

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

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May 28, 2015  
Start: 10:24 a.m.  
Recess: 03:17 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
Chairperson

DANIEL DROMM  
Co-Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COREY D. JOHNSON  
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL  
I. DANEEK MILLER  
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER  
LAURIE A. CUMBO  
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
VINCENT IGNIZIO  
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
ALAN N. MAISEL  
ANDY L. KING  
ANTONIO REYNOSO

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

CHAIM M. DEUTSCH  
DANIEL R. GARODNICK  
DEBORAH L. ROSE  
INEZ D. BARRON  
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS  
MARGARET S. CHIN  
MARK LEVINE  
MARK S. WEPRIN  
MARK TREYGER  
STEPHEN T. LEVIN  
VINCENT J. GENTILE

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Carmen Farina  
Chancellor  
New York City Schools

Elizabeth Rose  
Deputy Chancellor  
Division of Teaching and Learning

Raymond Orlando  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
New York City Department of Education

Jessica Pavone  
Chief of Staff Division of Early Childhood  
Department of Education

Ling Tan

Lorraine Grillo  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
New York City School Construction Authority

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good

morning and welcome to the city council's six day  
of hearing on the Mayor's executive budget for  
Fiscal 2016. My name is Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
and I chair the Finance Committee. We are joined by  
the Committee on Education chaired by my colleague  
Council Member Daniel Dromm. We've been joined by  
Council Members Maisel and Council Member King.  
Today we will hear from the Department of Education  
and the School Construction Authority. Before we  
begin I'd like to thank the Finance Division staff  
for putting this hearing together including the  
Director Latonya McKinney, Chief Council Tanisha  
Edwards, the Assistant Council Rebecca Chasten,  
Deputy Directors Regina Poreda Ryan and Nathen  
Tothe [sp?], Unit Head Cheem Obicherry [phonetic],  
Senior Finance Analyst Norah Yahya who covers the  
DOE, Finance Analyst Medina Nesmidan [phonetic] who  
covers the CSA, and the Finance Division  
Administrative Support Unit; Nicole Anderson, Maria  
Pagan, and Roberta Catorano [sp?] who pull  
everything together. Thank you for all your  
efforts. I'd also like to remind everyone that the

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2 public will be invited to testify on the last day  
3 of budget hearings on June 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at  
4 approximately 1:30 p.m. in this room, June 9<sup>th</sup>  
5 beginning approximately at 1:30 in this room. For  
6 members of the public who wish to testify but  
7 cannot attend the hearing you can email your  
8 testimony to the finance division at finance  
9 testimony at council dot NYC dot gov and the staff  
10 will make it a part of the official record. Today's  
11 executive budget hearing starts with the Department  
12 of Education. The department's fiscal 2016  
13 executive budget totals 21.59 billion dollars,  
14 about half of which is funded by city tax levy  
15 dollars. The fiscal 2016 budget is a billion  
16 dollars more than the federal, than the fiscal 2015  
17 adopted budget. I'm happy to report that the  
18 administration took the city council's  
19 recommendation and added units of appropriation  
20 specifically for the universal pre-k in DOE's  
21 budget. That being said with the department's  
22 massive budget there are still many other ways that  
23 the administration could make the budget more  
24 transparent. For example eliminating the  
25 categorical program units of appropriation and

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2 moving the funding into the appropriate  
3 programmatic UofAs or creating an object code for  
4 charter schools in the contract to make clear how  
5 much money is being spent on Charter Schools. I  
6 also, I'm also pleased to see that the  
7 administration included some of the council's  
8 budget response proposals in the executive budget.  
9 The council, however the council still has some  
10 concerns with respect to those items and I hope to  
11 address them today. First the council asked for  
12 increased funding for girls' sports and small  
13 sports school teams. While the DOE included 3.8  
14 million dollars in the fiscal 2016 and 3.9 million  
15 dollars in fiscal 2017 and the out years to add  
16 four, 444 PSAL teams it is not clear how much of  
17 this funding will go towards girl sports or small  
18 sports teams officially or specifically. Last year  
19 I created a council funded initiative called sports  
20 training and role models for success or stars that  
21 provides afterschool programming that promotes  
22 physical activity, healthy living, and wellness for  
23 girls. I would hope to see that DOE reinforcing the  
24 message of Stars Initiatives through additional  
25 funding for girls sports. The council also asked

2 the administration to provide universal free school  
3 lunch for all students yet they don't,  
4 administration only included baseline funding to  
5 maintain the status quo of last year's agreement to  
6 provide free lunch to middle school students in  
7 stand-alone middle schools. Though, through last  
8 year's limited free lunch program we learned that  
9 providing universal free lunch to stand-alone  
10 middle school students increased their  
11 participation in the lunch program by over eight  
12 percent. DOE has not provided any information to  
13 explain why this success, this successful program  
14 should not be expanded to middle-school students or  
15 even to all students therefore it seems clear to  
16 this council that DOE should fund a citywide  
17 universal free lunch program to ensure that none of  
18 our city's public school students go hungry. Before  
19 we hear testimony from the Chancellor I'd also like  
20 to express my frustration regarding the delayed  
21 release of the proposed amendment to the School  
22 Construction Authority's five year capital plan. A  
23 budget adopt, at budget adoption last year  
24 Chancellor Farina, the mayor, and the speaker  
25 signed an agreement requiring CSA to submit the

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2 proposed amendment to the council no later than  
3 March 1<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of this release date was to  
4 allow the council sufficient time to review the  
5 proposed amendment to the capital plan during  
6 preliminary budget hearings. However this year the  
7 proposed amendment was not released until May  
8 making it over two months late and severely  
9 hampering the council's charter mandated oversight  
10 role. I hope to hear testimony today to help me  
11 understand the reason for this delay and assurances  
12 that this will not happen again in the future. I'd  
13 like to remind my colleagues that the first round  
14 of questions for the agency will be limited to five  
15 minutes per council member. And if council members  
16 have additional questions we will have a second  
17 round of questions at three minutes per council  
18 member. I will now open the mic over, I will now  
19 turn the mic over to my co-chair Council Member  
20 Dromm for his statement and then we will hear from  
21 the school, School Chancellor ...Farina.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much  
23 Chair Farina. Good morning and welcome to the  
24 fiscal 2016 Department of Education's executive  
25 budget hearing. Today you will hear testimony on



2 the 21.8 billion dollar budget which is one billion  
3 dollar increase when compared to the fiscal 2015  
4 adopted budget. I'm hopeful we will have a  
5 productive discussion today and gain insight on the  
6 budget and its impact to our city but most  
7 importantly to our students. We are pleased to see  
8 some of the urgent and response items from the  
9 council's 2016 preliminary budget response included  
10 in the executive budget such as additional funding  
11 for school sports and additional 63 guidance  
12 counsellors and funding for bilingual special  
13 education classes. However the council is concerned  
14 about the items that were not included in the  
15 executive budget. We strongly encourage additional  
16 funding for more teams for the committee on special  
17 education to ensure we expedite the process for  
18 parents and preschoolers with IEPs. The ages of  
19 zero to five are critical periods when child  
20 development and we want to ensure all parents and  
21 children have access to an evaluation in a timely  
22 manner so that their needs can be met as  
23 effectively as possible. The council also urged the  
24 administration to include funding for the creation  
25 of an LGBT liaison and an LGBT literacy program

2 which would support some of our highest need  
3 students. We also requested adequate funding for  
4 restorative practices programming. The mayor's  
5 school leadership team on school climate agrees  
6 that further investments must be made. The  
7 administration has made a commitment to move  
8 towards more equitable suspension policies. We all  
9 know the damaging impact the school to prison  
10 pipeline has not just on our students but our  
11 entire communities. These excessive practices have  
12 resulted in suspensions and even arrests of far too  
13 many of our school children, especially students of  
14 color and those with disabilities or who identify  
15 as LGBT. These students would more greatly benefit  
16 from full funding for the restructuring of school  
17 discipline policies including funding for resources  
18 and permanent restorative practice leaders. I look  
19 forward to working closely with the DOE on these  
20 issues. The fiscal 2016 executive budget also  
21 included 108 million dollars for renewal schools  
22 and an additional 40 million to further support the  
23 initiative. While we applaud the administration's  
24 efforts to turn around some of our most challenged  
25 schools we are worried the one billion dollar

2 increase in the budget is not trickling down to the  
3 non-renewal schools. We were also concerned that  
4 over 17 thousand children will be impacted by the  
5 loss of their afterschool programs due to a funding  
6 shift that redirected monies to the renewal schools  
7 initiative. We understand the value and role our  
8 community afterschool programs play and we hope to  
9 be seen as stakeholders in the conversations in the  
10 future to avoid any negative impacts to them. The  
11 executive budget also includes 36 million dollars  
12 in fiscal2016 for charter school tuition and lease  
13 aid. Of the 36 million dollar increase leases  
14 comprise roughly 17 million dollars or 47 percent  
15 of the increase altogether. This is alarming  
16 considering we anticipate the number of leases only  
17 continuing to increase in the future especially  
18 since the city is required to cover lease costs for  
19 charter schools. In total charter schools make up  
20 1.5 billion dollars of the DOE's budget or roughly  
21 seven percent. I know in many neighborhood charter  
22 schools provide an alternative often sometimes to  
23 failing schools. The, these places, this place is  
24 the city and quite an uncomfortable scenario. It is  
25 our duty to make sure all of our schools provide

2 equitable opportunities, not just equal  
3 opportunities but real equity in our schools. I  
4 echo my colleagues' sentiments and I'm excited to  
5 see additional units of appropriation for the  
6 universal pre-k program, excuse me, to further  
7 promote transparency. I was particularly glad the  
8 administration stayed committed to its promise by  
9 adding 114 million dollars in the executive budget  
10 for the expansion of UPK. I want to make sure these  
11 funds also create seats where there is greatest  
12 need including in my own district and Council  
13 Member Ferreras and I share that district as well  
14 as being the most overcrowded and most in need of  
15 UPK seats considering its levels of over  
16 crowdedness. Finally I would like to thank my  
17 dedicated committee staff Nora Yayah, Medina  
18 Nesmidan [sp?] and by the way this may be her last  
19 hearing. And so I want to give a special shout out  
20 to her. She's moving on. So Medina thank you very  
21 much. Where is Medina. Thank you Medina for all  
22 you've done for this committee. I am most grateful  
23 to you. Thank you. To Asia Shawnburg [sp?], to Jan  
24 Atwell [sp?], and Joan Pavolni [sp?], as well as my  
25 legislative and district staff for the commitment

2 to this committee. I would also like to thank,  
3 excuse me, Chancellor Farina for being here today  
4 and I look forward to hearing your testimony. Thank  
5 you very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
7 you Chair Dromm. I just want to, in my opening  
8 statement I guess I really love CSA, I meant SCA.  
9 Sorry. But I love the CSA obviously and the schools  
10 construction also. So we're going to, you're going  
11 to be sworn in by my counsel and then you may begin  
12 your testimony. Thank you.

13 COUNSEL: Do you affirm that your  
14 testimony will be truthful to the best of your  
15 knowledge, information, and belief? Thank you.

16 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I do.

17 RAY ORLANDO: Me too.

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Good morning Chairs  
19 Ferreras and Dromm and all members of the city  
20 council finance and education committee here today.  
21 Thank you for this opportunity to discuss Mayor de  
22 Blasio's proposed fiscal year 2016 executive budget  
23 as it relates to Department of Education, DOE, and  
24 our public schools. Seated with me is Ray Orlando,  
25 the DOE's Chief Financial Officer and a member of

2 my senior leadership team. The 2016 executive  
3 budget includes an allocation of approximately 21.8  
4 billion dollars in operating funds and another 5.8  
5 billion of education related pension and debt  
6 services funds. This includes an increase of 114  
7 million to fund high quality full day pre-k for all  
8 programs and 34 million to raise the fair... funding  
9 floor. Our funding is a combination of city, state,  
10 and federal dollars with city tax levy dollars  
11 making up the largest share at 56 percent. State  
12 dollars at 37 percent and federal dollars at six  
13 percent. Since 2009 the state has not met its court  
14 ordered obligations under the campaign for fiscal  
15 equity lawsuit. In this school year alone New York  
16 City public school students have been short changed  
17 some 2.6 billion in the state education funds.  
18 While we're pleased that the state was able to  
19 provide us with additional school aid for next  
20 school year with adequate funding from the state we  
21 would be able to reduce class sizes as well as hire  
22 more arts teachers and guidance counsellors with  
23 schools throughout the system. The mayor's 2016  
24 executive budget reflects this administration's  
25 ong9oing commitment to a 1.1 million students are

2 provided with high quality education that prepares  
3 them for a college and careers by ensuring they  
4 have access to early education, high quality middle  
5 school, after school programs in both academic and  
6 non-academic support needed to succeed. Over the  
7 past 18 months we have been working to transform  
8 the school system. We have implemented a number of  
9 reforms to improve instruction and streamline  
10 school support and accountability. Before I discuss  
11 next year's budget for our schools I would like to  
12 highlight some of our accomplishments. We created  
13 approximately 53 thousand high quality full day  
14 pre-k seats and approximately 1,700 New York City  
15 public schools, early childhood centers, and  
16 charter schools. We have strengthened the role of  
17 superintendents by raising qualification standards  
18 and expectations. 46 superintendents will play  
19 essential role as community instructional leaders  
20 to ensure quality in our schools. I have to tell  
21 you that these 44 individuals have already in a  
22 short period of time made a major difference in  
23 what they're doing in their communities and I have  
24 visited almost every single district in the city  
25 and met with the in town hall meetings with parents

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2 who are overwhelmingly supportive of these  
3 superintendents. We are providing enriching  
4 afterschool program for over 90 thousand middle  
5 school students in schools and community based  
6 centers across the city. We have also created 45  
7 new community schools through a state attendance  
8 improvement and drop out intervention plan. These  
9 schools are working with community based  
10 organizations to provide tailored supports to  
11 improve attendance at each school including social  
12 services, counselling, and mental health support  
13 and expanded learning opportunities. I recently  
14 went to visit one of these programs and it was  
15 wonderful to see a couple of hundred students in  
16 afterschool programs receiving services that expand  
17 the school day without supplementing the school  
18 day. We committed 23 million to expand arts  
19 education to support certified arts teachers in  
20 middle and high schools with little to no arts  
21 instruction and we began a pilot program pairing 22  
22 middle schools and their feeder elementary schools  
23 with arts partners to assure sequential access to  
24 the arts across local schools. In addition 315  
25 certified arts teachers are working in our schools



2 this year. One of the things that we've tried to do  
3 is if a student takes ban for example in elementary  
4 school that there's a middle school here they can  
5 feed into to continue that arts instruction. And we  
6 continue to look to pair schools and feeder  
7 patterns to strengthen the middle schools in each  
8 district. We added two additional parent teacher  
9 conferences and additional time each week. So  
10 teachers and parents can work together to ensure  
11 success for each student. And parent teacher  
12 conferences we have been encouraging student led  
13 conferences where students actually sit in on the  
14 conferences with their parents so they can partake  
15 about what their obligations are. This is the first  
16 year in the history of New York City that we saw  
17 help parent teacher conferences in May which really  
18 gives parents an opportunity to see what they need  
19 to do to help their kids over the summer and they  
20 were particularly well attended. We launched the  
21 raise your hand multi-lingual campaign to encourage  
22 more parents to play an active role in representing  
23 their school communities. As a result nearly 600  
24 more parents ran for the city wide and community  
25 education councils compared to 2013 and 60 percent

2 more parent leaders voted to elect them. We  
3 established the Pros program and the winners were  
4 just announced this week which allows participating  
5 school to suspend DOE and union rules to drive  
6 innovations like longer school days and college  
7 prep classes. This year the prose program includes  
8 62 schools and next year will double to 122 schools  
9 across all five boroughs. One of the ways that we  
10 will be evaluating this program is to... in prose  
11 schools we increase teacher retention because if  
12 teachers are part of the, the policy making in a  
13 school and are invested in the changes we assume  
14 that they will also want to stay there longer. We  
15 establish a direct way to promote collaboration and  
16 share successful practices through various  
17 initiatives including the learning partners program  
18 designed to leverage the rich reservoir expertise  
19 in our school communities and the showcase schools  
20 program. Nearly 1,000 teachers, coaches,  
21 principals, and other school administrators  
22 visitors showcase this year to learn from them.  
23 Both programs will be expanding next year. And if  
24 any of you wanted to see collaboration and action  
25 these are the programs that I really encourage you

2 to come and visit. Many of our principals are  
3 trying new things in their schools based on the  
4 business that they've done to learning partner  
5 schools. We're learning from and rewarding our best  
6 teachers and principals through the ambassador,  
7 model, and master positions that award excellent  
8 teachers and principals not only for their  
9 performance but also for the work they do to help  
10 their peers improve. We expect to expand the  
11 ambassador program this year where a principal is  
12 actually managing two schools with extra support  
13 from an assistant principal and from teachers. We  
14 will open 40 new or expanded dual language and ten  
15 transitional bilingual education programs  
16 throughout the city next year. We expanded CTE  
17 programs through a 3.2 million dollar grant from  
18 the general electric foundation that will support  
19 an innovative CTE pilot program designed to  
20 strengthen teaching and learning practices at tent  
21 schools. They will also support stem training for  
22 200 schools through bran new multi-day stem  
23 institutes. The city council has been a strong  
24 partner in this work and I would like to thank  
25 Speaker Mark-Viverito and all the members of the

2 city council for your strong support and  
3 collaboration. With generous funding for the city  
4 council this year we have been able to provide  
5 additional restorative justice program in our  
6 schools and create approximately a hundred new  
7 sports teams in small schools which historically  
8 have not had many teams. City council funding has  
9 also enabled us to expand the free lunch program to  
10 all 291 middle schools serving grades six to eight.  
11 We also changed the environment in these schools by  
12 making lunch a more enjoyable social endeavor and  
13 that means that in many of these... we've painted the  
14 rooms, put murals up, have karaoke machines, and  
15 have also included chess and other board games.  
16 With the council's leadership we will install door  
17 alarms in schools throughout the system to help  
18 ensure that our most vulnerable students are safe.  
19 I would also like to thank the council for  
20 recognizing the importance of mayoral control to  
21 the continued improvement of education in New York  
22 City. I have seen the extraordinary difference  
23 mayoral control can make in our ability to move our  
24 system forward. The mayoral control, Mayor de  
25 Blasio and I can realize our joint goals of helping

2 our neediest students turning our struggling  
3 schools around and ensuring that high quality  
4 teachers teach our students. As you know last year  
5 we introduced the framework for great schools. Bold  
6 innovative research base capacity framework for  
7 guiding an ensuring school quality. This framework  
8 identifies six essential elements for continual  
9 school improvement, rigorous instruction, a  
10 supportive environment, collaborative teachers,  
11 effective leadership, strong family community ties  
12 and a culture of continuous learning and trust. To  
13 ensure that schools are receiving supports that are  
14 better aligned we announced structural changes in  
15 the way that we will align support and supervision  
16 for our schools beginning next year. The new  
17 streamline school support system will create equity  
18 and more efficient lines of communication between  
19 our city schools and families. Yesterday was the  
20 first meeting of the borough support staff and just  
21 talk about as of July 1<sup>st</sup> we will have the seven  
22 borough offices and there will be designated people  
23 with phone numbers that will be available to the  
24 community as a whole an parents who have a  
25 question, have a special place they can go and all

2 their questions can be answered in one center. The  
3 mayor's 2016 budget bills on this administration's  
4 progress, strengthens and expands successful new  
5 initiatives and makes other target investments to  
6 improve instruction and boost student achievement.  
7 The budget directs more than 400 million for a  
8 second year of pre-k for all expansion. Next  
9 September we will provide a seat for every four  
10 year old in the city. Families are excited about  
11 this opportunity in our first round of  
12 applications. Nearly 69 thousand children applied  
13 for pre-k for all. We are providing families with  
14 Pre-K offers in early June. Additionally we're  
15 adding an early childhood director in every  
16 district who will see pre-k centers and perform  
17 other responsibilities related to oversight and  
18 support within that district. And those people will  
19 report directly to the superintendent so there will  
20 be ongoing dialogue about what's working and is not  
21 working and how do we support these centers. The  
22 early childhood directors will report directly and  
23 play... accountability to the DOE. We're also  
24 targeting unprecedented resources to support our  
25 most challenged schools. As part of this

2 administration's commitment to ensure that all our  
3 student receive quality education regardless of  
4 their background, family income, or zip code. We've  
5 recently identified 94 city schools as renewal  
6 schools. We're all working intensively with each  
7 renewal school's... to establish clear goals, provide  
8 a core set of interventions and hold them  
9 accountable for rapid improvement. I visited at  
10 least three renewal schools every week and invite  
11 any of you who want to accompany me on any of the  
12 schools just to let me know and I'd be more than  
13 happy to take you as guests so you can see what's  
14 actually happening on the ground. Each school must  
15 meet the concrete milestones... respective school  
16 renewal plan as well as progress on targeted  
17 elements of the framework for great schools. Since  
18 the launch of the school renewal program we have  
19 dispatched teams of dedicated principals and  
20 assistant principals to strengthen leadership and  
21 to provide the expertise focus in schools to need  
22 change. In addition more than 600 teachers in  
23 renewal schools that receive additional  
24 professional development training in key academic  
25 areas ranging from mathematics to literacy. Each

2 renewal school will provide an extra hour each day  
3 of extended instruction. They will have a seven  
4 hour 20 minute day and could offer additional after  
5 school weekend and summer learning opportunities as  
6 needed. Additionally ever renewal school is being  
7 turned into a community school that offers mental  
8 health, physical wellbeing or other vital resources  
9 to better support a social emotional physical and  
10 academic needs of students. The community schools  
11 partner selection is underway and by next month  
12 school community directors will be in place at every  
13 one of the 94 renewal schools. Support these  
14 efforts the mayor's executive budget commits an  
15 additional investment 34 million next year and 60  
16 million every year thereafter to raise the fair  
17 student funding to 82 percent for all schools and a  
18 hundred percent for all 130 renewal community and  
19 persistently... schools over two years. It is really  
20 important to ensure that rather than closing the  
21 school that we give hope and renewal to the  
22 students that are in the building because schools  
23 are not about buildings. Schools are about children  
24 and they're about their families and they're about  
25 the community. And, and... many of these schools the



