concerned about capacity in the up coming school year.

That a wait list would not be likely until the following year.

And it was only after rumors started to swirl very, very recently in early April that parents learned that an entire class might be cut.

This was learned not through the DOE and not through the PS8 leadership but through an incoming parent.

It was a devastation in numbers.

P.S.

8 wept from no wait list to a wait list of 50 or more children.

We know this decision was made with the help of two help P.S.

8 and believe the DOE didn't realize there was no communication, no warning, that this enormous slashing of seats was a possibility until far too late and it left the families no time, no space to make a measured and informed decision about something so critical.

Vital and personal to our children's education.

And we know Chancellor Farina that you understand the investment that communities have in their zones and communities.

And we respectfully request the dropped kindergarten class be restored for the 2015 to 16 school year.

We forwarded the analysis supporting that case to show there's room.

for next year, we forwarded the documentation and numbers to your office earlier today.

>> Hello.

I'm a wait listed parent.

My son is number this your at P.S.

8.

We're asking that you please reinstate the class and stay the course for P.S.

8 for one more year.

There is room and there is a plan in place to solve the overcrowding issue.

As a direct result of this community break down a task force of key stakeholders has been formed to address the issues at P.S.

89 as well as look at the schools in district 13 at large to ensure this never happens again.

We now have the future covered.

Please reinstate the class because this coming fall the community wasn't fairly and properly warned and it robbed the parents of 2015 of all available options. Please reinstate the six class understand the incoming parents of 2015 all stand together arm and arm and are willing to squeeze our seats a little closer.

We want our community to remain intact, our kids to go to their zoned school and friends to remain together.

Please reinstate the sixth class your child only enters kindergarten once.

There's only one first day of school.

Let them share that memory with their friends.

This is a milestone we cannot get back.

Please reinstate the sixth class as a parent, a grandparent, a lover of education, and someone who understands the importance of community and friendship, you know how critical attending your zoned school is.

Please reinstate the sixth class because there are now myself included, dedicated smart, passionate people here to help on the cause who help the overcrowding issue for 2016 and beyond.

Please reinstate the class.

We need you, our kids need you.

Thank you very much.

>> How many of you are together?

>> We're just pooling our minutes.

I'm the only other person left to speak.

If you'd like other side to go that's fine

>> We'll take the next speaker on the green side

>> My name is Sam wall and I'm a parent and resident at for rest hills.

We the forest hills community and parent of district 28 wanted to take this opportunity to thank you to the DOE, community, elected leaders, school admins, prompt response and immediate action to alleviate the wait listed students at P.S.

1 four and 196.

As of today my family was the last to register and off the wait list so we want to take this opportunity to say thank you.

We also, however, recognize there's more work to be done.

We the for ris hills community of district 28 are here to focus on the immediate and long term goals to alleviate overcrowding.

One, we urge the DOE to review the space report which makes a recommendation on how to alleviate overcrowding.

This report was endorsed by New York City public advocate James by the chair of New York City council of education and president of the UFT.

I have a full copy of the report.

Two, some of my community parents have mentioned to potentially rezone P.S.

303 to a zoned school and third to implore the DOE to revisit the hospital as an and ex or additional space to alleviate forest hills overcrowding.

>> Chancellor Farina, PEP, thank you all PEP panel members for your time and staying this late to listen to us.

My name is Beth Heller I have been an outspoken proponent and friend to the families who are wait listed.

My child did get a seat at P.S.

8.

I'm here because I believe the way the community was dealt this wait list was really an injustice and we can all do better in keeping our communities involved and informed.

I do have some solutions I want to present on behalf of the group.

We are part of the solution.

We're not standing here to say give me give me.

He we want to help.

Sandra is engaged in the district 13 task force.

I'm a writer for the Brooklyn heights blog and been covering this since my child has gone through the admissions process and heavily invested in one another as a community.

Chancellor Farina, you said in the New York City times last year you would find parents who have invested in certain places you're not going to tell them this is your zoned school but you can't go.

Unquote.

That's from June 17, New York Times.

We had a community engagement meeting with Thomas Turatko on the 13 of May and sent a library letter after that meeting.

The letter and our presentation and our petition which has over 800 signatures was sent to your office this morning.

We're still waiting for a response to that letter which is why we're here tonight because this was our last effort to speak with you directly, Ms.

Chancellor.

Our presentation shows there is room.

If there really isn't room our group would very much like to have a walk-through with space planning.

that was given to the pta not forwarded to incoming parents.

At all of the school tours we were told there will and ways list of maybe five to 10 kids but the real problem is for next year, but that's not what happened.

Offered to help facilitate that walk through.