2 percentage of students in shelters and, and with  
3 others... issues is very high and it's important to  
4 support them in that way. Renewal community and  
5 persistently failing schools must submit rigorous  
6 spending plans, judicial... for approval detailing  
7 precisely how the funds will be spent and how they  
8 will advance key academic interest. These new  
9 resources will supplement 180 million already  
10 committed to renewal schools initiative. In 2016 we  
11 have reduced central spending by approximately 50  
12 million and have redirected these funds to support  
13 renewal schools. We are still finalizing school  
14 budgets which will be released next week. As I know  
15 you're aware changes to part 154 of the state  
16 regulations which sets standards for educational  
17 services provided to ELLs in New York State will  
18 take place July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to help ensure that we are  
19 meeting the needs of English language learners 2016  
20 budget includes 151 new teacher positions to  
21 support integrated English as a new language  
22 formerly English as a second language to further  
23 serve our students on the autism spectrum we will  
24 expand the cutting edge autism spectrum disorder  
25 nest program and horizon programs. ASD Nest and

2 Horizon are designed to provide individualize  
3 supports and services and students on the autism  
4 spectrum. As a former superintendent I was a member  
5 of the team that helped develop the original Nest  
6 Program at PS32 and have seen first-hand the  
7 success that these programs have had in raising  
8 student achievement and helping students gain  
9 greater social skills in, and self-confidence. In  
10 addition to these programs were also working in  
11 partnership with one of our universities to  
12 increase teacher training for more speech teachers  
13 and teachers who can directly help students with  
14 dyslexia and that's a pilot project that we will  
15 start in the summer. Lately the Doe is also deeply  
16 committed to ensuring that all of our students have  
17 access to outstanding athletic programs. The  
18 mayor's executive budget allocates approximately  
19 400 million to create over 440 new sports teams.  
20 These funds will support our top priorities to  
21 improve opportunities for, for girls. I want to say  
22 that again. Opportunities for girls and schools  
23 with few to no athletic teams many of which are  
24 small schools. This investment will enable us to  
25 provide thousands of additional students, physical

2 fitness and character development through athletic  
3 programs that foster teamwork, discipline, and  
4 sportsmanship. I have also asked my athletic  
5 director to encourage and to start creating soccer  
6 teams at the borough level because many of our  
7 students have come from other countries this is a  
8 sport that they come already knowing and I think  
9 it's a great way to foster team sports and I think  
10 we... at a borough level we can actually get the  
11 numbers that we need to make this really, really  
12 work. While we were confident that we're headed in  
13 the right direction we know we have a lot of hard  
14 work ahead. And I look forward to my continued work  
15 at the city council on behalf of a 1.1 million  
16 students and their families. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity to testify before you. We're happy to  
18 answer any questions that you may have.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
20 you Chancellor for your testimony. I'm going to  
21 have a few questions in the first round and then  
22 Chair Dromm and then we'll open it up to our  
23 colleagues. We've been joined by Minority Leader  
24 Ignizio, Council Members Chin, King, Rose, Kallos,  
25 and Levin. The fiscal 2016 executive budget

2 includes 108 million for renewal schools and.. you  
3 mentioned this in your opening statement. Of this  
4 five, 50 million are funds for agency efficiencies  
5 implemented by DOE and the other 58 million are  
6 redeployed federal funds that will be redirected to  
7 the renewal school initiative. This council  
8 understands the value of community school models  
9 and the potential positive impact it could have on  
10 some of our most challenged schools. However there  
11 is concern it could come from the, at the cost of  
12 other school students programs which are not part  
13 of the renewal school and persistently failing  
14 schools and the co-chair and myself, we were just  
15 talking about them. I'm sure he'll have follow-up  
16 questions. But can you explain how the DOE re-  
17 designated the 58 million for federal funds and the  
18 impact this funding shift will have on non-renewal  
19 or persistently failing schools.

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I think one of  
21 the first things we did is we looked at budgets  
22 that were not impacted in school specifically. So  
23 what are some of the things that the DOE in terms  
24 of the kind of staffing that we do and the places  
25 where we could cut in our own budget so we could

2 better support the schools. So that was one piece  
3 of this I'll let...

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Can you  
5 just give me an example of like a non... [cross-talk]

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well in some  
7 departments where there might have been X number of  
8 you want... You can... Okay Ray can answer that more  
9 specifically. But I just want to answer one of the  
10 other questions before I give to you. One of the  
11 other things that we did there was a lot of  
12 categorical money, grant money, whatever that it  
13 was easier to shift to these schools because they  
14 met the criteria so that was one of the other  
15 things that... In a lot of cases it's not so much  
16 about shifting money but how do we switch support  
17 services or how do we increase professional  
18 development for teachers. One of the things that  
19 we're looking at is also what was the training and  
20 asking principals themselves what are the things  
21 they needed more of and those are the plans that  
22 I'm happy to discuss in further detail.

23 RAY ORLANDO: Hi good morning. The  
24 competitive grants of... [cross-talk]

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Can you  
3 just state your name for the record?

4 RAY ORLANDO: I'm sorry I'm Ray Orlando.  
5 I'm the Chief Financial Officer. The 58 million  
6 dollars in federal grants are competitive grants  
7 for schools that share a profiles consistent with  
8 the renewal schools. So they're competitive,  
9 they're grants that you apply for each year. And  
10 then they come in. So that's the source of it.  
11 They're not coming necessarily from any other, no  
12 one else's, it's not, they're not being taken away  
13 from other people.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So this  
15 funding would have not been used last year by other  
16 schools?

17 RAY ORLANDO: No because typically what  
18 happens is as the year goes on you, you put the  
19 money into the budget as the funds, as the  
20 competitive grants are, are granted basically as  
21 you sort of, as the awards come in. And then you,  
22 you, you match the resources to the schools. So, so  
23 those funds are going to these schools because they  
24 fit a certain profile. Consistent with the,  
25 consistent with the grant.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I also want to add  
3 that one of the major initiatives in terms of  
4 spending money was to put a renewal support  
5 director... a person with a lot of training in how to  
6 work with struggling schools in every district. And  
7 their mandate is to work with renewal schools but  
8 not exclusively with. So we asked every  
9 superintendent to list anywhere from three to five  
10 other schools that could be the next level of  
11 schools that need support. So it's not just about  
12 all the money going to these schools exclusively  
13 but a real focus on them and the other schools  
14 getting some of the, the support they need as well.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So, and  
16 I guess this goes to that... the very point you just  
17 made you know how do we avoid having our schools  
18 consistently falling into the same cycle and how  
19 will DOE evaluate the renewal schools to determine  
20 whether the model is successful?

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I think there's  
22 many ways regarding... we're coming up with 12 data  
23 points that we expect all schools, certainly one of  
24 them is improved attendance, improved parent  
25 involvement, improved student achievement. We're

2 also looking at in terms of our, the teachers being  
3 rated and more teachers being rated effective and  
4 highly effective. Are there less teachers in each  
5 of these buildings that is ineffective. So there  
6 are 12 data points but 12 data points that we're  
7 asking the schools to fill in we're also asking  
8 them to figure out which of the models they may  
9 want to visit to see in other schools that are  
10 already doing this. So we already highlighted some  
11 of the schools that have improved attendance and  
12 then try to figure out what it is that they're  
13 doing. The community base, the community extension  
14 day, the community school model is also totally  
15 aligned with the school CEP, the comprehensive  
16 educational plan. So if a school has attendance as  
17 one of their major issues I was just in a school on  
18 the Bronx where the principal does actually a daily  
19 attendance check and there's follow-up phone calls.  
20 That... community school that's lined with them has  
21 to also take part in that. We also have listed up  
22 to 200 schools that would fall in that category in  
23 the future so the same thing we're asking for the  
24 94 schools we're expanding to the other schools.  
25 The one important leverage point in all this is the



2 superintendent. The superintendent is being asked  
3 to work with these principals extensively. And also  
4 we've already started changing leadership in some  
5 of the buildings and we'll continue to look at  
6 leadership as the most important focus and... the  
7 school can make change or not.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So thank  
9 you for going over the 12 points. Can we talk about  
10 class size in these schools. Because it seems that  
11 you know while we are implementing a lot of  
12 resources and support and, and from the dollars  
13 perspective what is the average class size?

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I would say in most  
15 of the renewal schools it's certainly in the early  
16 grades around 22 23 it is not large. I think the  
17 most important thing is that we need teachers who  
18 have specialties. For example more speech teachers,  
19 reading specialists we are doing a lot of training  
20 on reading recovery, reading rescue, reading  
21 reform, very strategic ways of teaching students in  
22 the early grades phonics using foundations, using  
23 other very strategic programs that may... in the past  
24 to ensure that students by second grade are reading  
25 on grade level. I would say in middle school one of

2 the most important additional assets other than  
3 reduced class size is to make sure we have adequate  
4 guidance counsellors and social workers to help  
5 students because in the middle school it's really  
6 more social and emotional growth that runs into  
7 problems. And in the high schools, the renewal  
8 schools, we're really looking at how do we get more  
9 credit accumulation in ways that also make sense so  
10 that they're workforce ready as well as college  
11 ready. So we're working on each of the grade levels  
12 on many different issues, not just one.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So  
14 what's the class size on middle schools and high  
15 schools?

16 CHANCELLOR FARINA: The middle schools  
17 overall I would have to say is about 29 and in the  
18 high schools it depends on the subject areas.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Are  
20 they, do you have an on average on subject let's  
21 say math?

22 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I don't. It varies  
23 from school to school but I would say most of these  
24 schools unfortunately because they are renewal  
25 schools do not have large class sizes because their

2 enrollment hasn't been as high as, as, as it should  
3 be.

4                   CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
5 Fiscal 2016 executive budget included the removal  
6 of 27.7 million from the anticipated after school  
7 and summer programs in DYCD to redistribute the  
8 renewal school initiatives. This could result in  
9 more than 17 thousand children at having access to  
10 these programs and will greatly impact the  
11 community based organizations anticipating this  
12 funding and its created quite an issue here in the  
13 council because it wasn't something that we were  
14 informed of in the preliminary so the shift happens  
15 and this is why It's so important for us to have  
16 details in the preliminary budget so that we can  
17 help include this in our response, engage with our  
18 community. There's letters that are going out,  
19 letters that went out that said you're, you have a  
20 seat and now those letters that have come out that  
21 you don't have a seat set all this is happening and  
22 the budget process isn't even over. And I think  
23 it's creating... it's, it's totally creating havoc in  
24 many families lives and I, it's incredibly  
25 frustrating for us from the council's perspective

2 and it's, and as chairs we know we're still  
3 negotiating all of this. So how does this happen,  
4 what is the status and what can you say today that  
5 could bring some clarity to this process and  
6 hopefully some resolution to the families that have  
7 nowhere to send their children after they were told  
8 that they had somewhere to send their children.

9 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well this is  
10 obviously something we're working on but I'll let  
11 Ray handle it more specifically.

12 RAY ORLANDO: Not much more specifically  
13 I'm afraid but I'm sure it'll be a topic of  
14 discussion amongst us and you all and DYCD and the  
15 providers as well. In fiscal year '15 we served  
16 over 90 thousand students in afterschool programs  
17 and the, the number's still growing but yes they'll  
18 be, the way the budget is currently set up the,  
19 there'll be different programs, there'll be,  
20 renewal school programs will have after school and  
21 certain other programs. The money the city decided  
22 to direct the expansion of summer school programs  
23 to these schools. So all middle school students  
24 will have access to afterschool programs during the  
25 school year and the renewal schools will have

2 access to afterschool during the school year and  
3 summer programming. And we're currently obviously  
4 you know going to be working with you all and OMB  
5 and DYCD and everyone else to figure out ways to  
6 continue the summer school into... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well you  
8 know it's just hard for us because it seems like  
9 there's 17 thousand young people that are doing the  
10 right thing and schools that are doing the right  
11 thing that are being penalized and have nowhere, no  
12 program to go to this summer. And these non-profits  
13 are spinning their wheels and there's just nowhere  
14 you can accommodate the 17 thousand students. So we  
15 have to be clear from this council that is not you  
16 know what we stand for. And we don't want to  
17 negotiate in this fashion. This is not, this was,  
18 we were supposed to be eliminating the budget  
19 dance. We were supposed to be eliminating these  
20 moments of contention because we're in this  
21 together and yet this has just dropped on our lap  
22 in the executive budget and it's incredibly  
23 frustrating for us in the council and we have no  
24 answers to be able give our constituents. So we are  
25 not happy.

2 RAY ORLANDO: We, we hear that.

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: It's an  
4 understatement actually... [cross-talk]

5 RAY ORLANDO: Got it.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...when  
7 that... [cross-talk]

8 RAY ORLANDO: Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So we're  
10 going to continue to talk. We're going to continue  
11 to negotiate on something important to us. Just  
12 going to talk very briefly about school sports  
13 programs as I mentioned in my opening statement  
14 that DOE included 3.8 million dollars in fiscal  
15 2016 and 3.9 million dollars in the fiscal 2017 and  
16 in out years for an additional 444 PSAL teams.  
17 However it is unclear how many of these teams will  
18 be designated female varsity teams or small school  
19 sports athletic leagues. And I know that you  
20 mentioned the soccer program but can you please  
21 tell us how many of these new teams will be  
22 specifically for varsity girls teams as required by  
23 federal title 9 law and how many will be designated  
24 for SSAL. I have a team working on this right now.  
25 We should have an answer surely. My two priorities

2 to the team was working on the distribution of this  
3 money is small school teams and girls. So within a  
4 week or so we should have a specific by school  
5 where this money is being but that is the priority  
6 of the additional money.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay so  
8 in one week we can expect to...

9 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Absolutely.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
11 While we are excited for the investment in sports  
12 and schools we're also concerned that there is a  
13 disparity in athletic fields leaving some schools  
14 no space for practice or to host games. How is DOE  
15 working with SCA to increase the investment in  
16 capital sport needs especially considering that SCA  
17 has decreased the funding for athletic fields by  
18 7.7 million when compared to fiscal 2015 adoptive.

19 CHANCELLOR FARINA: We're actually in  
20 negotiations and deputy chancellor it was with Rose  
21 who I believe is presenting... is she presenting this  
22 afternoon?

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.

24 CHANCELLOR FARINA: You can ask her that  
25 question and she'll have more specifics.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay we  
3 will follow up with her. I will now... as, as I  
4 mentioned in my opening statement the release of  
5 the proposed amendment to the capital plan and I'm  
6 sure she can speak to this also but it was over two  
7 months late. Can you explain why?

8 CHANCELLOR FARINA: It was gone over  
9 with a fine tooth comb and revised and revised and  
10 you know there are a lot of new things that are  
11 coming down from the state and... take into  
12 consideration but that's one of the reasons it took  
13 so long.

14 RAY ORLANDO: ...best able to provide the  
15 details on that at this afternoon's capital  
16 hearing.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So  
18 clearly while you know I'm glad that you were going  
19 through it with a fine tooth comb I think that  
20 moving forward whatever you have on that date is  
21 what you have to present to us so that we can work  
22 with that. Because to give us nothing for two  
23 months and for us to try to be figuring stuff out.  
24 We can fill it in. We can amend it. We can have  
25 conversations but I need a commitment from you that



2 you committed last year with the mayor, the  
3 speaker, the council, everyone. So what you have on  
4 that date, present us with you have understanding  
5 that you're going to add things later. This is what  
6 the process is about. But you have completely  
7 hampered and taken away our opportunity to truly  
8 look through this process by giving it to us two  
9 months late. Can we have that commitment?

10 Understood. Thank you.

11 RAY ORLANDO: We hear you, yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

13 Chair Dromm.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Very good. So let me  
15 just elaborate further on the, the capital budget  
16 as well on that... and, and I'm going to ask this  
17 when President Grillo comes as well. But, and I,  
18 and I did actually ask this of the mayor at a  
19 briefing that we had around the budget. But 13.5  
20 billion dollars for the five year capital plan did  
21 not change since November and when it was presented  
22 at the mayor's briefing to us for the executive  
23 budget remained at that 13.5. The mayor has talked  
24 an awful lot about providing 200 thousand  
25 additional units of housing but by their own

2 admission the school construction authority says  
3 that at current rates we'll be 16 thousand seats  
4 short even with that 13.5. What plans is the DOE  
5 putting forth to address one, the shortage of those  
6 16 thousand seats, and then two have you taken into  
7 consideration the fact that the mayor's  
8 anticipating at least 200 thousand units of  
9 affordable housing.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I mean one of the  
11 things that we're looking at obviously and many of  
12 you have been helping us where there are possible  
13 areas that are for sale or for lease and where we  
14 might build on we're looking to see where there is  
15 space where we're actually seeing less enrollment,  
16 where there might be places that we may shift  
17 things around. But I know Deputy Chancellor Rose  
18 has actually looked at this in greater depth but  
19 I'll also let Ray answer..

20 RAY ORLANDO: Yeah as the, as the  
21 Chancellor said that I... you know one of the things  
22 that we do is we have the education construction  
23 funds with, which works with private developers to  
24 locate schools in new developments. That's an  
25 activity that the Deputy Chancellor Rose will be

2 speaking about later as well. And we are  
3 cognoscente of the fact that the, the development  
4 of the, of the capital plan in the school buildings  
5 that are forth coming need to continue to keep up  
6 with the changing demographics of all of our  
7 neighborhoods citywide.

8 CHANCELLOR FARINA: And I want to say  
9 that there was some developers that are also seeing  
10 that in their own best interest so some developers  
11 are actually coming with us with plans where  
12 schools are actually already being put into the  
13 developments that they're making.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So in the fiscal  
15 2015 budget for the 10 year capital plan it was a  
16 12 billion dollars... It, it's now dropped down to  
17 10. That's a decrease of approximately two billion  
18 dollars over the ten year capital plan. That's  
19 actually a decrease in the number of seats that  
20 we'd be able to build. Have you begun to address  
21 that issue because really what we needed there was  
22 an increase rather than a decrease in the ten year  
23 capital plan?

24 RAY ORLANDO: Again unfortunately deputy  
25 Chancellor Rose is really the best person to talk

2 to the capital plan issues. I apologize for my  
3 inability to provide more details on that. However  
4 the 10 year capital strategy as you know gets  
5 updated every, every other January and then April  
6 and then the capital plan itself gets updated each,  
7 multiple times each year. So there are, I believe  
8 there are more opportunities as we move forward  
9 throughout the, this period, resources available.  
10 Obviously to, you know the, the plan gets amended  
11 frequently as you know and to reflect you know  
12 priorities of the department, priorities of the  
13 city and priorities of the council as well, of  
14 course.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sure I would  
16 definitely like to have that conversation because  
17 in light of the fact that the plan was a couple  
18 months late and I think what we were trying to do  
19 or what you were trying to do or what you were  
20 trying to do was to align it with the ten year  
21 plan. And we had had discussions you know during  
22 the preliminary budget hearings and etcetera. But  
23 that two billion dollar decrease does concern me as  
24 does the only 13.5 considering the number of seats  
25 that we're actually going to need which has been

2 estimated as high as 25 to 50 thousand more than  
3 the, the 16 thousand seats that we currently  
4 acknowledge is needed. Just let me go to a  
5 suggestion that have about a place where we can  
6 save some money. I think we spend approximately 1.5  
7 million dollars on the junior ROTC program. That's  
8 something that is deeply concerning to me because  
9 we involved youth in that program under the age of  
10 18 who are being recruited for this program by the,  
11 the United States Armed Forces. Have you given  
12 thought to eliminating the 1.5 million dollars in  
13 using that for something that might be healthy like  
14 small schools, athletic league, or girls' sports or  
15 something like that?

16 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I think right now  
17 one of the things that we do, this is based on  
18 school by school specific request and is also in  
19 discussion with school's leadership teams. But I  
20 will certainly take this under consideration to  
21 discuss with the principles.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay thank you I, I  
23 just feel it's really important especially because  
24 those students are under age. One thing that does  
25 concern me about as well is that we have a zero

2 tolerance policy for firearms or... in our schools.  
3 And to see students marching around schools with  
4 firearms although they're for similes is also  
5 concerning to me. How do they get around the rule  
6 of no firearms in the schools?

7 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I'll be honest with  
8 you. I have to look that up.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Mm-hmm.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'd appreciate an  
12 answer on that as well as we move forward. And do  
13 we review the curriculum for the JROTC. And we look  
14 at that on a yearly basis on what's being taught.

15 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I think one of the  
16 major reasons that some principals feel this is an  
17 invaluable resource for them is for many of these  
18 students it is a path for college and it is a way  
19 for many of these students to make choices. So I  
20 certainly understand that we don't want to push  
21 students into these programs but in the schools  
22 that we have it it's based on principal  
23 recommendation and then student volunteering for  
24 it. No one is required to be part of these  
25 programs.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And just to be sure  
3 the JROTC teachers are not certified teachers,  
4 they're military personnel?

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I think there's a  
6 combination of both.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. From what I  
8 understand it's, they're not certified in the same  
9 way as our public school teachers. And we'll  
10 appreciate getting an answer on that..

11 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...as well. Just let's  
13 go to state budgets because that's primarily what  
14 this hearing is about. The enacted state budget for  
15 2015 to '16 includes 220 million dollars more in  
16 foundation aid than was anticipated from the OMB  
17 when compared to fiscal 2016 preliminary budget. In  
18 the council's preliminary budget response we called  
19 on the administration to use these funds to  
20 increase fair student funding or FSF to allow  
21 principals to use the funds flexibly for their  
22 needs and to increase the number of guidance  
23 counsellors. Ultimately the funds were used and I  
24 was pleased to see that you did include 61 of them..  
25 mistaking new guidance counsellors but ultimately

2 the funds we use to support expansion of the  
3 universal pre-k program, the renewal schools  
4 initiative and a slight increase to fair student  
5 funding for all schools. So my questions are really  
6 as how much funding is dedicated to the renewal  
7 schools to increase all renewal schools to FSS to  
8 92 percent in fiscal year 2016 and then to 100  
9 percent in 2017.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well let me answer  
11 one of the questions first and then Ray can take  
12 the other. Yesterday we had an awards ceremony for  
13 guidance counsellors and social workers. And one of  
14 the things that we're working hard is to come up to  
15 the national average of how many guidance work,  
16 work per student. An we're getting closer to the  
17 national average and we are now this year alone  
18 we've hired an additional... 63 but 200 guidance  
19 counsellors but we've also increased the amount of  
20 services in school with PBIS IEM progressive  
21 discipline so there's a lot of support we're  
22 putting in schools around guidance and student  
23 supports. So I think we're going to be in a much  
24 better place and also even next week. One of the  
25 things we're doing we're honoring school safety



2 officers and retraining them to ensure that the  
3 restorative practices that we're honoring are the  
4 things that are really above and beyond the call of  
5 duty. But in terms of the money itself I'll let Ray  
6 answer that.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And these are things  
8 that you use fair student funding formula for?

9 CHANCELLOR FARINA: In some places yes  
10 but also distributing the funds where they're  
11 specifically needed based on what our statistics  
12 show us.

13 RAY ORLANDO: On the question of the FSF  
14 increase in the upcoming year it will be  
15 approximately 22 million dollars we'll go to the 96  
16 renewal schools to increase them from where their  
17 level is to 92 percent.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what about  
19 overall for all schools?

20 RAY ORLANDO: And that's approximately  
21 34 million dollars.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How much?

23 RAY ORLANDO: 34 in total. So it's  
24 another 12 on top of the 22 so...

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And that would raise  
3 them from 81 to... [cross-talk]

4 RAY ORLANDO: That brings everyone...  
5 everyone who's at 81 to 82 yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And can you  
7 just describe what the benefits are, what does it  
8 look when a school is getting 82 percent FSF. What  
9 does that look like? What benefits do the school  
10 get? What resources are they acquiring? Well I  
11 think in first foremost depending on the school  
12 they can get either an additional specialist for  
13 reading if that's one of their issues, perhaps an  
14 extra arts teacher, part time teacher. It can also  
15 allow them to reduce class size if there's space  
16 available. But that's really based on the principal  
17 and the SLT decision. We are not mandating that  
18 principals do one thing over another but we're  
19 certainly encouraging them to look at the capacity  
20 framework and do what is best for the kids in that  
21 building based on their CEP. It has to be aligned  
22 to the needs that the community has said that  
23 school needs.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So that's something  
25 that the school leadership teams in each individual

2 school can get involved in terms of the decision  
3 making process around how that funding is used.

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: The budget process  
5 has to be approved by the SLTs. And one of the  
6 things that we were very clear about particularly  
7 when it came to renewal schools that the choosing  
8 of a CBL partner had to be signed off by the SLTs.  
9 We are making parent voices a much more strategic  
10 and much more specific in all our schools.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...Good.

12 RAY ORLANDO: I would, I would just add  
13 that the fair student funding formula is the most  
14 flexible funding that we provide schools with it's  
15 the least categorical and it gives them the most  
16 flexibility to bring everybody in to decide how  
17 best to use it. So it's actually the most valuable  
18 money, we consider it for principals, flexibility  
19 wise.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And that's why it's  
21 a priority to me in terms of asking questions as  
22 well. How many schools are currently below 100  
23 percent fair student formula?

24 RAY ORLANDO: Give me a minute.  
25

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: While  
3 you find that we've been joined by Council... [cross-  
4 talk]

5 RAY ORLANDO: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...Member  
7 Garodnick,...

8 RAY ORLANDO: I apologize for the delay.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
10 ...Rosenthal, Treyger, and Gentile, and Lander.

11 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I mean I, while Ray  
12 is looking for that... let me just say that many  
13 schools if they're title one or have other  
14 resources of money the fair student funding can  
15 sometimes be balanced. The schools that obviously  
16 need more support to the ones that may not have  
17 that extra categorical money to help them with the  
18 issues that they need but...

19 RAY ORLANDO: I turned my mic off sorry.  
20 So they're under 100 percent. There are over 13  
21 hundred schools that are below 100 percent.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 15 hundred?

23 RAY ORLANDO: Over, over 13 hundred.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 13, 13 hundred?  
25

2 RAY ORLANDO: Approximately 13 hundred,  
3 yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Approximately 13  
5 hundred schools.

6 RAY ORLANDO: Yes. And I would just  
7 remind everyone that the fair student funding  
8 formula when it was created, anticipated that the  
9 state would keep its promise on the campaign for  
10 fiscal equity. And so when the formula was  
11 developed the point was to match those expected  
12 funding with the ability to bring everyone to 100  
13 percent. And whereas the chancellor pointed out in  
14 her testimony we're 2.6 billion dollars short this  
15 year which has prevented us from bringing everyone  
16 to 100 percent.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Even with the budget  
18 that was just recently passed in Albany?

19 RAY ORLANDO: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Because that if I'm  
21 not mistaken it was a 1.8 billion toward that down  
22 payment of campaign for fiscal equity funding or  
23 no?

24

25

2 RAY ORLANDO: I, I don't recognize that  
3 number. I, I... statewide number Nora? Okay that's  
4 the statewide number. Okay.

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I also want to say  
6 that when we now give out grants, for example the  
7 23 million dollars in arts funding and other  
8 funding that's above and beyond we give priority to  
9 the schools that have the least amount of money  
10 coming to them through the fair student funding. So  
11 we try to balance it out to the degree that we can  
12 based on need.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well I think we're  
14 united in our sentiment about making sure that we  
15 get that, those state dollars from that CFE funding  
16 because that is exactly what would make a  
17 difference in the classrooms as you have pointed  
18 out and that really is the direction in which my  
19 line of questioning was going. I just want to jump  
20 around a little bit and then give some of my  
21 colleagues an opportunity to ask questions as well.  
22 In the council's response to the preliminary budget  
23 we had asked for 14.2 million dollar request for  
24 additional committees on special education. I know  
25 that we're looking at special education and we want

2 to increase special education services but unless  
3 the referral process is improved in my opinion.

4 We're never going to get to that point. Have you  
5 considered that. It was not mentioned by the mayor  
6 but where do we stand with that from the council?

7 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well first of all in  
8 our reorganization a lot of the special ed are  
9 going to be at the borough level. So they're going  
10 to be much more focused, much more direct and I, we  
11 think also it will be much more if not streamlined  
12 we will be able to learn for the people who are  
13 serving a specific geographical area which has not  
14 really happened to the past. We had too much of the  
15 special ed services spread out over networks  
16 clusters and whatever. Now that it's at the borough  
17 level parents will be able to go and if over time  
18 we see there's more of need it's one of the  
19 categories that we certainly will do what we need  
20 to do. We expect that special needs will always be  
21 a high priority of this administration. It's  
22 something I've done all my life and I expect to  
23 continue that. And we have really expectations that  
24 some of these services that we can provide  
25 particularly in Pre-K will maybe begin to start

2 decreasing some of the needs for actual special ed  
3 services. So for as long as I was teaching, 25  
4 years, referral services were always an issue and  
5 actual placement of students into programs is also  
6 an issue which is why we passed the special ed  
7 reporting bill here. So we're going to take a look  
8 at that as we move forward once those numbers begin  
9 to come in. But I still do like from my own feeling  
10 believe that we need that 14.2 million dollars are  
11 put into the, to the budget. So as we move forward  
12 we'd like to negotiate that further with you.

13 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Danny happy to talk  
14 to you but the other thing is very clear. This year  
15 alone we made it clear that one of the priorities  
16 every school had to have is that in September and  
17 October parents had to be given priority whose  
18 students had IEPs. The 40 minutes on Tuesdays was  
19 totally devoted in every single school to have  
20 parent meetings around IEPs which is one of, as you  
21 know one of the biggest problems we've had in late  
22 in, in the past that sometimes the IEPs weren't  
23 read until April or May. So our priority is to get  
24 the IEPs training all superintendents and  
25 principals which we've already started to do at a



2 right and appropriate IEP. Had to make sure you had  
3 the right amount of people to serve what it said on  
4 the IEP and then also to make sure that the parents  
5 are fully informed about what that IEP... them as  
6 parents. So that's one of the places we started  
7 doing real work this past year and going into  
8 September I expect once again September and October  
9 in every school will be meetings with parents  
10 around IEPs.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So where I see the  
12 problem though is before it even gets to the I, the  
13 issue of the IEP it's in the referral process and  
14 that's where we see the delays but I think that's  
15 something we'll take offline and talk about that as  
16 we move down, down the road. Let me go to just one  
17 other thing before I open it up to my colleagues.  
18 Measures of Student Learning MOSL which has really  
19 been a big piece of education news lately. You know  
20 the, the legislature, the state legislature  
21 approved legislation I guess in the budget that  
22 would allow for 50 percent of a teacher's  
23 evaluation to be based on standardized test scores  
24 plus an outside observer would come in and also  
25 observe teachers. I'm not sure with that

2 legislation actually what the role of our  
3 principals will be if that's allowed to stand as it  
4 is. Because if you're talking 25 percent just based  
5 on standardized test scores and then an outside  
6 observer maybe another 25 percent that would leave  
7 the principal with about 25 percent say about what  
8 their teachers are doing in their own school. It  
9 just, it seems, the whole thing seems very very  
10 bizarre to me. But I want to go to the fiscal  
11 budget in 2015 including 10.8 million to create  
12 local MOSLs and in 2016 it's 15.1 million for 34  
13 additional positions to create and roll out the  
14 MOSLs to schools. My question really is this. You  
15 know the local component of the MOSL is very  
16 important. Regardless of what the state does  
17 etcetera so forth and so on. Are we working toward  
18 ensuring that the local component will be included  
19 in the MOSLs moving forward.

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Absolutely. Let me  
21 be clear on this because I've gone on public  
22 record. As a former principal I take exception to  
23 any role of principals when they're well trained to  
24 be watered down. To me it's very reasonable to ask  
25 for 30 percent of test scores because obviously you

2 need a criteria that's the same for everybody. I  
3 have said it at the state level. I've said it to  
4 the education committee there. We now have a new  
5 commissioner who I have good hopes will be  
6 listening in terms of what the state has required  
7 for all, all state district. New York City is way  
8 ahead of the rest of the state and how we've done  
9 teacher evaluation. We've also proven that we take  
10 it seriously so our ratings of highly effective and  
11 effective teachers is actually much stricter than  
12 the rest of the state so I would like to see New  
13 York City stand on its record and say we think we  
14 know how to do this. We know how to do it well.  
15 We're willing to be a pilot for the rest of the  
16 state so I'm looking forward to the new  
17 commissioner whose record I know about coming on  
18 board so we can have a discussion about how we can  
19 work in partnerships to make sure that New York  
20 City's able to continue to do what we're doing.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what about this  
22 idea of sharing principals or having these outside  
23 evaluators come in. Is there a cost associated to  
24 this?

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I think that  
3 we're trying to be creative around this idea and  
4 you can have a colleague and we're already like in  
5 partnership schools. We have schools that are  
6 already working together so I would really not like  
7 to make this a cost factor. I certainly don't want  
8 to pay a private company for coming in and do what  
9 we can do better ourselves.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I just have to say  
11 that I don't think it was well thought out. I don't  
12 think that there was any funding provided for this.  
13 I think putting that burden on already burdened  
14 school leadership you know with so many other  
15 challenges in front of them is ultimately really  
16 unfair and I just, I just don't understand where  
17 some of the people up in the state, what they're  
18 thinking in terms of this. But anyway in my opinion  
19 it's one thing and I'm going to allow my colleagues  
20 to ask some of their questions as well. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
22 you Chair Dromm. We will now hear from Council  
23 Member King followed by Council Member Kallos.  
24 Again a reminder at some point we're going to have  
25 that clock to move to where members can see it. But

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2 everyone will be on a five minute clock so that we  
3 can allow everyone in the queue to ask their  
4 questions. Council Member Kallos, King I'm sorry.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Madam  
6 Chair and Mr. Chair and Ms. Madam Chancellor it's  
7 good to see you again as always. Thank you today.  
8 And I am grateful to what I've read and your  
9 testimony. I've learned a lot and thank you. It  
10 looks like well thought out things are going  
11 strong. You're doing things, a refreshing change.  
12 And I'm grateful for that. We were here last time  
13 and I have a commitment to sports because I know  
14 what sports did for me as a student and, and the  
15 music and the arts, what's it done for me in, in my  
16 development. So I have a couple of questions  
17 because last year as chair of the Black and Latino  
18 Asian Caucus one of the initiatives that we  
19 spearhead and got behind was allocating money for  
20 small schools. They make sure they have additional  
21 access to it, to athletics. Out of that  
22 conversation 825 thousand dollars that we were able  
23 to get the council to fund in this initiative that  
24 came to, to small schools being able to partner up  
25 with, with the hopes.. of partner with another 825

2 from A+ that the Seattle Seahawks were going to  
3 match. That partnership didn't work out with the  
4 825 from us didn't work out and went to the DOE and  
5 we were looking to see more students participate.  
6 It seems that the 825 was, was, was shifted into  
7 the PSAO and with the hopes that the PSAO would  
8 then offer more athletic opportunities to our  
9 students in the small schools. It didn't, we're not  
10 sure that that actually did happen. But my first  
11 question would be is, can from Mr. Orlando yourself  
12 can we get a breakdown of how that 825 was spent if  
13 there was any wraparound services that we hoped  
14 that would have come with it as additional, with  
15 additional athletic opportunities. I can absolutely  
16 provide that to you. I can't provide it to you this  
17 second. I apologize but yes I will get that to you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Okay is it, is  
19 it... [cross-talk]

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...did put in 444 new  
21 programs.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Mm-hmm.

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Small schools. But  
24 we also understand that some of the programs may  
25 not have been what the kids necessarily wanted like

2 you know ping pong. So we're looking to continue to  
3 to do... I mentioned before soccer at a borough  
4 level.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Right.

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Right.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Some of the  
8 small schools are just too small to maintain some,  
9 so how do we get sports across a co-located campus  
10 for example. And then also how do we look at... now  
11 that we're going to have borough offices how do we  
12 do soccer teams at the borough office or maybe  
13 other kinds of sports. So our commitment is to that  
14 and the other thing we asked all the CBOs who are  
15 doing the wrap around services particularly for  
16 renewal schools to have a sports component as part  
17 of what they do. And a lot of those are high  
18 schools because we know to increase attendance that  
19 sports is one of the ways to do it. So we made that  
20 one of the things that we want to see in those  
21 programs.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Okay well thank  
23 you for that answer and I most... from fiscal year  
24 '16. But I want to come back to the 825. I really  
25 like to get in timeline where we can get a

2 response... I recall the last conversation we had you  
3 explained to us that 27 million was spent for your  
4 entire budget. I went to the PSAL but only... and 24  
5 million went to administrators. I mean like three  
6 million only went to program. So we had asked for a  
7 break down. We still haven't gotten that  
8 information back as of today.

9 RAY ORLANDO: Chair of course I'd be  
10 happy to get you the 825 thousand dollars as soon  
11 as I can, just as soon as I can.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: So how long  
13 would before we can get it back you say?

14 RAY ORLANDO: I'm hoping to have it in  
15 the next day or so.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: In the next day  
17 or so, okay.

18 RAY ORLANDO: I'm confident I'll be able  
19 to get you the 825 thousand in the next day or so.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Alright well  
21 I'm, I'm glad..

22 CHANCELLOR FARINA: And I just want to  
23 be clear that when it comes to sports I totally  
24 agree with you that also it's very important that  
25 we put safety first. We need to have licensed



2 certified people working with our athletic teams.  
3 Recently we had an issue on one of the sports  
4 events where if we hadn't had someone who was  
5 licensed and medically trained...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Mm-hmm.

7 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...could have had a  
8 disaster. So I always have to think no matter what  
9 it is whether it's sports or anything else I'll be  
10 providing for the safety. So one of the concerns we  
11 had is do we have licensed people, trained people,  
12 and people who are liability wise ready to do the  
13 job.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. My next  
15 question... part of the, the funding that we want to  
16 expand. But according to the reports on the website  
17 it says that 84 out of the teams that participated  
18 in the small schools last year only 24 participated  
19 in this year. Do you find that these numbers are  
20 correct?

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I'll be honest with  
22 you I don't have that specific...

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

24 CHANCELLOR FARINA: But I can also check  
25 that out.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright. If you can  
3 and this, that will let us know what schools were  
4 actually funded, who got eliminated..

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yeah.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright that'll be  
7 great. In addition the number of schools according  
8 to the sports that were offered now you mentioned  
9 that you're going to add new sports. Can you give  
10 us an ideal... I know there's going to be additional  
11 3.8 million that's going to be added on. New sports  
12 are going to have them access how was the PSAL  
13 going to determine what schools get these sports,  
14 who are going to get these sports because in the  
15 past it seems like a lot of these decisions have  
16 been made closed behind closed doors no one knew.  
17 Is there any type of discrimination that's going on  
18 who gets what. So we just want to know how is that  
19 going to play out. Who's making these decisions  
20 and...

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay well first of  
22 all it... Deputy Chancellor Rose who's going to be  
23 here later today. But the other thing I want to be  
24 very clear that... about a discrimination. This is  
25 about where do we have a number of kids that really

2 want to do this. And that's why we've decided to do  
3 some of these sports at a borough level because the  
4 small schools... I mean we have schools with 130  
5 kids. You can't do that kind of work with those  
6 numbers. So the idea is to try to figure out which  
7 of the sports that makes the most sense. And now  
8 that we have borough field directors which we  
9 didn't have before we can actually have someone in  
10 charge of these programs. So that is really going  
11 to be the, in the movement the way we're going.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Okay. Madam  
13 Chair. Just 15 seconds. My last, my last question  
14 to you.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay I,  
16 Council Member King...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm sorry you...

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I will  
19 put you first on the second round. You're number  
20 one second round okay?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council  
23 Member Kallos followed by Council Member Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Chair  
25 Ferreras and Dromm for your leadership and

2 Chancellor Farina for joining us today. At our  
3 preliminary budget hearing I asked several  
4 questions and received no meaningful response at  
5 the hearing with the promise of a response after  
6 the hearing. Several months later still no answers.  
7 I'm hoping that since these questions were  
8 previously asked they've come here today with  
9 answers. I'll pose all of my questions up front so  
10 as to stay within the time limit. So please take  
11 note. With regard to universal pre-k I was proud to  
12 support it but was disappointed to find less than  
13 100 seats in my district despite high needs. I've  
14 identified schools, empty classrooms and partners  
15 but still have not received the additional seats  
16 needed in my district. So first question is can my  
17 district please have UPK seats. With regard to new  
18 school sites I've identified dozens of potential  
19 new locations for schools in my district. And  
20 despite having the highest development rates in the  
21 city and hundreds of children competing for each  
22 seat in my district. I've been told there is no  
23 need meanwhile the school construction authority  
24 admits a plan for a shortfall of 16 thousand seats.  
25 Can we please build the seats we need?

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...just remind me  
3 which district.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: District, I'm  
5 council district 5, CEC 2. With regard to civic  
6 education will DOE expand the student voter  
7 registration day and mock elections pilots to all  
8 schools. Last but not least I'd like to talk about  
9 hunger. Chancellor can you imagine having to do  
10 your job without a healthy breakfast or lunch and  
11 without knowing if there would be dinner when you  
12 get home. I'd like to address the topic of  
13 breakfast after the bell and lunch for learning.  
14 Hungry kids simply cannot learn yet we live in a  
15 city where one in four kids struggles with hunger  
16 and we are in near last place nationally for  
17 feeding kids breakfast. That's why the council has  
18 prioritized expansion of breakfast after the bell  
19 and universal school lunch programs and why I  
20 strongly support the programs. Imagine a city where  
21 1.1 million children from cradle to career don't  
22 have to worry about where their next meal is coming  
23 from. To follow-up on potential cost implications  
24 associated with expanding breakfast after the bell  
25 and universal school lunch programs they touched on

2 the last hearing. Has title one funding been  
3 infected in any middle school due to universal  
4 school lunch program. I also understand we  
5 currently have breakfast after the bell program in  
6 350 schools. Can you give us the cost the city has  
7 incurred related to the breakfast after the bell  
8 program in those schools? You also said in the last  
9 hearing that there would be a shift in the way we  
10 use our custodians and cafeteria workers making  
11 breakfast expansion, an expensive proposition. But  
12 it seems to me that if a city like LA which also  
13 has high labor costs was able to expand the program  
14 citywide and receive 16 million dollars in federal  
15 reimbursements we should be able to expand this  
16 program at minimal cost. Can you explain the  
17 specific additional labor cost that would be  
18 incurred and what we can do to overcome them? That  
19 is the end of my questions.

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Alight well, well  
21 let me do one thing at a time. I want to be clear  
22 for people who are not as knowledgeable as the city  
23 council that we serve free breakfast in every  
24 single school. Anyone who needs breakfast is  
25 eligible to come into the building and have it.. in

2 fact if parents come with their children they can  
3 sit down and have breakfast with their students.  
4 The, the difference is do we want to serve  
5 breakfast in the classroom which is different  
6 because it involves you know obviously custodial  
7 changes, it involves clean ups. It involves  
8 delivery into the classroom. It involves taking  
9 time from instructional time to serve the  
10 breakfast. So all those issues are the issues that  
11 we've been discussing with all the relevant people  
12 and that discussion will continue. But again they  
13 do have opportunities for breakfast. I think in  
14 terms of the UPK seats. So your district too we're  
15 actually offering more seats next year in District  
16 2. I mean one of the places we are going to hosting  
17 UPK is actually at Tweed as the... school moves out  
18 we're going to be offering seats in Tweed for UPK,  
19 not necessarily a zone. So that's not one of the  
20 high need are as at the moment is that I know but  
21 I'll certainly go back and check it out. There'll  
22 be other seats that we're looking in different  
23 places. You want to answer that?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Areas of my  
25 district we would have to put UPK students on a

2 tram or a bus for 45 minutes in order to find the  
3 nearest location.

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...UPK...

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I represent  
6 Roosevelt Island.