We would like transparency on how the wait list is moving particularly given the gifted and talented deadline coming tomorrow.

Our solutions are that the district 13 task force has already started working on this problem.

Everyone in district 13, including parents from P.S.

8, are dead indicate to findings solutions for the entire district.

We fully support the space crunch report and ask you to double the capacity and the capital plan.

We also offer downtown Brooklyn school solutions as a clearinghouse for data for the kind of construction that's going on in downtown Brooklyn.

It seems the DOE is unfortunately behind on the actual building that's going on in our area.

And more buildings go up every day without any consideration in had the capital plan.

And that's where this gap is continuing to happen.

>> We need you to wrap up, ma'am

>> I am, thank you.

The popular streets are probably going up for sale the Jehovah's witnesses are said they are leaving our neighborhood by 2017.

Those buildings are in close proximity to P.S.

8 and the new dock street school but they're already probably in really good condition and might be someplace that the DOE can look and school construction authority can look to get more space for district 13.

>> Ma'am I need to you conclude.  
I'm sorry.

>> I understand.

Lastly we want to offer ourselves as parent as a resource to you to be part of the solution.

But let us really know what's going on at P.S.

8.

Give us a walk through, please.

With the member of the DOE and one of our elected officials.

Thank you

>> Next speaker on the green side.

My name is Gloria, a parent of my daughter of P.S.

196 and I want to thank the Chancellor that my daughter got in yesterday at four:30 the last one on the list.

I wanted to thank you for.

that.

Going forward we want to have a more transparency in the wait list process because every time the wait list moved, our number got messed up because some parent got the wrong number and they thought they were in Number 7 but ended up they were 12 or 13 so we want more transparency in the waiting list process.

And we also need more space.

I understand we're lucky to get into P.S.

196, but it would a very overcrowded school and we need an and ex and want to understand why FDA department next to P.S.

196, it's a big slot that's perfect for and ex for P.S.

196 and we wanted to know the reason why they rejected the hospital.

And also we want to rezone 303.

It should be a zoned school and now it's a district school opened for the whole district for 28.

So it would be great to rezone 303.

To be a zoned school.

>> Thank you.

>> I think I'm the last speaker.

I'm add a couple things.

Again, I'm a parent from forest hills I want to thank you Chancellor and your leadership team for doing what you have done for all the 140 wait list families to get -- to move all these, all these children off the wait list.

Thank you so much.

Secondly, I think space is really a central theme here that we have a lack of space, and we need to build more room for the children, right?

As you can hear, you already heard from PSA.

Seems like space crunch is -- we want you to take a second look at the report and we're actually starting a petition in about a week or so before your June 23rd vote or meeting on the kaptd plan, we put together a petition that we're going to submit to you and for you to take a look at that that is concrete evidence and talking about formulas you may be using that maybe you need to look and things that you need to consider to really look at potentially doubling or increasing your budget for education.

Thank you.

>> Thank you, everybody, for your comments.

We'll now discuss the publication proposals and as is customary hear questions from panel on of the aforementioned proposals borough by borough. Hearing the questions other concerns of the respective borough a  
>> Panel member Powell do you have any questions or concerns on the Bronx proposals?

>> I don't have any real concerns or questions.

I would like to say something.

The Icahn school co-location, they come to the table with a different way of doing business.

They come with a collaborative attitude as opposed to be somewhat adversarial.

I met with the principal and saw the inside of the school.

I think they have the room and they have the willingness to work together.

That means a whole lot because it starts with making sure you have some sort of synergy between the principals and honestly in the Bronx, Icahn is one of the schools that parents knock down door to get their students in.

Although they might have one student in public school they've have another student in the Icahn school.

I think this is a good mix.

I look at the school community and the demographic community because where it's located I think that they can do very well in the location where they're at.

No opposition to this happening.

>> Questions or concerns?

>> I do.

Thank you.

>> Regarding the proposal for ska mid wood and Andries Hudde junior high school, I do have a question.

It's always concerning to me when we're mixing especially the different grade levels between K to 5 and especially if we're doing the middle schools because the needs are especially different.

And I think as a department it's been outlined in terms of I know there's been a push in terms of making sure we have additional programs, after school activities, things targeted for the youth and those very, very crucial teenage years.

Is this necessarily the best fit in terms of putting this school here?

Any other options nermsz elementary schools with the space in terms of putting Success Academy mid wood?

>> So district 22 actually is an area where we're overcrowded on the elementary school front.

And have very little elementary space available.

This is a district where we've funded additional elementary school seats in the capital plan.

I believe we even have a site in the very northeastern part -- northwestern corner of the district where we're in fact building a new building.