7 JESSICA PAVONE: Hi. Good morning  
8 Council Members and staff. My name is Jessica  
9 Pavone. I'm the Chief of Staff for the Early  
10 Childhood Division at the DOE. As the chancellor  
11 was saying and, and referenced earlier. So we're  
12 obviously in the middle of a two year expansion.  
13 And in the first year we, you know we did our pest  
14 to assess need and moving very quickly to add seats  
15 where we were able, recognizing that year two was  
16 really all about right sizing the system for lack  
17 of a better word. Council members here and other  
18 elected officials have been critical partners to us  
19 as we have been hunting for space as we would like  
20 to say. We're looking across the system for  
21 creative solutions both by partnering with  
22 contracted existing and new providers to identify  
23 them and encourage them to, to apply to the RFP we  
24 now have a second full day RFP open. And we are  
25 additionally looking for district school space



2 wherever we can and create a new what we call pre-k  
3 centers. 25 of them are planned for next year which  
4 will serve 3,000 students alone. So we're certainly  
5 casting a wide net. We appreciate your partnership  
6 and, and on Roosevelt Island in particular I know  
7 what you've been, your office has been very helpful  
8 in making suggestions. So thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
10 you. We will now have Council Member Chin followed  
11 by Council Member Levin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Chair Ferreras  
13 could you direct the DOE to send written responses  
14 to your committee as well as myself with regard to  
15 the answers that were not provided.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We will  
17 have a follow-up letter with the additional  
18 questions.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Council  
21 Member Chin. And we've been joined, I'm sorry  
22 we've been joined by Council Member Reynoso,  
23 Rodriguez, and Lander.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madam  
25 Chair. Good morning Chancellor. I'm over here. I'm

2 going to ask two questions. One is on DOE's budget.  
3 How much is DOE, will designate to provide  
4 comprehensive sexual and reproductive education for  
5 middle and high school student. Recently I met with  
6 a group of amazing young female student in our  
7 local high school. And many of them are daughters  
8 of teen mothers. And they were sharing their  
9 experience of how the mothers were able to get  
10 support from their school in these so-called life  
11 centers. And they were able to... you know the baby  
12 was in the daycare. Mothers were able to get  
13 credits for those mommy and me classes. And they  
14 were able to graduate. And these girls are, they  
15 themselves are going to be graduating going on to  
16 college. But to their surprise a lot of these  
17 program has been cut. So they were there to  
18 advocate to really have these program back to  
19 provide for students who really need them. But the  
20 other thing they raised to me was very surprising  
21 that in one of the school they only had two  
22 teachers to teach sex education to only 300  
23 student. So not everybody in the school were able  
24 to take comprehensive sex ed. And they're  
25 advocating for that. They think that every student

2 should have an opportunity to take those classes.  
3 But the resources are not there. My second question  
4 is that in your testimony you talked about dual  
5 language program and I know that I asked about it  
6 in the preliminary budget. It's really great to see  
7 that you're expanding some of these program and  
8 adding new program. The question I have is right  
9 now there are only you know a little bit over 6,000  
10 ESL or ELL student that are enrolled in dual  
11 language program. So is DOE looking at really  
12 getting more of the ELL student into the dual  
13 language program where they could learn English and  
14 at the same time be able to continue their native  
15 language and improve upon it it's a win win  
16 situation for the student. But because of a  
17 language program for their kids.

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay let me take  
19 this, let me try to answer all your questions.  
20 Number one I just went to the life center  
21 graduation two weeks ago. We have actually have a  
22 lot of empty seats in the life centers. We're not  
23 cutting them back. What we're finding is that it  
24 may be better to combine some of them. So rather  
25 than just have two young children because you have

2 babies in the life centers combining them so that  
3 if there's some that are geographically next to  
4 each other there might be one so that we can  
5 support more students. But it's something that  
6 we're particularly proud of. The life centers have  
7 a very good graduation rate in terms of the  
8 students who were there. And we have them  
9 throughout the city. Sex education is mandated in  
10 New York City schools. It certainly is alive and  
11 well in middle school and high school. We just  
12 introduced in high schools... condom demonstrations  
13 so that we have another way of looking at sex  
14 education in the high schools. Parents can, and  
15 students can opt out but it's there and this is the  
16 first year ever that that was done and I have to  
17 thank Mary Bassett, Commissioner of Health for her  
18 initiative in this area. We have sex education  
19 starting on third grade. It has to be age  
20 appropriate. And it has to be with teacher  
21 training. So most Science teachers have this  
22 training as do a lot of guidance counsellors. We in  
23 elementary school having been a principal we tended  
24 to do it much stronger in fifth and sixth grade  
25 when we separated boys and girls so they can ask

2 the questions. So it is there. It is a mandate. If  
3 there are schools that aren't doing it then that's  
4 something we look into. In terms of dual language  
5 let me be very clear we're expanding our dual  
6 language programs but dual language by the nature  
7 that it's dual language requires a 50/50 split. You  
8 need to have 50 percent of the students who are  
9 native language speakers and 50 percent who aren't.  
10 Because the, the idea is that they will teach each  
11 other and they will learn from each other. So dual  
12 language is not when you have 100 percent of  
13 students who only speak Spanish or Chinese or  
14 whatever. So one of our challenges has been, and  
15 that's why we're doing it based on principal  
16 recommendation. Do principals have enough students  
17 that fit the 50/50. And also then approaching  
18 parents because dual language has to be a parent  
19 choice. I just did a video yesterday in Spanish and  
20 in English and it's going to be translated to seven  
21 other languages. Every parent who registers a child  
22 has children in schools who'll receive a video,  
23 will listen to this video, it says these are the  
24 choices you have; ESL, Bilingual, dual language.  
25 And this year we're introducing the first dual

2 language in high school. We have Long Island City  
3 is doing the first high school dual language and  
4 we've increased the number of dual language in  
5 middle schools because a lot of parents who have  
6 dual language elementary school want to see the  
7 kids continue. So that's a commitment but also  
8 bilingual is for parents, particularly middle  
9 school kids who come from other countries and want  
10 the scaffolding and support their kids need while  
11 they learn English.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
13 you Council Member Chin. I just want to acknowledge  
14 that Council Member Paul Vallone has invited PS139Q  
15 their 60 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and four teachers and  
16 parents. Welcome to City Hall everyone. And this  
17 hearing is very important to you because we have  
18 your chancellor right here testifying about how  
19 important you are. So welcome to city hall. We will  
20 now hear, so we will now hear from Council Member  
21 Rosenthal followed by Council Member Rodriguez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...so much  
23 Chair Ferreras-Copeland and Chair Dromm. Welcome  
24 Chancellor. It's always a pleasure to see you. I  
25 have three quick questions. First of all we

2 successfully due, due to your permission we  
3 successfully implemented student voter registration  
4 day this past March. We were in 25 schools and we  
5 saw a jump, a documented jump in registration from  
6 the usual 1,000 a month in April to 4,000. So we  
7 were in 25 high schools on 15 council member  
8 districts. We've gotten an estimate from the  
9 campaign finance board on NYC votes section that  
10 for 350 thousand dollars they could instead of, you  
11 know this was an entirely a voluntary effort meant  
12 I lost a staff person you know... We really all  
13 volunteered and, but for 350 thousand dollars they  
14 could get into about a hundred schools. You know  
15 some combined campuses and, and, and yield 20  
16 thousand registered voters. Is that something you  
17 would contemplate absorbing?

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I'm always looking  
19 for things that are going to create better  
20 productive citizens so I will certainly look into  
21 this.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great. Thank  
23 you very much Chancellor. Secondly I have a quick  
24 Medicaid revenue question. You have 67 million  
25 dollars projected for fiscal year 15. I'm wondering

2 how much was collected in fiscal year '14 for all  
3 categories combined, PTOT transportation. How much  
4 was drawn down in '14. And then, and obviously what  
5 I'm getting to is what do you think will be drawn  
6 down for fiscal year '15 and why do you bump up the  
7 projection by 30 million for '16.

8 RAY ORLANDO: The '14 revenue was  
9 approximately four and a half million dollars.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Four and a  
11 half million?

12 RAY ORLANDO: And...

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Was what you  
14 drew down for all categories?

15 RAY ORLANDO: Those are the paid claims,  
16 yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: PTOT  
18 transportation... [cross-talk]

19 RAY ORLANDO: The paid claims, the paid  
20 claims...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...four and a  
22 half million...

23 RAY ORLANDO: ...in '14 were four and a  
24 half million, yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay.



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1 EDUCATION

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2 RAY ORLANDO: The paid claims in '15?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Mm-hmm.

4 RAY ORLANDO: 32 million dollars.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: 32 million.

6 RAY ORLANDO: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So I'm just  
8 curious because in the, in the executive it lists  
9 67 million.

10 RAY ORLANDO: The executive budget has a  
11 forecast in fiscal year '15 of 67 million dollars  
12 for the full year. Yes we expect to collect 32  
13 million dollars in fiscal year '15 as of this  
14 point, yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So what do  
16 you attribute the big jump from four million to 35  
17 today?

18 RAY ORLANDO: The, we've had a pilot  
19 program that we just completed during fiscal year  
20 '15 in which we provided chrome books to all of our  
21 OT... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

23 RAY ORLANDO: ...and PT providers.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great.

25

2 RAY ORLANDO: And that helps us to  
3 document more services.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay.

5 RAY ORLANDO: In addition we've  
6 increased the staff of our Medicaid office so that  
7 they can collect more revenue and in addition we  
8 have an internal person who reviews... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great. I'm  
10 sorry I have to move on but that all sounds good.  
11 So I'm assuming in your ten million dollar  
12 reduction to headcount in central none of that will  
13 include your Medicaid staff.

14 RAY ORLANDO: Correct.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Lastly  
16 I just, this is sort of as an FYI I learned last  
17 week that the after school program in my district  
18 that specifically serves my NYCHA residents lost  
19 its funding.

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: We, we said before  
21 we're in discussions.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay so... but  
23 just so you're aware you know on the upper west  
24 side it's often the case that the, the people who  
25 are low income families don't get you know

2 basically boxed out of any program because if you  
3 target things by zip code, if you target things by  
4 the lowest performing school you're basically, the  
5 result is you're segregating this city more because  
6 then it's not hospitable to my NYCHA and low income  
7 residents who bending over backwards to try to  
8 support. So we basically just lost 34 seats, after  
9 school seats that were the program itself is  
10 located in a NYCHA community center. It's called  
11 Striker's bay if you want to know. It's in dohostos  
12 [sp?] and there it means they're not going to be  
13 able to provide those services and those kids will  
14 be on the street.

15 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yeah we're, we're in  
16 discussions on that issue.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: When, okay..  
18 and okay.

19 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Shortly.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
22 you Council Member Rosenthal. We'll have Council  
23 Member Rodriguez followed by Council Member Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you  
25 Chairman. First of all no doubt that we have.. that

2 keep your word. So I would like to first thank you  
3 for keeping your commitment and your word in this  
4 great effort to work with us to improve the quality  
5 education... school district six that cover the area  
6 from 138 and Broadway to 222 to the top of the  
7 island. A district that we... in big crisis that as  
8 we said before 80 percent of the student from third  
9 to eight grade they are level one, level one and  
10 two, a district that we don't have a, a middle  
11 school that track the three and four that we don't  
12 have a high school that track the three and four a,  
13 a district where we the adults have fail in the  
14 past. From elective... teacher principals, everyone  
15 that haven't seen that number going down and no  
16 able to produce a pipeline where we can take those  
17 student from working class and be able to see, for  
18 them to see that they should have a dream to be  
19 part of the middle class. So you're commitment and  
20 everything that you've been doing with the new  
21 superintendents, the new initiative they, they're  
22 resident of the community. They have seen. They  
23 know that there's a plan. And this is something  
24 that we the community are appreciated. And we know  
25 that if we are no able to do all those changes at a

2 local level citywide under your leadership someone..

3 the value of education, that the background

4 education we will not be doing, able to do it with

5 anybody or so thank you. I have one question which

6 is, first of all the local level, a, again I can..

7 going over the lease but I know that you being able

8 to bring a lot of support from CUNY, city college,

9 to a working with a superintendent to build a new

10 tech school, a city, a lot of things happening.

11 There's one aspect that I hope that we can.. it's

12 one as a minus that there's 0.5 percent, 99.9

13 percent has been done.. one about money that I have

14 allocated to build a bubble in the background of I..

15 52. I already putt the capital money to build a

16 bubble so that they student are able to have a, a,

17 a 24/7/365 day facility in the community, something

18 that we don't have there. The obstacle that we have

19 face right now is coming from the school

20 construction and DOE is that the.. seems too

21 expensive. So I just hope that as conversation

22 continue in this problem and in this project that

23 we can be able to look at the possibility working

24 with you and the chairman of this committee to see

25 if we can be able to get those money for the..

2 because I already allocated the money to build the  
3 bubble there. But again I know... I know that I  
4 believe and I trust and I hope that we can continue  
5 seeing that possibility. My two question, one is  
6 about... does the DOE have a plan to move the  
7 students that they be failing in a particular time  
8 frame? Let's say in my case seems 80 percent of the  
9 student they be level one and level two before your  
10 leadership. I, can we say that there's like a five  
11 year plan that we can say our goal is to reduce the  
12 80 percent to 60 percent in five years. So do we  
13 have that plan citywide in that effort to move our  
14 student from that crisis that we, you inherent. And  
15 in that connection how are you approaching the new  
16 changes of the borough director and the  
17 superintendents because I know the chairman and I  
18 we both coming from being a teacher for many year.  
19 So one thing that is my concern is that in the past  
20 the superintendents they didn't have that power.  
21 Now you have empowered the superintendents but now  
22 we have the borough director. And many of this  
23 stuff... many things that is taking place throughout  
24 the borough are directed by the borough director

2 not necessarily by the superintendents. So how can  
3 we keep working to empower the superintendents?

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Alright let me be  
5 very clear. No one trumps the superintendents, no  
6 one except me. The borough directors were very  
7 carefully instructed to be supports to the  
8 superintendents. The way this will work  
9 superintendents are the supervisors of principals.  
10 No one supervises principals except the  
11 superintendents. But if a superintendent sees that  
12 in their district, for example in your district  
13 Manny Ramirez wants more training for ELLS. They  
14 call the borough directors and the borough  
15 directors arrange for the training because they're  
16 going to have an ELL department under them. They're  
17 going to have a special ed department under them.  
18 They're going to have a student guidance and  
19 support service under them. Their job is to support  
20 what the superintendents need. It's going to be  
21 different in every district. But nobody trumps the  
22 superintendent. If a principal is not doing the  
23 work that we think they need to be doing fast  
24 enough that's the superintendent's decision. They  
25 develop a work plan for that principal with rate of

2 improvement. The other thing that is very clear is  
3 also that we are having a lot, I said before we're  
4 having 12 data points of how schools need to  
5 improve. Attendance, parent involvement, test  
6 scores. There's going to be a lot of points of  
7 which we hope to see and I can't wait five years.  
8 There's no way we can wait five years for this  
9 improvement. So there are certain things we expect  
10 to see improvement in the first year. We need to  
11 see progress going in a certain direction. And the  
12 mayor and I have said over and over again closing  
13 schools is not our preliminary or our first step  
14 but that doesn't mean ultimately at some point  
15 there may be a few that that will be what we do.  
16 Right now our point is to encourage support and  
17 give the kind of support schools haven't had in a  
18 very long time. And that's what we're trying to do  
19 now for those schools. And, and in your district  
20 there's already a district plan. Every  
21 superintendent developed a plan of action for their  
22 district.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: If you  
24 scream off the mic it doesn't mean that it doesn't  
25 count towards your time. Council Member I will put



2 you in the queue for the, for the second round. We  
3 will have Council Member Levin followed by Council  
4 Member Lander. And thank you Council Member  
5 Rodriguez for understanding.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam  
7 Chair. Hi Chancellor, how are you. So I wanted to,  
8 to ask, I've asked about it before.. the, the school  
9 breakfast program which is an issue that is near  
10 and dear to my heart and that I've worked on for a  
11 number of years and passed legislation around. So  
12 as, as you know we're, we have a, a very low  
13 participation rate for children that are qualifying  
14 for free or reduced lunch who are participating in  
15 the school breakfast program. It is universally  
16 available but the fact remains that we have been  
17 unable to move the needle for the last ten years or  
18 so we hover amongst the lowest large school  
19 districts in the country in terms of the percentage  
20 of children that qualify for free or reduced lunch  
21 that are participating in, in school breakfast. So  
22 this past year we're at 35.4 percent which places  
23 us second to last just above Oakland. And that's in  
24 comparison to successful school districts around  
25 the country like Las Angeles that's at 102 percent,

2 Des Moines [sp?], 93.4 percent Newark, 89.4  
3 percent. So obviously this, this wide gap in terms  
4 of the percentage of children that are actually  
5 eating breakfast in school so the current system  
6 just isn't, it, it's not reaching the kids. It's,  
7 for whatever reason... And that's logistical or  
8 otherwise is, are, are we looking towards doing  
9 some type of, of either grab and go model,  
10 breakfast in the classroom model, something that is  
11 going to get, is going, is going to get to that 60  
12 percent, 65 percent of kids that are not getting  
13 the breakfast.

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: This is an issue  
15 that the mayor and I continue to discuss. There are  
16 many facets to this including the fact that you  
17 know some parents do not want a seat in the  
18 classrooms but this is not off the table as a  
19 discussion point.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Mm-hmm.

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: And we'll continue.  
22 It's the operational piece of it; who delivers it,  
23 who cleans it, who picks it up... All...

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Sure.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...those issues are  
3 under discussion. But this is still on the table.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay because  
5 when, when we passed our legislation back in 2013,  
6 2012-2013 we did have the support of the UFT and  
7 CSA at the time in terms of their support for the  
8 legislation. I'm very confident that we can work  
9 with our colleagues at, at A-91 and at 32-BJ to  
10 come up with a framework to make it work in, in the  
11 city I think based on how they've been able to make  
12 it work in other very large school districts like  
13 LA, like Chicago, you know we're... The other big  
14 ones have been, have been able to do it. Obviously  
15 small districts have maybe an easier time doing it.  
16 And so I wouldn't say that you know necessarily the  
17 model in Syracuse is the model that'll work here.  
18 But, but I think the big cities have done it. And  
19 so I'm, I'm certainly willing..

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: But these are all,  
21 these are all people that we are talking to.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Sure.

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: And including  
24 looking at how it would be the least disruptive to  
25 instructional time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay, okay. Thank  
3 you very much Chancellor.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
5 you. Council Member Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very  
7 much Madam Chair. Chancellor as always wonderful to  
8 see you. Three quick comments and then three  
9 questions for you. First I just want to flag that  
10 I'm very excited about the continued UPK expansion  
11 last year in district 15 we were only able to  
12 achieve a relatively modest expansion that your  
13 team has been working extremely hard to find  
14 additional places and we've been working together  
15 well. And I'm optimistic that we'll have you know a  
16 meaningful majority of, of applicants. One thing  
17 that was really fun as you know the Bishop ford  
18 K280 or PS10 program has got to be like the biggest  
19 collection of four year olds in the history of the  
20 planet and they've, it's no surprise with principal  
21 Laura Scott done some really creative things like  
22 there's a science teacher for all the four year-  
23 olds so they have a science room and they're  
24 planting seeds and counting shoes and very exciting  
25 to see what a four year-old science curriculum

2 looks like. But if you have enough of them you... so  
3 I know that's not the model everywhere but it was  
4 very exciting to see. Great to see... make reference  
5 to the expansion of the ASD Nest program which is  
6 you know like you not quite as long as you but I'm  
7 a strong and longtime supporter of. And then third  
8 I do want to just echo what Council Member Chin  
9 said about sexual and reproductive health  
10 educators. I know we're working on it but there's a  
11 long way to go there. I think there's a lot of  
12 places where it's just the P.E. teachers trying to  
13 do what the law now requires. And that's something  
14 that I think we should not only because my wife's a  
15 planned parenthood vice president do better by  
16 because both of my kids have been through pieces of  
17 it and, and that's one I think where we could do  
18 better. But my three quick questions. First on the  
19 framework for great public schools... I'm really  
20 excited about seeing the first reports there  
21 because I think for all the polarized debate which  
22 I certainly have a position on around high stakes  
23 testing the move to that more nuanced and  
24 thoughtful and comprehensive reporting is an  
25 important contribution New York City has to the

2 debate. What can parents in the public expect just  
3 to start seeing? What's the timeline for the  
4 rollout? How are we going to be taught to  
5 understand and make heads or tails of it and use it  
6 in thinking about and understanding our schools?  
7 Second we're very pleased to work with your team on  
8 the school diversity accountability act which the  
9 council adopted yesterday and grateful to you for  
10 working with us and making that commitment. I hope  
11 to provide the data going forward about diversity  
12 in our schools. I know you're starting to look at  
13 and have your team look more broadly at admissions.  
14 We had a forum last night on middle school  
15 admissions in district 15 and I just can't tell you  
16 how much anxiety and frustration comes out whenever  
17 we open that up. What are the next steps in the  
18 process of both making more transparent and  
19 thinking about and improving our admissions  
20 processes. And then finally, and I think maybe this  
21 is the answer you gave to Council Member Rosenthal  
22 but I just want to make sure. My district also is,  
23 has one of these after school programs that was  
24 covered by the 27.7 million. And while I understand  
25 the desire to provide resources to the renewal

2 schools to be sure where we made a commitment to a  
3 school and they made plans for after school seats  
4 we surely should not yank those resources back and  
5 move them around even if to be fair we're giving  
6 them from, you know to a more low income community.  
7 And it's my understanding that's where we are and I  
8 guess I'd like to know we're going to have your  
9 help in making sure people where the school got an  
10 after... a commitment that we're able to restore  
11 those seats.

12 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well let me take the  
13 easy ones first. Certainly we're revisiting the  
14 cuts on the after school so I think you'll see a  
15 resolution soon. Number two last, two weeks ago I  
16 believe we held an all day Saturday conference for  
17 principals based on the framework and what they  
18 will be held accountable to. And that is going to  
19 be coming out as part of the new snapshots. So when  
20 we start reviewing schools next year and evaluating  
21 them we're going to be looking at the capacity  
22 framework. And those are the snapshots that'll be  
23 available to parents so they can look at their  
24 schools. And it's interesting in the capacity  
25 framework the one quality that we now find is the

2 most important is the one that's hard to teach and  
3 that's trust. And when you visit schools it's how  
4 do you know teachers trust principals, principals  
5 trust parents and everyone trusts everybody. So...  
6 [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And it was...  
8 that's the one you sort of added to the Chicago...  
9 [cross-talk]

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...it's crucial...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...detailed  
12 Chicago model and...

13 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Exactly. And we  
14 actually had at the principals conference, over a  
15 thousand principals showed up on a Saturday. We had  
16 the guest speaker who wrote the book, Doctor Gomez  
17 explaining what are some of the things that we need  
18 to do, we need to do this carefully but principals  
19 are being evaluated by their superintendents as of  
20 this year already on the framework. And that...  
21 [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And when will  
23 those first snapshots, I guess what's the first  
24 thing the public or... [cross-talk]

25 CHANCELLOR FARINA: The snapshots...



2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...and the parents  
3 are... and when...

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Snapshots will be...  
5 I'll have to get back to you Brad. I'm not exactly  
6 sure but I know we're working on that now. The  
7 problem is that we have so many state mandated  
8 things now between the MOSLs and everything else.  
9 But this is going to be the way we're evaluating  
10 schools. I want to not, I want to make sure I get  
11 back to the enrollment issue and to the diversity  
12 issue. I've been going around the city explaining  
13 to superintendents... and again our districts is one  
14 of the ones that parents also make judgments about  
15 middle schools in particular without visiting  
16 schools. And we need to start looking at all the  
17 schools in the neighborhood and start seeing which  
18 of the ones that are called the hidden treasures.  
19 One of the schools, Jillian School just by making  
20 it an international baccalaureate and having the  
21 elementary schools visit now has an additional 30  
22 students starting there in September. What we will  
23 now have under this new structure, much more of an  
24 alliance between elementary schools and middle  
25 schools. We did not have, we lost feeder patterns

2 in the last three years. We lost the ability for  
3 middle school principals and elementary school  
4 principals to talk to each other. So I'm hoping  
5 that one of the things that is going to help us  
6 with enrollment is to make all our middle schools  
7 strong and it can only happen when those  
8 conversations start going. So that's, that's not  
9 the easy answer. It's one of the many approaches.  
10 But also now superintendents I've been asked to  
11 make them play a much stronger role in what does a  
12 middle school curriculum look like, how do they,  
13 evaluating teachers. Things after too long have  
14 been kind of ignored.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
17 you Council Member Lander. We will have Council  
18 Member Treyger followed by Council Member Rose and  
19 then Council Member Reynoso.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you  
21 Chairs. Welcome Chancellor. Over here. It was  
22 great... It's okay. It was great to have you in  
23 District 21 recently at the PS216 edible garden.  
24 The staff and the kids really enjoyed your visit. I  
25 hope you enjoyed seeing all the... [cross-talk]

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I enjoyed it very  
3 much.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...all the plants  
5 and, and the, and the chickens. It was a great,  
6 great...