In contrast, our projections outgoing to 2019 actually project over 1500 excess middle school seats.

In this northern part of district 22.

And the way we project actually assumes all cohorts, it takes into account the younger core horts already in the buildings in our schools and moving them forward.

So the answer is no, there were no elementary school sites that were available.

In fact, we had a need for elementary school seats.

In contrast we actually have a surplus of middle school seats

>> I think it's curious that there's apparently not a need for additional elementary school seats but we're adding more elementary school seats in the district.

Particularly when there's a need for middle school seats.

And I think the question comes up where with regard to Hudde, I think some of the literature I read they said there's been a lessened demand for middle school seats at Hudde.

I think that especially given the fact there is no administration, I think we see some attempt to make some really, really interesting use of the space that's at the school.

I've been to enough schools where I heard they have weird configurations like gym in cafatoriums.

Here you can do the kind of program that he been representative the middle school educational process.

And I'm not sure if this is necessarily even the right time to insert something when appreciated perhaps give them an opportunity to see if they can grow that and become that option that middle schools -- district 22 will look toward.

>> Again, actually in all sections of district 22, we're projecting an excess of middle school seats.

So it's not clear, while the we do support our schools in attracting students, it's not clear there's the demand across the district for

>> With regards to Success Academy Williamsburg proposal and I believe that's with junior high school 50, is that correct, my concern comes in there.

Where I think we're kind of making it close, because and correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the allocation of rooms is really going to make it tight. Especially because 50 has been designated as a renewal school, I think that's an issue where we're saying we're going to put our dollars into the school because we believe in it --

>> In middle school 50 that's the building where we'll have 13 excess rooms after the Success Academy fifth grade is added.

So this is not a building where we'll be tight on space.

In fact, as I believe you all received copies that we're absolutely committed and have committed to middle school 50 also to Success Academy and the elected officials in that community that we will not cap the enrollment at middle school 50.

We have substantial space to grow the school there.

Sglp there's four organizations in that building.

While I understand and I'm sensitive to the fact that I definitely don't like to break up the experience in terms of I think it's important for kids to go to a certain point where the very least they can naturally transition to other areas, but when you have four organizations, one of them is six through 12, a nine through 12, one is a D75 and we have school that's going K to 3, adding a pre-K and added expectations we're going to add two more grades in there -- any other options with regards to Success Academy Cobble Hill in terms of locations?

Obviously looks like the school is growing.

To make it grow where it's projecting over 10 3 percent enrollment at any given point especially the way the numbers are looking is look like kind of tight.

>> So this building, when all schools are at scale, is a little bit tighter at compared to 50.

But I would like to point out a couple things.

The first is that part of the reason that we considered and are looking at this school for the fifth grade for Success Academy Cobble Hill is in fact the school's enrollment is below what it had originally been projected to be when we initially placed that school in the building.

And so the plan here is to allow the school to have effectively the same number of full size classrooms that were originally planned for it.

But simply to serve additional grade levels within that original number of full size classrooms.

Part of the proposal provides specifically for increased class sections at international, which has been growing and has developed some new programming that's attracting additional students in the neighborhood.

And so the other use of space as compared to the prior plan for this building is to support the continued growth of that school.

And so, yes, we will be getting to full utilization of the building, but it is very much in the service of serving the students in this community and that are already in this building.

>> Thank you.

Any other questions?

Yes?

>> I do have one question.

One parent and one student stood up to the microphone and said the student said his father used to be able to track his grades.

It led my mind back to ARIS and what happened to it.

I know we invested millions of dollars into the system that no one talks about anymore.

Is that off the radar?

Is it totally -- anything coming to replace it?

>>, we actually announced something that replaced it last week, maybe early this week.

Sorry.

And we can send you additional information.

It's called New York City accounts and it's -- we're rolling this out.

It will be rolled out throughout the next year.

This is the first phase of it that we just announced.

I'll make sure you get the information

>> Is it realtime or is it --

>> You can do it on your cell phone and so it's more readily accessible to everyone.

And you don't have to have a computer at home.

We're quite proud of it

>> Cool.

>> Okay.

>> Sorry, my voice is is not --

>> I had a couple of thoughts some of which came from hearing the comments tonight.

One is there is a G and T program there as far as I understand.

I would just want to highlight, we haven't spoken a lot about that, but these G and T programs we've seen in Queens, many of them are the pathways to our specialized high schools.

So we want to see those or that program nourished because there's a diverse enrollment of students in our specialized high schools. So if we have one that's working, we need to nurture it regardless of which way this vote goes that has to be nurtured and I think we need to put that on the record.