7 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Edible garden. I  
8 want to give them a plug because it's really  
9 something unbelievable.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.  
11 Thank you Chancellor. I, I just wanted just to  
12 quickly jump back to what the Chair Dromm mentioned  
13 before just to be, just to get clarity on this. And  
14 as a former teacher myself I kind of know that  
15 we've gone through a series of changes in teacher  
16 evaluation systems. Do we even know, I don't know  
17 if you have you know numbers with you how much it  
18 cost to implement the last teacher evaluation  
19 system, not even including the professional  
20 development that they're still doing while we're on  
21 the verge of implementing a new one? And was that  
22 budgeted in the state budget when they just passed  
23 the cost of putting on localities like ours in  
24 implementation of a new system plus all the  
25 professional development that has to go with it?

2 Was that even factored in? Do we have that  
3 information?

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: We don't have that  
5 but that's one of the reasons why I want to get  
6 into more discussion with the state. New York City  
7 took the original mandates very seriously and we  
8 moved quickly on something.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yeah.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: So we have invested  
11 a lot of money. I don't have the exact figure but  
12 it's a lot of money. And our hope is that that will  
13 be taken into account on the state when they look  
14 at any new things that we already far ahead..

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I mean I was a  
16 staff developer in my high school. And I worked in,  
17 in my teacher center. And I had to turn key to  
18 staff every week about Danielson and about MOSL and  
19 MOTP and the 22 points. And we're spending so much  
20 time and energy on that and now we're on the verge  
21 of an entirely new system with no funding to.. And  
22 that, that's really an outreach, I have to say. And  
23 it's really just, that's... but Chancellor I also  
24 want to..

25

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And Council Member  
3 Treyger... I think it's the fourth time in four years  
4 that we have seen a chance in the evaluation  
5 process without any support financial from the  
6 state and then the whole ridiculousness of the, the  
7 question of the evaluations anyway and what does it  
8 mean you know moving forward when you change the  
9 system so frequently.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I mean we have  
11 to meet federal state standards, city standards,  
12 common core, Danielson, you name it. But I'm not...  
13 this... so...

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Now let me be clear.  
15 Over the last three years we spent over a hundred  
16 million dollars on state mandated evaluations. Our  
17 feeling is and again I've said this publically that  
18 we are holding people to a higher standard. If you  
19 look now at the number of teachers in New York City  
20 compared to the rest of the state that have been  
21 rated ineffective it's higher than the rest of the  
22 state. So it works. I, I, am particularly fond of  
23 Danielson I think it's something that has really  
24 helped us look at schools in a very specific way.  
25 But I understand your concerns.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And Chancellor  
3 and you know that it takes time to implement a new  
4 system. But when you keep changing it year after  
5 year after year then you, you defeat the purpose.  
6 And it seems to be that there's a self-fulfilling  
7 prophesy on the part of some so-called leaders who  
8 probably want to see public schools fail and we're  
9 not going to stand for that. I, I also just want to  
10 say Chancellor as we're big supporters of CTE,  
11 Career Technical Education Programs. But I've also  
12 learned that schools are not automatically CTE.  
13 They have to go through a process to become  
14 certified to become CTE. And that process includes  
15 having teachers and educators and staff become  
16 certified in that, in CTE. So, but that's been a  
17 challenge because there's certain space  
18 requirements in a school which not always is, is  
19 there and you know what is being done Chancellor to  
20 increase capacity throughout our school systems  
21 particularly in areas that you know to me again I,  
22 I... back to schools like, like Grady and other  
23 schools in South Brooklyn that are... The previous  
24 administration, we're calling them failures but  
25 these kids were building homes... things what are we

2 doing to build capacity in schools increase the  
3 number of certified CTE staff and have more  
4 certified CTE programs in neighborhoods I represent  
5 as well.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well  
7 first of all CTE is one of my top three priorities.  
8 Within the next two to three weeks we will be  
9 announcing a new person who's coming into head the  
10 CT work. We're working very closely with Cathy Wile  
11 [sp?] on the partnership for New York because we  
12 really need the business community to be on board  
13 with CTE. The biggest struggle right now for CTE  
14 and increasing it is exactly what you said. We need  
15 certified teachers and also we need people who have  
16 certified credentials without being teachers. For  
17 example if you're learning to be a plumber and an  
18 electrician we need plumbers and electricians and  
19 nurses to work hand in hand with our certified  
20 teachers. I just went to Bronx building and design  
21 CTE they're building a house inside the building,  
22 literally a house in the building.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Just like in  
24 Grady [sp?].

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yeah and now they're  
3 trying to figure out how do they take that house  
4 and take it apart and make it a modular house so  
5 they can raise money to continue doing their  
6 program. So our hope, CTE is usually funded more  
7 than one percent.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Right.

9 CHANCELLOR FARINA: We're lucky to see  
10 if the state will fund us at the appropriate level  
11 because you need to buy the materials and so forth.  
12 But it's certainly something we're working... Cathy  
13 Wile [sp?] is helping us. And we're also getting a  
14 lot more support from the business community. And I  
15 do think this will be something you'll see a lot of  
16 growth in the next two years.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you  
18 Chancellor. Thanks Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
20 you Council Member Treyger. We have Council Member  
21 Rose followed by Council Member Reynoso followed by  
22 Council Member Cornegy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you Chair.  
24 And it's now good afternoon Chancellor. And my  
25 issues are, are usually around access. And I just



2 want to sort of reiterate Council Member King's  
3 request as it was a Black and Latino Asian Caucus  
4 initiative and request about the 825, 825 million  
5 dollars for the SSAL thousand, I'm sorry thousand.  
6 We would, we would love it to be million.  
7 [laughter] We'd, we really would appreciate a  
8 follow-up on, on that, that request. And I want to  
9 thank Council Member Rosenthal for drilling down on  
10 a Medicaid reimbursement issue because for me that  
11 is a very important part of access for services for  
12 our special needs community. So recent tests show  
13 that more than 90 percent of the students with  
14 disabilities are not proficient in reading. This  
15 percentage does not include students with  
16 significant disabilities who are exempt from these  
17 state tests. Fiscal 2016 preliminary plan included  
18 655 thousand dollars in new needs funding for  
19 literacy training for teachers including those who  
20 work with students with dyslexia. How will DOE use  
21 this funding? How many teachers will be trained?  
22 And how many schools? And is there a plan to build  
23 capacity in the schools across the city to improve  
24 literacy rates for students with disabilities? And  
25 if so could you share that plan with us?

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yes one of the  
3 things I've asked Deputy Chancellor Runlo [sp?] and  
4 Selmy [sp?] is to really have a much more focused  
5 approach to early literacy. And as a result we've  
6 entered into a contract with Manhattanville College  
7 who does, is one of the few universities that is  
8 working on the issues of literacy through special  
9 grants. So we are going to be sending teachers to  
10 be specifically trained on issues of dyslexia. And  
11 they're not specifically classroom teachers.  
12 They're going to be what we call turnkey teachers.  
13 Teachers who will be trained who then will train  
14 others. And we've asked principals and  
15 superintendents to nominate people for this program  
16 and we'll be starting this summer. And if we see  
17 it's successful then we'll increase that. So we've  
18 put money aside for that. We've also very  
19 consciously said that we want an early grade  
20 starting in kindergarten certain approaches to  
21 literacy such as foundations... you know things that  
22 we know work the phonics and... awareness. So that's  
23 part of the work that we're doing at renewal  
24 schools but it's good for all schools.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And for students  
3 who are on artistic spectrum who are in general ed  
4 classes, it's, it's very difficult for them to  
5 meet, make the grade without enhanced instruction.  
6 Are there plans for targeting I know there's a  
7 program, a nest program which for me on Staten  
8 Island there doesn't seem to be enough spaces to  
9 accommodate the need and, an I am especially upset  
10 about the fact that students from the north shore  
11 are not being accepted into the nest program. And  
12 I'm wondering you know if that's just strictly due  
13 to the fact that there are not enough seats to meet  
14 the need. And if so is there money in the budget to  
15 build more programs and if so I definitely want... in  
16 my district because my students are not being  
17 served.

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well let me be  
19 clear. There are two programs that serve these  
20 students, there's nest and Horizons and there are  
21 Horizons throughout all the cities. In Staten  
22 Island in particular you have one of the highest  
23 rates of paraprofessionals who are supposed to be  
24 doing some... So what we've decided to do is target  
25 specific training to paraprofessionals so they are

2 more prepared to serve these needs. Because in  
3 quite often a para is a one to one para who almost  
4 becomes just babysitter. We're trying to train them  
5 in things like great leaps and other intervention  
6 programs that will think, that I think will be much  
7 more helpful in working with the kids. And we've  
8 made Staten Island one of the key places that we're  
9 working on because of that high number.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay so, so you're  
11 going to use that approach as opposed to...

12 CHANCELLOR FARINA: As one of many.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...putting more  
14 programs or like a nest program.

15 RAY ORLANDO: If I may? Yeah when  
16 there's a, an additional 16 million dollars  
17 including the executive budget for expansion, for  
18 additional 37 classes on top of 20 we were already  
19 planning to open in '16 for ASD NEST and Horizon  
20 programs... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I hope  
22 one is in my district.

23 RAY ORLANDO: I'm sorry I didn't bring  
24 that information but I hear you loud and clear.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'm not letting  
3 you out of here until... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
5 you Council Member Rose. We will have...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...Council  
8 Member Reynoso followed by Council Member Cornegy  
9 followed by Council Member Williams

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you  
11 chairs and Chancellor for being here. I'm going to  
12 try to be as quick as possible. The DOE's budget  
13 includes 7.1 million in fiscal year 2016 and in the  
14 out years for 63 additional guidance counsellors to  
15 high needs schools. While I think this is a step in  
16 the right direction I always think that regarding  
17 guidance counsellors we can do more especially when  
18 it comes to college readiness as well. We passed  
19 intro 403 to get a lot of new information from the  
20 department of education and we want to thank you  
21 for the information that we have received. And I  
22 already got some maps. But because of low budget in  
23 the city council we didn't get them in color. But I  
24 still want to give these to you. If I can get a  
25 Sergeant at Arms to come here very quickly, sorry.

2 I should have given them to you earlier. Can you  
3 just give one to each? Thank you. Yeah to, to them.  
4 Would you guys... You're going to have to share.  
5 We're low on... So this is our first attempt at  
6 trying to, we got a lot of information, a lot of  
7 data. We met with the Department of Education and  
8 they themselves just had received the data given  
9 that it was the first time these, this was being  
10 reported on. So all we have is data. So what we're  
11 trying to do is put it together. The first map  
12 shows that the schools that have no counsellors.  
13 And as you can see is that most of them are  
14 predominately minority schools and schools of high  
15 ELLs. Every single one except one is most, is 80  
16 percent minority or higher. And one of them even  
17 has a ELL population of 80, 80 percent. So there's  
18 a correlation we're starting to build here  
19 especially regarding schools that don't have any  
20 guidance counsellors. The second map which is the  
21 one where the color would be more appropriate.  
22 We're just seeing shades of grey here. But it shows  
23 the schools that have a ratio of students to  
24 guidance counsellors and the average is 376  
25 students to one guidance counsellor. But as you can

2 see all these schools that are in the darker grey  
3 to black have ratios higher than 500 students to  
4 one. And we think that that's a huge issue. And  
5 want to know if we, if we can talk more generally  
6 about a guidance counsellor plan or whether we're  
7 letting that be addressed by principals or whether  
8 the Department of Education has a plan as to  
9 whether or not they're important and that's going  
10 to be my only question.

11 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay well let me be  
12 clear. We've done several things. Because I'm a  
13 firm believer in guidance counselors but I want to  
14 say that it's guidance counsellors/social workers  
15 many schools prefer a social worker to a guidance  
16 counsellor because social workers have the unique  
17 training to work with families and go into visits,  
18 homes... means guidance counsellors can't but the  
19 social workers have that as an established  
20 training. So in this past year we have now dropped  
21 to one, and I'm not saying it's enough I'm just  
22 saying it's a statistic one to every 260 kids if  
23 you factor guidance counsellors and social workers  
24 together. We've also created an office of guidance  
25 which didn't exist before. It was so soon... are

2 there offices I know you've been working, we're  
3 looking to expand that office as well and.. one of  
4 the main offices that's going to be in each borough  
5 office. That's going, there's going to be that to  
6 ensure that that principals have the support they  
7 need to train the guidance counsellors. The other  
8 thing is I've been meeting with the deans of  
9 universities to make sure that they're training  
10 more guidance counsellors and social workers for a  
11 long time because schools have the option not to  
12 hire these categories. Schools of education or, did  
13 not train enough of them for the services that we  
14 need. Every community school was told that one of  
15 the things they must do as part of the community  
16 school is have either a social worker or a guidance  
17 counsellor. So this is a priority of ours. It's  
18 only was a priority from the budget place. And if  
19 we should get more money from the state it would  
20 certainly be one of the places that we put that. So  
21 yes I agree with you. It's something we're work on.  
22 And I want to be clear that it's not just about our  
23 guidance counsellor. It's a well highly qualified  
24 guidance counsellor. So part of what we've done  
25 this year is done a lot more training of guidance



2 counsellors and how they might better serve  
3 different communities but particularly communities  
4 that have a lot of social issues.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Yeah

6 absolutely. And, and I just want to say we also  
7 have information regarding schools that do like  
8 college preparedness that is, that is not guidance  
9 counsellor related. And we know of a school that  
10 has 10 college preparedness, preparatory I guess  
11 counsellors that are not guidance counsellors but  
12 that school has almost 100 percent college  
13 enrollment for the students. And I just want to say  
14 that you know I don't think it's by chance there's  
15 obviously resources being put to kids who go to  
16 college. And then we're seeing results so...

17 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yeah and keep in

18 mind also that many high school principals are  
19 hiring outside consultants to help with the college  
20 education process. Some of our schools, there are  
21 certain networks of schools that have resources  
22 within the network that they, schools but I, I hear  
23 what you're saying.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank

25 you Council Member Reynoso. We'll have Council

2 Member Cornegy followed by Council Member Williams  
3 and then Council Member Levine and that will end  
4 our first round. We just have a few members on the  
5 second round.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you  
7 Chairs. And good morning Chancellor. I, before I  
8 begin my questions I just wanted to thank you  
9 publically for the work around Avonte's law [sp?].  
10 It, the law itself was implemented in record time.  
11 The money was allocated in record time an you may  
12 know that on June 1<sup>st</sup> we'll be cutting the ribbons  
13 for the first instillations I hope I can count on  
14 you to be there to share in that very special  
15 moment to ensure the safety of youngsters going  
16 forward and the city in a different way than it's  
17 ever been before. So I'm going to thank you for  
18 that. I would be remiss if I didn't say as a  
19 product of the public school athletic league my  
20 support for the small school athletic league. I sit  
21 before you as a product of them not only  
22 athletically but academically and socially. It  
23 provided an environment and a safe place for me to,  
24 to grow figuratively and literally. So I, I would  
25 be remiss if I didn't mention that. So my question

2 is about renewal schools of which I have one very  
3 public renewal school in boys and girls high school  
4 in my district. So I just wanted to know of the, so  
5 108 million dollars has been allocated for renewal  
6 schools in different facets. But the breakdown is a  
7 little confusing to me and I want to know of the  
8 108 million in funds to renewal schools in the DOE  
9 budget. How much is going directly to the schools?  
10 And how much is going to central administration.  
11 Because the way that it looks is that it's a little  
12 top heavy on the spending as it relates to  
13 administration above what the, what the students  
14 are going to get. And we expect, we had a  
15 reasonable expectation that those renewal schools  
16 would provide a new and fresh environment with wrap  
17 around services for our students.

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yep. Well first of  
19 all if you give money to schools and they don't  
20 know how to spend it or they're not trained in  
21 spending it wisely it's, it's money that goes down  
22 the drain. So I want to be very clear that the  
23 first way that we spent money is putting in place  
24 and every superintendent-cy a renewal support  
25 director, someone who's highly trained on

2 intervention strategies, someone who's trained on  
3 budgets, someone who's trained to work with each  
4 principal and develop, help them develop a renewal  
5 plan. Schools will get money but they're not get  
6 money like X number of kids you get x amount of  
7 money. They have to develop a plan. It's due June  
8 19<sup>th</sup>. After June 19<sup>th</sup> on June 22<sup>nd</sup> we're meeting with  
9 all of them to help them revise and edit. And the  
10 guidelines which I'm happy to give you a copy of  
11 what the renewal plan looks like very clearly  
12 states what do you see as your major problems, how  
13 do you expect to address them and how was the money  
14 you're going to get suited for this purpose. So  
15 having spent money on the renewal support directors  
16 means also that they will be doing the staff  
17 development for the teachers. One of the things  
18 that we saw that was almost uniform for all the  
19 schools; they need to improve their attendance,  
20 they need to improve their parent engagement. They  
21 need to improve their professional development for  
22 teachers. So the money that's spent is not for  
23 extra bodies pushing papers but it's for bodies  
24 that are going into schools and helping the  
25 principals and the teachers with that. And Boys and

2 Girls High for example one of the things that we  
3 were able to do is give them targeted instruction  
4 as the principal directed for the areas that he  
5 perceived as weakness in the building. So will the  
6 schools get more money? Yes. Will they have to  
7 develop a plan first to get it? Absolutely. We have  
8 for too long we've given money to solve problems.  
9 We want to find out what the issues are how they're  
10 going to deal with it and then we will give them  
11 the money.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you that,  
13 that clears it up a great deal. So do you, do you  
14 have a specific plan to decrease class size in the  
15 renewal schools, DOE's data shows that 60 percent  
16 of renewal schools have at least some classes with  
17 30 or more students. Is, is there, is there a...

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: That will be part of  
19 the renewal plan. We are seeing also one of the  
20 renewal schools is going just the opposite, has a  
21 larger class size but then, then having small group  
22 instruction of three to four kids pending on their  
23 needs. So we want to see how principals are  
24 choosing to make these decisions then we'll support  
25 them. The other thing that is going to happen that

2 each of these schools is going to have an extended  
3 day. So part of the money that we have for these  
4 schools will be to pay the teachers for the extra  
5 hour. All renewal schools will have an additional  
6 hour of instruction. So they're going to go from  
7 the sixth, six hour 20 minute day to a seven hour  
8 20 minute day and this is part of what some of that  
9 expense will also cover.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: And then lastly  
11 what is the evaluation process for the renewal  
12 schools initiative. Can you walk us through,  
13 through those steps. And I'm, I'm asking because  
14 earlier you mentioned that is not your goal or  
15 intention to close schools but in some instances...

16 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Oh no they have to  
17 show progress, they have to show progress o, on  
18 several data points. One of them is student  
19 attendance and how they improve student attendance.  
20 You can't get kids to become better students if  
21 they're not in school. So what is your projection?  
22 I was in a school last week in the Bronx where the  
23 principal wants to see a three percent student  
24 attendance increase. So those are targets they're  
25 setting. Also the number of teachers who are going

2 to be moving from ineffective either they're not in  
3 the building or they will be, more teachers who are  
4 rated effective is another data point that we're  
5 looking at. We're also looking... parent engagement.  
6 Do you have more parents attending parent  
7 workshops? Do you have more parents coming in to  
8 talk to teachers? Are teachers connecting with more  
9 parents? Another way we're evaluating the schools  
10 is the use of the community based organization.  
11 Many of our schools that are renewal schools have a  
12 very large homeless population, special needs, so  
13 how are we helping them meet the needs of these  
14 data points or we're going to be evaluating this on  
15 a year to year basis and ultimately it has to be  
16 student achievement. Are we making sure that more  
17 of our second graders are on target then? More of  
18 our seventh graders are ready to go to middle  
19 school. So this is all being written up in a plan  
20 that has to be followed by every single school.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
22 you...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you.

24

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...Council  
3 Member Cornegy. We will now have Council Member  
4 Williams followed by Council Member Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you to  
6 both of the chairs. Thank you Chancellor. First I  
7 just want to say thank you very much. You, just  
8 been refreshing working with you. It's clear how  
9 much you care about the schools and the students  
10 and all the issues that I've brought to attention  
11 you have diligently responded to and I'm very happy  
12 about that. I probably will be bringing some more  
13 shortly. But thank you for the responses so far. I  
14 had a couple of questions. Two I wanted to talk  
15 about the pro schools. How... one I've always been  
16 trying to figure out you know what's working with  
17 charter schools... on how we can bring some of the  
18 things that are working back. I don't know if this  
19 is maybe our response to that of lightening up,  
20 giving away for them to be a little more flexible.  
21 Can you talk about that a little while. Is it  
22 costing, can you talk about that some, is it  
23 costing extra funding how do you identify the  
24 schools and how can a school say I want to try to  
25 be a pro school.



2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well a pro school is  
3 by application and a pro school needs to have 65  
4 percent of teachers who are willing to make the  
5 changes in the school. It's not our answer to  
6 anything. It's our answer to our own concerns. One  
7 of the things that I as a teacher always felt, I  
8 stayed as a classroom teacher for 22 years which is  
9 a very long time because I had principals who let  
10 me kind of do my own thing which in today's world  
11 might not be necessarily following all the rules.  
12 So my feeling is that if there are teachers in  
13 schools who want to head in a different direction  
14 or try something new they should have the freedom  
15 to do it as long as the principal's also in, on  
16 board. And on, as are the parents. So we put in an  
17 application what would you like to differently in  
18 your school that either the work rules are not  
19 there for you or the DOE rules are not there. So  
20 for example I'll tell you three that I think are  
21 outstanding and one of the pro schools the teachers  
22 voted and with the principal thinking it was a  
23 great idea to work a four day week. Now the kids  
24 come to school five days but the teachers come four  
25 days and they rotate it but they work longer every

2 day. So that means that they almost have an  
3 extended day as part of the regular day. But they  
4 needed 65 percent of the vote. In another school  
5 principal and teachers decided that some of the,  
6 the neediest students would benefit from Saturday  
7 classes. And rather than pay teachers extra the  
8 teachers could sort of bank their hours and not  
9 work some hours during the week and they could work  
10 on Saturdays. We've encouraged people to do that.  
11 We also have schools that decided that they wanted  
12 to try, one of the schools I went to this week that  
13 we announced one of the pros that they want to put  
14 two classes in a classroom together. They have a  
15 ninth and a tenth grade in the class together, a  
16 chemistry and a physics class where the older kids  
17 are working with the younger kids and then the kids  
18 that are pulled up in small groups are the kids who  
19 need extra support. So this is something that might  
20 not be contractual in nature but if the teachers  
21 think this is going to work in their school and  
22 they're all on board with it then we want to give  
23 them the freedom to be creative and do what they  
24 need to do. And another school I went to the  
25 principal decided to have again larger class size

2 but with four teachers in a classroom. And each of  
3 the four teachers takes a cohort of students and,  
4 and the cohort is not struggling kids only but it's  
5 also kids who are over achievers in that area so  
6 that they can meet the needs of the students. So we  
7 want people to be creative. The only thing that we  
8 asked in the pros is that they be willing to share  
9 whatever they learn with other schools. The same  
10 thing with learning partners. You'll have to be  
11 willing to collaborate with others and say this is  
12 what we did, this is how we did it.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So there's no  
14 specific cap, any school can apply?

15 CHANCELLOR FARINA: We were hoping to  
16 have 200 schools over a five year period. We're  
17 almost going to be reaching 200 schools at the end  
18 of this year. So there is no, the cap is simply,  
19 where is the interest. I think as more, as more  
20 people see this as an option I think with anything  
21 new when it comes out people are afraid to try. We  
22 had 64 schools last year that apply, that, that  
23 received it. This year we had over 100 that applied  
24 and the ones that received it were announced this  
25 week. But again any of you want to visit a pro

2 school and hear the process. The other thing is to  
3 do what we call transformers... leadership. The  
4 principal doesn't have to be the one that makes  
5 decisions. And that's why this is I think  
6 different, whatever exists. This is a community  
7 effort to change something in a building that  
8 everybody agrees is the right way to go.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. In  
10 my last few seconds I just wanted to piggyback on  
11 some things that I haven't talked about already as  
12 a member of the Black Latino Asian Cacaos. I'm  
13 thankful that Andy King brought to our attention  
14 the issues of the SSLA and we all believe it to be  
15 important and did fund it. And so I, I along with  
16 my colleagues are very concerned that it seems that  
17 it has not gone where we need it to. There are  
18 students apparently who are older than allowed to  
19 play but some places you can play. It's very  
20 confusing. But I, I think we believe we funded some  
21 things. And the thing we funded to fix has not been  
22 fixed and so we'd really like to find out...

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well we are  
24 working.....

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: ...where that  
3 funding is going. [cross-talk]

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: But again let me be  
5 clear safety is always going to come first they  
6 need to be licensed teachers, they need to be  
7 bonded, liability issues need to be taken care of  
8 but this is not an issue that I'm ignoring by any  
9 stretch of the imagination.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very  
11 much. I'd like to get information of how they can  
12 get walked through that process if that's what the  
13 issue is. But I really appreciate the testimony.  
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
16 you Council Member Williams. We will have Council  
17 Member Levine followed by Council Member Miller.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Chair  
19 Ferreras-Copeland. Hello Chancellor, nice to see  
20 you. I want to follow-up on Chairman Dromm's other  
21 questions on special ed specifically on the  
22 committees for special education, CSEs, which have  
23 an expansive mandate as I understand it that  
24 include not only evaluating kids from traditional  
25 DOE schools but also from private and pro schools

2 from charter schools from UPK I believe including  
3 CBL based. That's, that's a big work load. Do you  
4 know how many CSE teams we have to handle such an  
5 expansive mandate?

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I don't have the  
7 exact number but you can get a few but it is one of  
8 the issues that we're in constant communication  
9 with you on. I understand there's a request to  
10 increase the numbers. I think one of the things  
11 that's going to help us is that we're restructuring  
12 where they sit and what they do. In the past they  
13 have been spread out throughout the whole city  
14 between clusters and now we're going to have them  
15 at the borough regional offices so there's going to  
16 be a much more concentrated way to be able to  
17 provide those services.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: So we, we hear  
19 stories of, of backlogs and delays and every one of  
20 those school settings that often stretch months and  
21 months into the school year, I believe the state  
22 mandate is 60 days. And there's, there's an  
23 educational impact here if the kid's not getting  
24 evaluated. I'm, I know you know that. And this is  
25 the origin of our urgency. Do the CSE teams

2 specialize in either DOE schools or... schools versus  
3 private or are they all serving...

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Generally we, we  
5 don't have them all together but I will tell you  
6 that the 60 day rule has been pretty much, has been  
7 improved a lot over the last year and a half. So we  
8 know that, that pre-k has added an extra stress to  
9 this so we're looking to see how we can really  
10 serve that. And also keeping in mind that a lot of  
11 these issues are developmental in nature. So what's  
12 an issue that really... right away or what's  
13 something that a four year old may not be expected  
14 to do. So we're, we're... [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: So there's,  
16 there's, there's backlogs in all kinds of schools  
17 and our city council's response to the mayor's  
18 preliminary budget we actually prioritize adding 50  
19 new CSE teams particularly our response identified  
20 the backlogs and UPK and charters. I think there's  
21 back logs everywhere but just want to flag those as  
22 probably being the worst.

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: And again if there's  
24 specific issues because I've been, I think very  
25 responsive when city council people ask... know of

2 schools where the backlog is great? Just sending me  
3 a email or talking to someone on my staff I'm happy  
4 to follow up immediately.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Right.

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Because we certainly  
7 do have a, a charting process that we use at the  
8 DOE. But if there's specific issues I'm happy to  
9 look into them.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Great. I just  
11 want to use my remaining time to ask you about an  
12 issue, a passion that you and I share which is for  
13 foreign language education or world language  
14 education. You've been wonderfully outspoken on  
15 this. And as you know as a person who learned that  
16 at least one additional language younger children  
17 are sponges for languages. It's almost effortless  
18 really before they hit puberty. And then it becomes  
19 very tough, you can do it but easier when they're  
20 young. And in New York City in most school systems  
21 the overwhelming amount of foreign language  
22 education occurs in high school or maybe in seventh  
23 or eighth grade which is really backwards from when  
24 the priority is... Can, do you have a vision at all  
25 of ramping up particularly in the elementary school



2 years the foreign language education. You've talked  
3 about bilingual programs, dual language programs  
4 which I'm also a big fan of but I wonder if even  
5 beyond that for the general ed population.

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: In, in my dream for  
7 New York City everyone would speak a minimum of two  
8 languages, in my dream.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Amen.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: But the reality is  
11 that we run into several problems. And one is the  
12 lack of trained teachers in teaching foreign  
13 languages. I've asked all universities in my wish  
14 list of three things they should all work harder  
15 at, how can they train teachers in second  
16 languages. For example there were a group of  
17 parents this year in Williamsburg who want Japanese  
18 dual language. One of the things that we said is  
19 that we need X number of kids who speak Japanese  
20 versus kids who speak only English who want to  
21 learn Japanese. And these parents very diligently  
22 went out and they found me a teacher. They, they  
23 found, they, we needed a principal who was open to  
24 this idea. So yes that would be a hope of mine I  
25 think in terms of foreign language and early grades

2 for principals who have enough students in a  
3 building. It's the same way you would hire a  
4 science teacher, an art teacher, you could hire a  
5 foreign language teacher. But again getting those  
6 that are dually certified on that is not as easy as  
7 it would seem. So I think raising the awareness,  
8 and I think we've reached a tipping point to New  
9 York in the last year and a half where more parents  
10 want foreign language. And if they sit on SLT  
11 committees that's something they should be asking  
12 for.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
15 you Council Member. We'll have Council Member  
16 Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam  
18 Chair and thank you to the co-chair. And Chancellor  
19 good to see you again. Okay I want, just want some  
20 clarification on the sappis [sp?] counsellors. We  
21 know that they're, those numbers have been  
22 diminishing while problems in the schools and  
23 communities have grown I see some additional  
24 allocations but I want to know exactly where we'll  
25 find them in the budget line and where, and what

2 they would ultimately translate into in terms of  
3 actual positions.

4 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I can get... Ray  
5 will give you the numbers because we are increasing  
6 this year. I would say that one of the high  
7 priorities for the use of sappis [sp?] workers  
8 going forth is going to be in areas of the city  
9 where we see an increase in drugs and gang  
10 involvement. So that's certainly something that I'm  
11 seriously looking at. So where they will be  
12 assigned may be different than we've done in the  
13 past. They may be more borough based but the idea,  
14 but there will be more money for them and I'll let  
15 Ray...

16 RAY ORLANDO: Hi, yeah there were 237  
17 sappis [sp?] workers in the current year and we  
18 received funding in the executive budget at  
19 additional four million dollars for 50 additional  
20 sappis [sp?] workers. And half of those will be  
21 placed in renewal schools and the balance in other  
22 schools that need them.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So they'll be  
24 strategically planned based on what the chancellor  
25 said and not necessarily in the renewals?

2 RAY ORLANDO: Some will be in renewals  
3 and some will be in, where, in other places where  
4 they're needed.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay thank you.  
6 So I want to talk about some of the college  
7 readiness and those targeted populations such as in  
8 the, the young man's initiative and so forth. Are  
9 there anything outside of that and, that we're  
10 looking at and improving the numbers in preparing  
11 our young men particularly of color, Latino, black  
12 and Latino for college and higher education as well  
13 as, and if so what are we doing and what are we  
14 anticipating in the upcoming budget?

15 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I think one of  
16 the things that we're doing is making sure that  
17 every high school has a plan for students but also  
18 paying for PSAT testing and SAT testing for  
19 students so that the money is not what keeps them  
20 from thinking about college. We've actually  
21 encouraged a lot more college prep in middle  
22 school. It's too late to start thinking about  
23 college in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. It needs to start in middle  
24 school. So what we've encouraged middle school  
25 principals... And we've been doing a lot of training

2 around the city on this. How do you start talking  
3 about college... now if you go to many of our schools  
4 you'll see classrooms are named after universities.  
5 We've asked middle school principals to start  
6 taking students to visit campuses. We've asked all  
7 our universities to do some work on campus for  
8 middle school students. So it's not about starting  
9 in high school, it's how you start earlier. And  
10 also how do you even have workshops for parents on  
11 how do you talk to your child about college. When  
12 we did parent workshops this year at Tweed, one of  
13 the best attended workshops for parents is how do  
14 you discuss college without thinking about the  
15 money. You know how do you get your child ready. So  
16 I think we're doing a pretty good job. We can  
17 always do better but the whole college ready has to  
18 start very young and cannot wait till high school.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Are we, are we  
20 looking at... Are we targeting a particular  
21 demographic in doing so?

22 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well we have the  
23 certainly the black and Latino emphasis on males.  
24 So we have special programs for them. We have a lot  
25 of initiatives that we're doing through the big

2 brother program, the dream program... so there are a  
3 lot of programs that are being targeted certainly  
4 with our community school initiative a lot of it is  
5 based in that direction. I think the one thing that  
6 we might have missed the boat in the past, no one's  
7 fault, it's just something that certainly needs a  
8 course correction is that we haven't brought  
9 parents to the conversation early enough. And  
10 certainly when I go out there because I've done  
11 about 30 town hall meetings this year one of the  
12 things I talk a lot about to parents is don't think  
13 of college in terms of I can't afford it but how do  
14 you get your kids ready to be college ready so that  
15 we have to figure out how you get there. So I think  
16 a lot of it has been turning parents into active  
17 supporters and also that they'll be in a better  
18 place if their kids go to college versus if they  
19 just go into the workforce. And a lot of our CTO  
20 programs are also not, not just going into the  
21 workforce with low paying jobs but how do you get  
22 there with the higher pay. So we're doing it not  
23 just with kids but how do you get parents involved  
24 in early enough.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay great that,  
3 that, that is a great answer. So I'm going to take  
4 the liberty of talking specifically about one of  
5 the districts that I rep, school districts that I  
6 represent. And we have one gifted and talented  
7 elementary school which is, which is phenomenal but  
8 we don't have a transition middle school for them.  
9 So we end up losing those best minds to other  
10 communities. And obviously it, it has an impact on  
11 the entire system there. What would you suggest  
12 and, and strategically would it be more elementary  
13 and then transition if the middle schools..

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: What district is  
15 this?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: 20, 29.

17 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I think a discussion  
18 with the superintendent to see where these flows  
19 matter is good. And keep in mind that in middle  
20 schools what we've been encouraging principals to  
21 think about; honors programs, AP courses, and so  
22 forth. So certainly having you know a conversation  
23 with Lynn Murray about where he sees that happening  
24 and how it could happening and how it could happen.  
25 I'm happy to discuss..

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1 EDUCATION

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yeah actually  
3 we, we do. I have a great young man that's a  
4 liaison and he kind of brought that back and we  
5 will speak with MR. Murray about that. Thanks so  
6 much for your time.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
8 you Council Member Miller. We will now have the  
9 final council member on the first round Council  
10 Member Deutsch.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.  
12 Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you Chair Dromm. And  
13 good afternoon Chancellor. I understand that  
14 there's currently a cap on the charter schools. I  
15 currently have a few meetings with charter schools  
16 within my district and I, what I need to know is,  
17 is that over the next couple of years we're going  
18 to be having, we have major construction, new  
19 development throughout my district with thousands  
20 of new residents are moving in. And I did have a  
21 brief conversation with DOE regarding the school  
22 within my district which most of the schools, many  
23 schools are either full capacity overcrowded. So  
24 there is no room for new residents, new children to  
25 be able to go to neighborhood schools within,



2 within their, within where, you know areas where  
3 they reside. So when I have meetings with my  
4 charter schools what do I tell my charter schools?  
5 That I'm sorry you know I support the public  
6 schools or do I go ahead with the charter schools  
7 and say no we need charter schools because I need  
8 to prepare for the future because we will get some  
9 relief from these charter schools for all the new  
10 construction that these thousands and thousands of  
11 residents that are moving into my district. So what  
12 is your plan for the future throughout the city and  
13 a particular of, in my district.

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well what district...

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: District 48

16 which is home crest... Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan  
17 Beach... Beach... Village, and... Towers.

18 CHANCELLOR FARINA: No 48... no the...

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: 48<sup>th</sup> Council  
20 District.

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I'm sorry...

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: In Brooklyn.

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: School district.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Oh school

25 district is 21 and 22 I have.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay well I mean  
3 there are spaces there. I believe the cap is  
4 exactly where it needs to be right now the same way  
5 that you would build a charter school you can build  
6 a public school. So in terms of where we need the  
7 space it's certainly, I've been to both of those  
8 districts a number of times and I do think that in  
9 terms of growth and development we can probably  
10 satisfy but if there's more need we can do it. But  
11 at, in my opinion right now the cap is where it  
12 needs to be. There is still a lot of backfilling  
13 that could be done in some of the charter schools.  
14 And that's not to say I'm not for charter schools  
15 in places where I think it makes sense to co-  
16 locate. We, I've been very forceful in meeting with  
17 the school leaders and making sure that the work  
18 can be done as collaboratively as possible. But  
19 because in both of those districts I think there's  
20 still room to grow. But if you have a specific  
21 school that you're concerned about I'm happy to  
22 talk to you about it.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yeah so in  
24 other words the, the charter schools are more  
25 imminent and I'm not talking about co-located

2 schools. Their charter schools are opening up  
3 within a, a separate building. But now if I know,  
4 if the, a few charter schools that are opening up  
5 within my district I know I have a plan of knowing  
6 that if more people move in children have a place  
7 to go. But right now with DOE I don't have a plan.  
8 So I would love to discuss with you...

9 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I really would need,  
10 well you know by all means I'm happy to discuss it  
11 but I'd have to look and see what the District 21  
12 and 22... in fact I'm going too one of those  
13 districts tomorrow to meet with principals. I need  
14 to know what the logistics are and where the kids  
15 are moving. But happy to discuss...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Great. Thank  
17 you very much.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
19 you Council Member Deutsch. We're going to do the  
20 second round. I have one question and then Chair  
21 Dromm. As the city adopts the community schools  
22 moto which focuses on whole child. We must also  
23 have the same approach in early childhood  
24 education. We have heard from ACS' providers that  
25 they are at risk of being closed because of the

2 inability to pay for new leases or do the  
3 expiration of their current leases. However the DOE  
4 budget includes an additional 13 million dollars  
5 for early grade leases including universal pre-k.  
6 My question is will any new UPK sites be in former  
7 ACS childcare sites, if so how many and several ACS  
8 providers will not have early learned contracts  
9 with ACS next year. And we'll have to vacate ACS  
10 space but have one universal pre-k contracts with  
11 DOE. Will DOE find space for these programs?

12 CHANCELLOR FARINA: This is something  
13 that's under discussion and I think in terms of  
14 following up this conversation with Deputy  
15 Chancellor Rose who's looking at that aspect of it  
16 you should bring it up again this afternoon. I  
17 don't have an exact answer for you but I know we're  
18 discussing some of these issues.

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So we're  
20 looking forward to following up. And...

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Yep, absolutely.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And then  
23 as you know 90 percent of brain development happens  
24 between ages zero and five I have a two year old at  
25 home so I'm new to the whole conversation. How are

2 DOE and ACS working together to support the whole  
3 child including zero to three instruction. I think  
4 we're really focused on four but what about our  
5 zero to three.

6 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well remember we  
7 just started four... we used to focus on five so...

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know  
9 we want, we want to get it going..

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Give me a chance. I  
11 mean I, I would say that one of the things we're  
12 trying to do more of in a small, in a small amount  
13 we... get a better handle on it. But I... certainly  
14 encouraging principals and particularly in  
15 community schools that they start bringing in  
16 parents with young children as early as the day  
17 after they're born. So mommy and me programs... I was  
18 in a school, recently a community school where  
19 parents come in during the school day and they kind  
20 of get to talk to each other. It's almost parenting  
21 classes 101 and they have a safe place to go. I, I  
22 was part of school before I took on this job...  
23 committee where I suggested that the principal have  
24 the parents during the winter. There's no, they  
25 can't go to the playground, that they come in with

2 their babies and they have a library in that room  
3 so they can start getting support from each other.  
4 So I do think we're going to start moving in that  
5 direction. We've got a lot of work together to make  
6 sure we get our four year old work on the right  
7 target. But that's not to say that in good schools  
8 there aren't already programs for parents to come  
9 in with young babies. But it's got to be very  
10 focused at one time. We had relationships with  
11 local hospitals where... and we're still, we're  
12 trying to do that through Lillian, you know the  
13 commissioner. How do we give books out to parents  
14 when they have a new baby. And how do they take 'em  
15 home and then how do we train them and how to read  
16 to their child as early as they're born. So there's  
17 a lot of connections we could do but we need to do  
18 a lot of that with other agencies, not just within  
19 the DOE.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And that  
21 makes sense because you know mothers get Similac or  
22 Enfamil...

23 CHANCELLOR FARINA: That's right.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:

3 ...depending on who's sponsoring what at the  
4 hospital. So I think...

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: You know and we have  
6 a special program that we now collaborate with.  
7 We'll, we help them pick out books where the books  
8 go home with every new parent.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.  
10 I'm going to now put, give the mic over to our co-  
11 chair and we've been joined by Council Member  
12 Barron.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you again  
14 Chair Ferreras. One of the things that I would like  
15 to see us eventually consider is the Department of  
16 Education taking over the zero to three early  
17 childhood education as well. Not to add to your  
18 plate but I do believe that education even at that  
19 level is education and that it's something that we  
20 should really consider in the future because I see  
21 an uneven distribution of services to children of  
22 that age group. And I think with the success of UPK  
23 as a model moving forward I think that it's  
24 something that we should really seriously consider.

25

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: You know... And I  
3 think you know it's something we need to think  
4 about beyond space issues. This is something, how  
5 do you bring parents into the building. Like I said  
6 in an informal way a place where they can talk and  
7 me, you know having been a grandmother now and with  
8 three grandchildren I felt not, not that my kids  
9 ever listened to me but when I gave advice I, I  
10 came from a point of authority. You know I am the  
11 chancellor, I should know something about  
12 education. But I think the best guides and... parent  
13 to parent. So where do we have places in our  
14 schools where parents can come together and to  
15 share this. So I think that's a beginning point and  
16 I think given you know your bringing it up that  
17 that may be something we may specifically try at  
18 the very beginning at least to put some of our  
19 renewal schools. So certainly.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And Chancellor to  
21 follow-up on Council Member Deutsch's question  
22 about charter schools I think that we're  
23 approaching the 36 million dollar mark in terms of  
24 the rent that we're going to have to lay out for  
25 these charter schools. I'm deeply concerned because



2 with the existing number of charter schools there's  
3 still 25 yet to be taken in New York City alone and  
4 other statewide but would also, in Albany talking  
5 about raising that cap which I also don't think is  
6 necessary at this point but the issue of rent for  
7 the existing charter schools is one of major  
8 concern because those charter schools even the ones  
9 outside of the 25 many of them can still expand  
10 into other grades. Do you anticipate hitting more  
11 than 40 million dollars in expenses for that in the  
12 near future because of their potential for  
13 expansion of these charter schools. It's hard to  
14 say at this point I'm afraid. The, there's a,  
15 there's a to date this year I believe we will  
16 expect to spend about ten million dollars and  
17 another 20 year, little more forecast for the next  
18 year but the timing of it is very... it's not on a  
19 schedule. And we follow the state law so it's  
20 really hard for me to speculate about it. Deputy  
21 Chancellor Rose and this afternoon might be able to  
22 provide a little more detail. But at this point  
23 it's hard to, it's hard to say. It's probably not  
24 tomorrow but it's also probably not 20 years from  
25 now where in between I, it's hard to say.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm concerned that  
3 with the potential there I could hit actually in  
4 the hundreds of millions of dollars you know very  
5 soon, very rapidly if those charters that exist now  
6 in addition to the 25 that are still out there  
7 what, what to choose to, to expand. Alright and  
8 then just finally if I can just follow up a little  
9 bit on it restorative justice measures... How much,  
10 I, I know that in, in your response to the  
11 preliminary preliminary budget hearing questions.  
12 You said that 514 thousand was invested in  
13 restorative practices coaching and training. Of  
14 that 334 thousand went directly to 31 schools to  
15 produce six days of onsite coaching and no, but no  
16 evaluation has yet been conducted. How much are we  
17 going to invest in restorative practices in 2016.  
18 And do you anticipate having permanent staff  
19 because... many of the studies that I've read  
20 restorative practices need to be implanted into the  
21 culture of the school which takes more than just  
22 simple trainings than it actually needs to probably  
23 have a, a permanent person on staff to ensure that  
24 the practices are being followed.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well first of all I  
3 think we've done several things in this area that  
4 are working very well. We have evaluated outside  
5 providers who've done a particularly good job. So  
6 we have now started seeing which ones work better  
7 than... PBIS, IB, IEB restorative practices. There  
8 are several that have, are beginning to already  
9 show remarkable success. I think our new discipline  
10 code has gone a long way in having people rethink  
11 what they're doing with students and our suspension  
12 rates have gone down dramatically in most of our  
13 schools. Part of the data points that are going to  
14 be used to evaluate schools are going to be based  
15 on the use of positive restorative practices. So I  
16 think we have a lot of things. I also... Commissioner  
17 Bratton and I have agreed that one of the places  
18 we're going to really be putting some focus on is  
19 the retraining of school safety officers. And as a  
20 matter of fact looking at it from a different  
21 direction I believe next week or the week after,  
22 I'm not exactly sure when we're having an, an award  
23 ceremony. We've asked principals to nominate school  
24 safety officers who go above and beyond. We're  
25 trying to do it from the positive place and we said

2 once we get to know the students who do positive  
3 interaction with students so we're going to  
4 actually by name have an event for them at Tweed.  
5 And the other thing that we're working more closely  
6 also with the police department is having more  
7 summer programs that will, the cadet program which  
8 is also about academics as well as sports and as  
9 well as a lot of other things are going to be  
10 increased so that the kids who need that kind of an  
11 outlet will have it. But I think we're on the right  
12 track with restorative practices. I think it's a  
13 matter of making sure that how we do it in the  
14 early grades is appropriate for that age and how we  
15 do it in the upper grades is also appropriate for  
16 the age. But we're moving in the right direction in  
17 that particular area.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So how much are we  
19 putting into 2016?

20 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay we'll, we'll  
21 get that to you.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay if you can get  
23 that to me and also the, the number of schools that  
24 will be covered by the funding and the training  
25 programs themselves.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Well I will, I will  
3 say that every school in New York City is getting  
4 some training through their superintendent... this is  
5 universal.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: On restorative  
7 practices?

8 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Restorative  
9 practices and how to implement the new discipline  
10 code and what are the positive ways to deal with  
11 student behavior that's across the board as, and  
12 the, now the new guidance department is going to  
13 have, and the guidance department is now going to  
14 have a replication of... in every single borough  
15 office so it'll be much more direct and much more  
16 focused.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
19 you Chair Dromm. We will now hear from Council  
20 Member King followed by Council Member Rodriguez.  
21 You don't have to use all three of your minutes.  
22 The chancellor has to be here at a hard stop at  
23 1:00. So if you can take that into consideration in  
24 your questions I'm sure it will... [cross-talk]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: So since I have  
3 three minutes I'm going to speak, I'm going to  
4 speak real fast and.. three questions, that okay?

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay.

7 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I listen fast.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: First, first thing  
9 I just have three questions actually. The first one  
10 is renewal, renewal school. I just want to know is  
11 the funding allocated according to the plan or does  
12 the plan dictate the funding that the, a school  
13 will get?

14 CHANCELLOR FARINA: The plan dictates  
15 the funding.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay. Secondly  
17 lunch yes, lunch plans. Schools, children,  
18 teenagers, most important thing member's being  
19 accepted. So being able to de-stigmatize is that I  
20 can't afford lunch is a crisis for them in their  
21 development. Is there also a way to just figure out  
22 how do we just finance this and not let any child  
23 ever go hungry. One of the principals told me and  
24 the principals meaning that they will prefer  
25 whatever monies they have in their budget. Just pay

2 for it because at the end of the day they still  
3 have to put a staffer in the cafeteria to check off  
4 who's coming... eat... rather just give everybody lunch  
5 and not even have to worry about it. Just wanted to  
6 give you that. And third thing I know since you...  
7 receiving suggestions and utilize, I heard it in  
8 here about making sure that students have soccer  
9 and so forth I'm grateful and thankful that one of  
10 the things I've learned about SSAL and the, the  
11 school, its school system itself since you have  
12 changed a form of education where you have...  
13 schools, criterias are different, SSAL students are  
14 different because of age. So the PSAL has not,  
15 athletics have not adjusted to how education is  
16 being delivered. Maybe there might be a way if you  
17 don't want to have the same system or two different  
18 leagues because of age bracket. Of course you can't  
19 have a 19 or a 20 year old playing with a 14 year  
20 old but they, I they're able to go to the public  
21 school hey should have access to athletics as well.

22 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I, I think one of  
23 the ways to deal with that and I have to go back  
24 and figure out how it works. Practice is most of  
25 our overage under credit kids are in transfer

2 schools. So you, there could be a transfer school  
3 league where...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Mm-hmm.

5 CHANCELLOR FARINA: ...which we'll do  
6 that. But let me think about that.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay. And I got a  
8 minute and ten seconds so thank you again. I  
9 appreciate your time today. Madam Chair.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Dually  
11 noted.

12 RAY ORLANDO: I have the 825 thousand  
13 dollars if Councilman King is still interested..

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes.

15 RAY ORLANDO: ...borough his 58 seconds.

16 Yeah. The money was spent to provide over 14  
17 hundred students with 109 teams over the last year.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Say that again for  
19 me.

20 RAY ORLANDO: Over 14 hundred students  
21 and 109 teams, that's what the money went for.

22 That's how the... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: 109 teams and...

24 [cross-talk]

25 RAY ORLANDO: Yes... [cross-talk]



2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: ...how many schools?

3 RAY ORLANDO: In, in 109 teams 14  
4 hundred students. They didn't give me the, they  
5 didn't give me the schools, the number of schools,  
6 I'm sorry. I can get that for you but...

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: You know we'll,  
8 we'll talk offline more about that... [cross-talk]

9 RAY ORLANDO: Okay didn't want you to...I  
10 told you I'd have it for you at the end... [cross-  
11 talk] in the next day or so and that discounted as  
12 the next day or so...

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm  
14 amazed you guys are doing all that under three  
15 minutes. So we'll have the committee follow up with  
16 more detailed as to exactly what we need to get  
17 from you on the, on... [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Madam,  
19 Madam Chancellor. And I will take you up on that  
20 tour joining you on a tour.

21 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Sure, absolutely.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Yes.  
23 Council Member Rodriguez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Chancellor  
25 two question I hope to be able to answer in those

2 three minute. One is that I believe that we need to  
3 have a plan of a what percentage of a student we  
4 need to bring in a particular time frame to... to be  
5 three and four. Because if we ask a question right  
6 now... and again... more about the legacy that we would  
7 leave to the, for the future generation even if  
8 it's like a 10 or 20 year plan. But reality is that  
9 only a lower percent of a student in New York City  
10 they are low, they are level three and four right?  
11 What is a percent is that we have three and four.

12 CHANCELLOR FARINA: I, I don't know that  
13 figure off the top of my...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well we can  
15 say that less than 50 percent they are 3 and four?

16 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Oh yeah.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And when it  
18 come to the black and Latino community that  
19 percentage just get lower than the three and four.  
20 Like the reality in my district, school district  
21 six less than 18 percent been three or four for  
22 years before being a chancellor. And I think it is  
23 important in order to make everyone accountable for  
24 her to say our plan is that a ten year plan, we,  
25 our goal is to make 50 percent of a student being

2 level three and four in those district that less  
3 than... percent that be three and four for years. So  
4 I just hope that we can have that goal so that  
5 everyone work toward that goal. That for me is  
6 important and... The second thing is I feel and again  
7 this, my experience with the superintendent that I  
8 have in Northern Manhattan is great, it's a great  
9 one. The director that we have for the Borough of  
10 Manhattan is a great one too. Not... the local one.  
11 But I feel that on the composition with the DOE the  
12 Board of Director they have much more staffs than  
13 the superintendents they have more resources and I  
14 feel that within that reorganization we leave like  
15 a finger print for to people who say who is  
16 responsible for what. So how can we you know  
17 reorganize in a way that instead of the board of  
18 director being the one that have all those  
19 resources for the staff developments having all the  
20 large staff for them to, for them to work with the  
21 superintendents for... to say why don't we make the  
22 superintendent the one... that we provide knowingly  
23 that... staff. But enough... he or she to be  
24 responsible and accountable for what we expect... to  
25 be the performance that they should provide to us.

2 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Okay I'm going to be  
3 very clear again. This was discussed over the last  
4 year and a half. We did the reorganization with a  
5 lot of peoples' opinion the superintendent is in  
6 charge. The superintendent has the following people  
7 under them. They have a PLF which is someone who is  
8 certified to supervise principals so not  
9 superintendent doesn't have to do all them  
10 themselves or they could do some of them, or they  
11 can delegate some of the school visits to the PLF  
12 because... someone who could in fact become the  
13 superintendent if they're you know good enough.  
14 They have under them a DFA, a DFA is the person who  
15 organizes parent academies, parent workshops,  
16 anything that happens with parents is there's. They  
17 have a person who's going to do nothing but respond  
18 to parent concerns. Our parent liaison and the...  
19 superintendent so that the superintendent at some  
20 point will be really left to do the job that the  
21 superintendent is most important. Visit schools and  
22 evaluate principals. The PPLs will still be in the  
23 superintendent's hands. They're also going to have  
24 under their direction an early childhood  
25 supervisor, someone who's going to work with UPK

2 primarily so that as we move to bring in a lot more  
3 kids into the districts they're also going to  
4 ensure that the teacher quality and the  
5 professional development is done well. What the  
6 borough directors and the superintendents are going  
7 to plan together is what those districts need. So a  
8 borough director may do something different for  
9 district six that they may do for district 5 but  
10 it's at the request of the superintendent. The  
11 borough directors are not in charge of the  
12 superintendents. It's the other way around but I  
13 want the superintendents to really do what I think  
14 is the most important job; get to know their  
15 principals, evaluate their principals, support  
16 their principals, and then also figure out which  
17 principals need to work with each other. And again  
18 every borough director has already met with every  
19 superintendent. They developed a course of action  
20 going forward. We can't keep adding layers and  
21 layers. You know I've been here in this job 50  
22 years this September. I've seen every kind of  
23 combination. I've seen decentralization. I've seen  
24 centralization. I've seen school boards that make  
25 all the decisions. I think this is a good plan

2 which still gives principals a lot of freedom to do  
3 what they want but also holds them accountable.  
4 Accountability is key.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
6 you Council Member Rodriguez. Chancellor thank you  
7 very much for sharing this morning and afternoon  
8 with us. We are five minutes late. I hope that  
9 doesn't take you too much off your schedule.

10 CHANCELLOR FARINA: Thank you. And just  
11 let me reiterate any of you who want to do school  
12 visits with me, by all means...

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We will  
14 have a list for you, we're going to have a queue.  
15 We're going to take a 15 minute break so I'd advise  
16 everyone to go have lunch for 15 minutes and we  
17 will be back in the chamber with the school  
18 construction authority.

19 [PAUSE]

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: We will  
21 now resume the city council's hearing on the  
22 Mayor's executive budget for FY 2016 the finance  
23 committee is joined by the Committee on Education  
24 Chaired, Co-chaired by my colleague Council Member  
25 Dromm. We just heard from the Department of

2 Education and now we will hear from Lorraine  
3 Grillo, President and CEO of the School  
4 Construction Authority. In the interest of time I  
5 will forego an opening statement but before we hear  
6 your testimony I will open the mic to my co-chair  
7 Council Member Dromm and Deputy Chancellor Rose.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good  
9 afternoon. Thank you Madam Chairperson Ferreras and  
10 welcome to the second part of the city council's  
11 finance and education committee's hearing on the  
12 fiscal year 2016 executive capital budget for the  
13 Department of Education and the proposed may  
14 amendment to the five year capital plan for fiscal  
15 2015 to 19 for the DOE and the school construction  
16 authority. The focus of this hearing will be on the  
17 DOE's executive ten year capital strategy, the  
18 executive commitment plan and the May 2015 proposed  
19 amendment to the five year capital plan for fiscal  
20 year 2015 to 2019. The city's total executive ten  
21 year capital strategy totals 83.8 billion, an  
22 increase of 16.1 billion from the preliminary ten  
23 year capital strategy. I am concerned that of the  
24 additional 16.1 billion in the city's executive ten  
25 year capital strategy none of the funds were

2 appropriated to meet DOE's capacity needs. In  
3 addition the DOE executive ten year capital  
4 strategy for fiscal 2016 to 2025 recognize a  
5 decrease of almost two billion dollars when  
6 compared to the preliminary ten year capital  
7 strategy. The proposed amendment totals 13.5  
8 billion dollars over five years. It includes 783  
9 million from the state smart schools bond act to  
10 fund technology in schools as well as capital  
11 projects associated with the expansion of universal  
12 pre-kindergarten. The proposed amendment allocates  
13 4.8 billion dollars for capacity to construct  
14 44,343 new seats. Of this amount 3.45 billion  
15 dollars is scheduled in the new capacity program to  
16 build 31,823 seats and to design 806 seats. 520  
17 million is to build 6,814 pre-kindergarten seats.  
18 And 490 million dollars is for a class size  
19 reduction program with 4,900 seats. I'd like to  
20 hear more about the pre-k initiative today and how  
21 the DOE will spend 520 million dollars to prepare  
22 the 55 new pre-k sites. I am sure the committee  
23 would like to hear more about the new capacity plan  
24 which is 16,628 seats short of meeting the  
25 projected seat need including how the DOE and the



2 SCA are planning to fund the capacity needs and how  
3 we can finally meet the demand for seats. The  
4 capital investment category totals 4.96 billion  
5 dollars. These funds are for capital improvement  
6 projects such as technology, exteriors and the  
7 removable, the removal of transportable classroom  
8 units or TCUs. The proposed amendment identifies 50  
9 TCUs have been removed and 108 have been identified  
10 for removal. The committee would like to hear more  
11 about the details of the TCU removal plans and the  
12 time limits. Under the proposed amendment the DOE  
13 set aside 650 million dollars to fund the school  
14 building's technology enhancement. Within  
15 technology enhancements the non-infrastructure  
16 projects total 145 million dollars. I would like to  
17 receive more details on these projects from the  
18 SCA. The final category of funding in the proposed  
19 amendment is mandated programs which includes 3.7  
20 billion dollars for projects such as PCB  
21 remediation, prior plan completion cost, boiler  
22 conversions, and wrap up insurance. The funding for  
23 prior plan and completion projects increased since  
24 the adoption of the five year capital plan and  
25 total 663 million dollars. There are many other

2 issues that I am sure will come up today from other  
3 committee members and myself. And I look forward to  
4 the discussion with SCA and the DOE after their  
5 testimony. I would like to remind council members  
6 that this is a capital hearing so please keep your  
7 questions related to the capital budget. I would  
8 like to thank my dedicated committee staff... Nora  
9 Yaya [sp?], Joan Pavolni [sp?], Jan Atwell [sp?],  
10 and Asia Shawnburg [sp?]. And I'd also like to  
11 thank Elizabeth Rose, Deputy Chancellor, Division  
12 of Operations at the DOE and Lorraine Grillo  
13 President of the SCA for coming to testify before  
14 the committee today. Now I will turn the floor over  
15 to them to hear their testimony.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
17 you Chair. My counsel will swear you in and then  
18 you may begin your testimony.

19 COUNSEL: Do you affirm that your  
20 testimony will be truthful to the best of your  
21 knowledge, information, and belief?

22 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I do.

23 COUNSEL: Thank you.

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Good afternoon  
25 Chairs Dromm and Ferreras and members of the

2 Education and Finance Committees. My name is  
3 Elizabeth Rose, Deputy Chancellor for the Division  
4 of Operations of the New York City Department of  
5 Education. I'm joined by Lorraine Grillo, President  
6 and Chief Executive Officer of the New York City  
7 Schools Construction Authority. We are pleased to  
8 be here today to discuss the proposed 2015  
9 amendment to the fiscal year 2015 2019 five year  
10 capital plan which builds upon the two previous  
11 plans investments of over 25 billion dollars and  
12 the resulting creation of over 114 thousand seats  
13 since 2004. In addition we will open over 14  
14 thousand seats this September. Some of the  
15 important key changes in the proposed amendment  
16 capital plan include the identification of 10 new  
17 capacity projects, 30 new pre-kindergarten sites,  
18 additional transportable classroom unit removal  
19 projects that have been either completed or  
20 identified and the inclusion of selected cafeteria  
21 upgrades. We are grateful to the city council for  
22 its strong support and generous funding to our  
23 schools. The 13.5 billion dollar fiscal year 2015  
24 to 2019 capital plan will create tens of thousands  
25 of new seats in areas projected for enrollment

2 growth. Directly address overcrowding and this  
3 administration's goal of creating additional high  
4 quality full day prekindergarten seats. The plan  
5 also targets the reduction of class size and the  
6 much needed improvements for our aging  
7 infrastructure. The plan is funded by state and  
8 city tax levy and 783 million dollars in proceeds  
9 from the New York state smart schools bond act. As  
10 many of you know we developed an annual amendment  
11 process beginning with the 2005/2009 plan.  
12 Regularly reviewing our capital plan allows us to  
13 identify a merging capacity needs quickly and gives  
14 us the opportunity to make changes as necessary. To  
15 track building conditions we conduct an annual  
16 building condition assessment survey known as BCAS  
17 in which we send architects and engineers to  
18 evaluate our approximately 13 hundred buildings.  
19 This excludes TCUs and other buildings that do not  
20 have student capacity. The BCAS survey generates  
21 our priorities for capital investment projects to  
22 maintain our buildings in good repair. We also  
23 update enrollment projections annually. These  
24 projections incorporate data on birthrates,  
25 immigration rates, and migration rates from various

2 city agencies. Additional agencies provide  
3 statistics on housing starts and rezoning efforts.  
4 Using a broad range of sources provides a complete  
5 view of potential student demand. And annual  
6 updates allow us to make timely adjustments when  
7 there is a sustained increase in student population  
8 in one part of the city. Or a decline in student  
9 population in another. These enrollment projections  
10 which are performed on a district and sub-district  
11 level help inform our need for new capacity  
12 projects. In addition to evaluating our school  
13 buildings and student population public feedback  
14 plays a crucial role in our capital planning  
15 process. Each year we undertake a public review  
16 process with community education counsels. The city  
17 council and other elected officials and community  
18 groups, we offer CEC in the city the opportunity to  
19 conduct a public hearing on the plan. And we  
20 partner with individual council members and CECs to  
21 identify local needs. Your insights in this process  
22 are essential. And we look forward to our continued  
23 partnership. The proposed amendment includes 4.81  
24 billion dollars for capacity, 4.96 billion for  
25 capital investment and 3.69 billion for mandated

2 programs. This is very similar to the amendment  
3 issued in November and discussed at the preliminary  
4 hearing in March 2015. The proposed 2015/2019  
5 creates over 3,000, 32,600 seats which address  
6 overcrowding as well as two new administration  
7 priorities prekindergarten expansion and a class  
8 size reduction initiative. 520 million has been  
9 allocated for a vital increase in the number of  
10 pre-k seats resulting in the identification of 52  
11 sites yielding over 6,800 new seats. It is  
12 important to note that the 520 million allocation  
13 includes 310 million that we are proposing to  
14 transfer from our facility restructuring program.  
15 As these funds were already planned to support  
16 expansion of pre-k seats the goal for this funding  
17 is unchanged. Of the 3.91 billion allocated to  
18 capacity. 3.45 billion is dedicated to creating  
19 more than 32,600 new seats in an estimated 63  
20 projects within school districts experiencing the  
21 most critical existing and projected overcrowding.  
22 And if I can now correct the earlier testimony that  
23 32,600 is new capacity seats, it does not include  
24 the prekindergarten seat from that initiative,  
25 replacement seats or seats to address over, class

2 size, class size reduction. To that end we are  
3 happy to announce that since the publication of the  
4 November amendment an additional 10 new projects  
5 have been identified. Additions at PS14 in district  
6 eight and PS46 in district 10 in the Bronx, PS101  
7 in district 21 in Brooklyn and PS19 in district 24,  
8 PS24 in district 25, PS303 in district 28, all of  
9 those in Queens, as well as following new capacity  
10 projects new PS746 which will be at 59<sup>th</sup> street and  
11 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue in District 20 in Brooklyn, PS398 known  
12 as the White Castle site in district 30 in Queens,  
13 High school 583 also known as the Bayside Jewish  
14 Center in district 26 in Queens and high school 859  
15 Lindon Place in district 25 in queens. In addition  
16 to the new capacity 490 million dollars is  
17 allocated to address class size reduction and 350  
18 million dollars to replace facilities where we are  
19 unable to renew leases that are expiring during  
20 this plan. Nearly, moving to capital investment,  
21 nearly 70 percent of the 4.96 billion dollar  
22 capital investment allocation is for our capital  
23 improvement program which will address the building  
24 identified in our annual building survey as most in  
25 need of repair such as roof and structural repairs

2 safeguarding our buildings against water  
3 infiltration another facility projects. The capital  
4 improvement category also includes funding for  
5 upgrades to fire alarms, public address systems,  
6 and removal of TCUs. Specifically 480 million  
7 dollars has been allocated to remove TCUs and  
8 redevelop the yard space where the TCUs were  
9 located. Since October 2013 we have removed 50 TCUs  
10 and have developed plans to remove 108 additional  
11 TCUs. This represents approximately 45 percent of  
12 the TCUs that were in place at the beginning of  
13 this capital plan. We are also working with  
14 principals, superintendents, and communities to  
15 develop plans to enable the removal of the  
16 remaining TCUs. Plans may include building new  
17 capacity in overcrowded areas, supporting schools  
18 to better utilize the space in their main buildings  
19 and assessing the need for potential changes to  
20 zoning or other enrollment adjustments. The  
21 remaining 30 percent or 1.34 billion will go toward  
22 upgrading instructional spaces in existing  
23 buildings such as upgrades to physical fitness  
24 rooms, libraries, middle school science labs,  
25 bathrooms, and auditoriums, and technology



2 upgrades. I'd like to speak more about two of these  
3 areas, bathrooms and science labs. In previous  
4 hearings many members of the council have asked  
5 about bathroom upgrades and spoken about the  
6 popularity of Reso A funded bathroom upgrade  
7 projects. While all our schools have functional  
8 bathrooms in this proposed capital plan amendment.  
9 We have allocated 100 million dollars to fund  
10 bathroom upgrade program that will improve the  
11 attractiveness of our school bathrooms. In the  
12 prior capital plan ensuring all high school  
13 students had access to a science lab was a  
14 priority. And we are happy to report we have  
15 succeeded in this goal. Now we are able to turn our  
16 focus to middle school students. To that end we  
17 have allocated 50 million dollars to upgrade middle  
18 school science labs to improve science instruction  
19 for middle school students. In order for our  
20 students to become college and career ready in a  
21 digital information age we will make certain that  
22 technology upgrades remain a priority in the  
23 proposed amended plan. We are committed to bridging  
24 any existing gaps in technology in our schools.  
25 Specifically nearly 505 million dollars of the

2 technology spending under this plan we'll build on  
3 our school buildings' core technology  
4 infrastructure. This funding allows us to continue  
5 to transform our school environments from  
6 industrial age to information age schools where  
7 learning can be customized to meet each child's  
8 unique needs. Over the next five years essential  
9 upgrades, an incorporation of next generation  
10 broadband wireless and learning technologies are  
11 planned for all school buildings. Additionally  
12 approximately 145 million dollars will be invested  
13 in upgrading our data management and student  
14 learning and information systems. Mandated  
15 programs, the total cost to support the city's  
16 effort to remove and replace all polychlorinated  
17 biphenyls PCB containing lighting fixtures  
18 throughout the entire school system is one billion  
19 dollars about half as which was covered by the  
20 previous five year capital plan. The proposed 2015  
21 amendment allocates 480 million dollars to replace  
22 all remaining lighting fixtures in our schools by  
23 December 2016. The mandated programs category also  
24 includes approximately 750 million dollars for  
25 boiler conversions in approximately 125 buildings

2 currently using number four oil. The remaining  
3 funds are assigned to cover other required costs  
4 including insurance and completion of projects from  
5 the prior plan. We understand that the public  
6 school system as a whole continues to experience  
7 pockets of overcrowding and we are working to  
8 address these concerns through new school  
9 construction and fully utilizing existing building  
10 capacity nearby. We remain focused on remedying  
11 these issues and will continue to rely on your  
12 feedback and support as we do so. Our annual  
13 capital planning process has already benefitted  
14 significantly from your input. And our students  
15 have benefited from your generous support of  
16 capital projects. With continued collaboration and  
17 tens of thousands of seats slated to come online  
18 over the next five to seven years we remain  
19 confident that the expansion and enhancement of  
20 school buildings across the five boroughs will  
21 improve the educational experiences for our city's  
22 1.1 million school children as well as the teachers  
23 and staff who serve them. Thank you again for  
24 allowing us to testify today. And we would be happy

2 to answer any questions that you may have.  
3 Lorraine.

4 PRESIDENT GRILLO: ...Council Member  
5 Dromm, thank you very much. I'm just going to go  
6 over what Elizabeth just described to you very  
7 briefly because I think you've seen this several  
8 times before. Okay again the adopted plan... let me  
9 just go through it was initially 12.8 billion, this  
10 amendment makes it 13.5 it includes additional  
11 funding from city council and borough presidents,  
12 additional funding for sandy projects and rollover  
13 funding for boiler conversions. The, the highlights  
14 include the 783 million dollars from the smart  
15 schools, school's bond act. 520 million dollars for  
16 the creation for the creation of new pre-k seats  
17 and as described the initial I believe it was 290  
18 million was allocated for pre, new Pre-K seats, the  
19 remainder was allocated in our restructuring  
20 category but it was specifically for pre-K. It also  
21 funds the removal of all transportable units and  
22 as, as the Deputy Chancellor says it ensures that  
23 all middle schools will have access to science  
24 facilities. In addition 100 million dollars  
25 allocated for student bathroom upgrades. And this

2 is the breakdown 4.8 for capacity, 5.0 for capital  
3 investment, 3.7 for mandated programs. In new  
4 capacity it's for the creation of approximately 33  
5 thousand new seats. Again the creation of over 68  
6 hundred new prekindergarten seats as well as 490  
7 million dollars for class size reduction and 350  
8 million dollars for those leases that are set to  
9 expire during this capital plan. The breakdown of  
10 new capacity includes 28,676 PS or IS seats, four  
11 IS or HS high school buildings with 31 hundred  
12 seats and one large 806 seat school building with  
13 PS or IS grades which will be funded for design  
14 only. And it keeps our seat creation as typical of  
15 what we have had over the last several plans. Again  
16 this is a chart of where the funding is allocated  
17 in those districts and where in fact we have  
18 unfunded need. And the following is a list of the  
19 pre-K sites that we have sited so far. Those on the  
20 first page are those that we have had, we have  
21 signed leases for and on the next page are those  
22 that are in negotiation at this time. Under capital  
23 improvement we have building system upgrades, 2.7  
24 billion and then the removal of transportable  
25 classroom units and 125 million dollars for

2 athletic field upgrades. Also in capital investment  
3 we have 215 million dollars left in our  
4 restructuring program, 100 million dollars in the  
5 safety and security section of the plan that  
6 includes the video surveillance systems, 50 million  
7 for middle school science lab upgrades, 100 million  
8 dollars for accessibility, physical fitness,  
9 libraries, and auditorium upgrades 121 million, as  
10 the deputy chancellor said 100 million in bathroom  
11 upgrades and 650 million in technology, the PCB  
12 lighting replacements 480 million. There's a total  
13 of 777 schools with completed 420 of those. We have  
14 142 of those in progress. And we expect that 215  
15 will go into construction either at the end of this  
16 year or the beginning of next fiscal year. We  
17 currently have 51 boilers in construction. 34 of  
18 them are sandy projects. We have 830 million  
19 dollars for wrap up insurance and 660 million  
20 dollars for prior plan completion. The following  
21 page lists those TCUs that have been removed and  
22 the 108 TCUs or schools that are TCUs that we have  
23 plans for removal. And then of course the schools  
24 that we'll be opening this September; Beacon High  
25 School and Ten East 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, PS96 in, in the

2 Bronx, PS106 in the Bronx, 62 Richmond this is our  
3 Net Zero energy building, 437 in district 15 in  
4 Brooklyn, 170 addition in district 20, PS320 in  
5 district 24, PS315 in district 24, PS314 in  
6 district 28, IS311 in district 24, and we go into  
7 the next two years of school openings. And we're  
8 happy to answer, answer any questions you may have.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
10 you very much for your testimony. We are going to  
11 have members ask questions, the first round will be  
12 five minutes and the second round will be five  
13 minutes and the second round will be three minutes.  
14 I have a few questions in the first round and so  
15 does the chair. First we want to thank you for  
16 helping us. I know it's very complicated in both  
17 council member, Chair Dromm's district and mine to  
18 be able to site schools. Like we get the challenge.  
19 But clearly we cannot yell, scream, implore enough  
20 that we are so behind on the seats that we need,  
21 that we are going to have to begin to think  
22 creatively and maybe that, I don't know what that  
23 is but perhaps we can continue the taskforce and,  
24 and recall the taskforce together again to think  
25 creatively with parents, landlords, or anyone on,

2 or land owners to think of ways that we can build  
3 the additional schools that I know we have already  
4 funded in some cases even though I have 4,000 plus  
5 seats that are not funded. So I wanted to talk  
6 about first though the proposed amendment release I  
7 spoke to the Chancellor before and I asked her this  
8 question. Can you please explain the reasons for  
9 the delay in the release. Because the proposed  
10 amendment was released two months later than we  
11 expected. It limits greatly the opportunity that  
12 this council has to do its proper oversight and it  
13 puts an incredible amount of pressure on the  
14 finance team to be able to prepare us for these  
15 hearings but also for us to adequately be able to  
16 digest all the information that you have there. So  
17 can you explain to me what happened, why are we  
18 late, what happened?

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: As we said at  
20 the prior hearing we were working very closely with  
21 the Office of Management and Budget and with city  
22 hall... great desire to ensure that we were able to  
23 review all of the agency plans collectively in the  
24 context of the ten year capital plan strategy.  
25 Fortunately there are very few changes in this



2 proposed amendment as compared to November and so  
3 we know that we, we have spent time and focus  
4 trying to ensure that everybody was fully aware of  
5 what we did propose initially in November and we're  
6 just pleased that we're able to continue in the  
7 path working with you on the directions that we  
8 know we're all very focused on.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well  
10 we're not pleased that you're two minutes, two  
11 months late.

12 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We, we  
13 understand that and, and..

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I'm  
15 hoping that we can... [cross-talk]

16 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...prefer to be  
17 on time.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
19 ...commitment. And honestly whatever you have on that  
20 date is what we need submitted. Like we don't it  
21 to, I, I would love for it to be perfect but what  
22 we can't do is we're working on it to be perfect  
23 and we're going to give you something two months  
24 later. Like that is not acceptable what's so ever.  
25 I want to talk about a transparency in the fiscal

2 2016 preliminary budget response... city council... and  
3 the administration to increase the transparency of  
4 the CSA source of funding. Currently there is no  
5 information about the percentage of funds received  
6 from the state or the funds that were transferred  
7 from the city agencies to the CSA. I keep saying  
8 CSA. I don't know where this is coming from. I,  
9 it's been all morning. I, I must, it's my, it's my,  
10 it's...

11 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...partners at  
12 the CSA were here saying... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know...

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...they haven't  
15 transferred any money to us.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I know.  
17 I'm so sorry. I don't know where this is coming  
18 from. It's probably my cold. The school  
19 construction authority, currently there is no  
20 information about the percentage of funds received  
21 from the state or the funds that were transferred.  
22 Can the SCA include a separate section in the five  
23 year plan about the source of funds just so we  
24 understand when funds are threatened and we need to  
25 prepare and say okay these, these are the, these

2 are the, the issues that we may be having coming  
3 down the line we can help advocate with you. But  
4 right now we just know the money's there. You  
5 present and we have no idea where it's coming from.

6 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well we can  
7 certainly look at that and we should have further  
8 discussion about that and, and what you're  
9 envisioning.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
11 Thank you. In the proposed amendment the class size  
12 reduction program includes 490 million to create an  
13 additional 49 hundred seats as you had mentioned  
14 targeted specifically to reduce class size. However  
15 since the capital plan was adopted in June of 2014  
16 no projects under this program have been  
17 identified. In contrast within the same timeframe  
18 SCA managed to find more than 68 hundred seats for  
19 pre-K initiatives. Why has it taken so long to  
20 identify projects for the class size reduction  
21 program and when can we expect this to happen?

22 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So I expect we  
23 will be able to identify some of where those funds  
24 will be going in the next amendment. We've been  
25 working on the criteria for where these funds would

2 be allocated and clearly we are looking at areas  
3 where we are either unable to address overcrowded  
4 buildings with our regular new capacity funding  
5 where we're, have difficulties with plans for  
6 removals of TCUs. Those are tremendous  
7 opportunities for us to, you work with those class  
8 size reduction fundings in, to find those pockets  
9 of the city where we don't have an alternative  
10 solution.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well can  
12 you engage with the members once you've identified...

13 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...so that  
15 we at least know, the members know. Because clearly  
16 we look at the list and we see from our perspective  
17 where their needs are and we could, we can make  
18 suggestions where this money should be invested in  
19 going. In our budget response to city council  
20 called on the administration to fund enough school  
21 capacity projects to meet the identified seat need  
22 but the adoptive... left 16,616 unfunded seats and  
23 the proposed amendment actually increased a  
24 projected seat need by 12 seats creating a gap of  
25 16,628 seats. How, how will DOE and SCA work with

2 the mayor's office to fully fund the capacity need  
3 in New York City public schools. And where do you  
4 anticipate closing the seat need gap. Well some of  
5 the challenges are not just challenges of funding.  
6 As you know we have districts where we have  
7 challenges siting new schools where we have  
8 additional unfunded need. Even if we had the full  
9 funding for all of those seats not clear that we  
10 would be able to find those sites in this immediate  
11 plan period. So in, in those cases it's not a  
12 question of funding, let's find the sites.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well  
14 okay. So in, that's in one, in, are you saying that  
15 it's in all these cases? What about the ones that  
16 the site isn't the issue?

17 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Again when we  
18 look at the, the plan we look at several issues  
19 okay. What the capacity of the SCA is to find  
20 sites, what our track record is. And this number  
21 is, is a good number for the SCA. We feel confident  
22 that we can do a good job finding most of these  
23 sites. Again we have competing priorities as you  
24 well know. We have buildings that we require  
25 infrastructure upgrades and you know of course to

2 be watertight. These are very important things and  
3 then, and then we have an addition to that as you  
4 know we have the mandated programs. There's no  
5 question that these things have to be fulfilled by  
6 the end of the plan. So we're, we're working on all  
7 fronts.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So have  
9 you had the opportunity for additional funding to  
10 help grow your headcount? Is that something that  
11 you... or have you put in a request for OMB to  
12 potentially grow your headcount to be able to do  
13 more?

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We are working  
15 on our operating budget right now. We haven't put  
16 that request in yet.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: You  
18 haven't? Okay. Well we will urge you to please ask  
19 for more staff so that you can build more  
20 buildings. And my favorite transportable I thank  
21 you for PS19. I think you know many years later  
22 it's the right thing to do. It is the, what the  
23 advocates wanted, it's what I wanted, it's a school  
24 that I attended. And I think nobody should be in  
25 trailers. The five year, five year capital plan

2 includes a list of schools and a number of  
3 transportable classroom units that were removed or  
4 have been removed or have a removal plan identify.  
5 The list includes 50 TCUs as you had shown in your  
6 presentation. As of 2013 and 2014 school year there  
7 were 317 trends port... trends classrooms. You, TCU  
8 units serving 6,935 students and having a capacity  
9 to serve 10 thousand. Since 108 TCUs have the  
10 specific removal plan and 50 TCUs were removed does  
11 it mean that there are 159 TCUs citywide that will  
12 have to have a removal plan or be removed, that  
13 they're not part of the, the queue.

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So we have 194  
15 TCUs for which we are still in the process of  
16 developing the removal plan of you know where would  
17 those students go, what changes might be needed to  
18 make to that school's enrollment to ensure that we  
19 are able to remove those TCUs and we are working on  
20 those.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So can  
22 you just walk us through what the TCU removal plan  
23 is? I know that you've highlighted them. There's  
24 108.

25 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: What,  
3 what does that mean. So we know 50 are almost  
4 guaranteed to be gone. Right? [cross-talk] on their  
5 way if not already gone. And the 108, what does  
6 that mean for them?

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So that means  
8 for them that we have identified how that school  
9 will remove whatever programming was in the TCUs  
10 where those students would go or where those  
11 programs would be accommodated in their main  
12 buildings. And we have a plan for as soon as those  
13 things were complete that those TCUs would come  
14 out. In some cases it is related to new capacity  
15 construction. We have an addition that's in the  
16 planning or a new building nearby that will enable  
17 the removal of those TCUs. In some cases it is,  
18 we've worked with the principal and we've been able  
19 to work on how they use the existing space in their  
20 buildings to reprogram. Richmond Hill High School  
21 is a good example of that.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
23 you. I, I asked this question of the chancellor  
24 what we're finding a challenge now is between early  
25



2 learn and UPK. So it's almost like we have  
3 competing programs.

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: A lot of  
6 the ACS programs are having challenges with leases.  
7 You have funding for leases and it's like the, we  
8 find that UPK... well actually the question is will  
9 any new UPK sites be in former ACS childcare sites.  
10 If so how many. And several ACS providers will not  
11 have early learn contracts with ACS next year and  
12 will have to vacate ACS space. But they have won  
13 universal pre-kindergarten contracts with DOE. Will  
14 DOE find space for these programs?

15 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Do you want to  
16 want to answer that one?

17 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yeah. Actually in  
18 terms of the ACS sites we will not be having a pre-  
19 k... we are not taking any of the ACS sites. These  
20 are independent sites.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.  
22 So, right, so, but for example in my district we  
23 have Malcom X. Right? That's a funded early learn  
24 program. UPK's looking to move into the space. It  
25 is my understanding..

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So my  
3 understanding is that both UPK and ACS will be  
4 collaborating in that..

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: In that  
6 space. Okay. We just needed clarity on that case. I  
7 just don't want, or I don't want to create with  
8 this very well-funded program..

9 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...that we  
11 are threatening one initiative to place another.

12 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We completely  
13 agree with you.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
15 Especially in schools and areas like mine now. I've  
16 shared this with your staff but I will share it  
17 now. I think looking at creative spaces I have a  
18 health department that's probably 80 percent empty  
19 on Junction Boulevard. And I think if you haven't  
20 already I hope you have looking at the potential of  
21 retrofitting that space and getting the, a hundred  
22 percent of that building in full use.

23 PRESIDENT GRILLO: We are actively  
24 looking at that building.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Great.  
3 And I have something, some other sites I want to  
4 talk to you about.

5 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Good great.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Chair  
7 Dromm.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you Chair  
9 Ferreras. And we share common territory in the  
10 sense of both, both being in district 30 and  
11 district 24 intersecting with our districts. So the  
12 issue of overcrowding is one that affects both  
13 chairpersons really directly in terms of our  
14 districts and I think district 20 is the third..

15 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: That's correct.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...highest district in  
17 need of seats. So we don't mean to concentrate on  
18 our own districts just because we're chairs but  
19 because that's where the need is, is the most. So  
20 we've been joined by Council Members Rodriguez,  
21 Council Member Barron, Council Member Cumbo,  
22 Council Member Chin, Council Member Johnson, and  
23 Council Member Gibson as well. So Chair Ferreras  
24 began to question a little bit on the sources of  
25 funding for SCA. I'm wondering what those current

2 sources for funding are and where it comes from.  
3 Can you tell us that at this point?

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well again we  
5 have, we are funded through the city and the state  
6 as well.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what's the  
8 percentages there?

9 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well it has  
10 been 50/50 but I believe that the state's funding,  
11 the, the bond funding has run out. And this year  
12 the city has taken over the entire funding for the,  
13 for the capital plan. The additional funding comes  
14 really from the elected officials. That's the  
15 basis, the majority of our funding. We don't  
16 receive funding from other agencies.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: We... it's directly  
18 through the city. So is it true then that the state  
19 is not providing funding for our capital programs  
20 at this point?

21 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Again we are  
22 still collecting, building a, we're still going  
23 through the building aid process. But that period  
24 of... that period has expired. So we're talking to  
25 the state about potentially a reissue...

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Of bonds.

3 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...bonds, yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Potentially for the  
5 future?

6 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Which is of dire  
8 importance to us here in the city.

9 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Right, but the  
10 city...

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So we can make sure  
12 that that's... [cross-talk]

13 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...fully funded.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...happening on the  
15 state level.

16 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: The city has  
17 fully funded the remainder of this capital plan.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay that's the,  
19 that's a battle or a struggle we'd like to join you  
20 on and advocate for it as well.

21 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We appreciate  
22 that.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. My next  
24 question has to do with the blue book. And the blue  
25 book... recommendations were finalized in December

2 2014 yet they haven't been released yet. Do you  
3 anticipate releasing them and if so when?

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We are looking  
5 forward to releasing them soon.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: How soon is soon?

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: As soon as we  
8 possibly can.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So those, that blue  
10 book taskforce recommendations and the reorganizing  
11 the bluebook as you know is so vitally important to  
12 determining what our real space needs are. So I  
13 wanted to really just, really urge you as strongly  
14 as I can to get that out. We've been waiting for  
15 that, we had great expectations and, and a waiting  
16 with great anxiety to see what those  
17 recommendations look like in, in a public and  
18 formal way.

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: And, and we  
20 greatly appreciate all of the work that the members  
21 of that committee put into the recommendations they  
22 made, the number of meetings that they had, the  
23 schools they visited and, and the thoughtful  
24 questions and suggestions that they provided.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And so what is the  
3 delay at this point?

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: You know... we  
5 are simply continuing to work these through with  
6 our agency on you know what they mean for us. And  
7 we are, look forward to get these done and released  
8 very soon.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I'm  
10 sorry with all due respect... I know, it, it seems  
11 really uncomfortable to have to answer these  
12 questions with detail but this is what this is all  
13 about. This about the oversight. And I'm really  
14 sorry but you know you're not giving us a date. We  
15 don't know when to expect this, we expected this a  
16 long time ago. So we need to better understand  
17 other than just we're trying to figure out what  
18 this means for... like I don't understand that answer  
19 so what does that mean. Either we know when it's  
20 going to come out or you can explain to us why it  
21 hasn't come out. I don't, I don't understand the  
22 grey area.

23 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Nope. And, and  
24 I understand the perspective. We are continuing to  
25 work to try to get these released as soon as we

2 can. And, and we look forward to discussing them  
3 with you in detail.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So that is something  
5 we will be taking up as we move forward with...  
6 [cross-talk] along with the, with the  
7 administration as well. Because that is something  
8 that's really really important to us. I think I've  
9 made my concerns aware to both the administration,  
10 to the mayor directly and to both Deputy Chancellor  
11 Rose and President Grillo about the 13.5 billion  
12 dollars that's included in the five year capital  
13 plan moving forward. And by your own admission  
14 we're about 16 thousand seats short there. In  
15 looking at the ten year plan. I realize that we're  
16 going to fall about two billion dollars short in  
17 what is needed in that plan for seats as well  
18 moving forward. And I'm very concerned about that  
19 because as the administration has stated.. they're  
20 working diligently toward a very good objective I  
21 think to get 200 thousand new units of affordable  
22 housing. But if we're 16 thousand seats short now  
23 and we're cutting two billion dollars out of the  
24 capital plan moving forward how many seats short  
25 are we going to wind up being ultimately when we



2 get these additional 200 thousand units of, of, of  
3 housing?

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well of course  
5 that will depend very much on what the locations of  
6 those new units of housing will be because while  
7 there are areas of the city that are overcrowded  
8 and where we have unfunded seat need there are  
9 other areas of the city where we do have existing  
10 seat capacity. So in, as we learn where these  
11 projects will be that's when we will be able to  
12 better assess what the potential impact is on seat  
13 need. And that's also part of why we do the annual  
14 amendment process so that as these projects are  
15 identified we can update our capacity and demand  
16 projections.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well from some of  
18 the discussion the mayor's put out there already  
19 it's in the most overcrowded districts that we  
20 already know at District 30 and Sunnyside for  
21 example places like that so I again really want to  
22 push you and urge to make sure that as we move  
23 forward in this process that we are taking into  
24 consideration the need for the additional seats if  
25 we in fact include that affordable housing. It does

2 concern me also that the DOE's fiscal 2016  
3 executive ten year capital plan is only 28 percent  
4 of the city's DOE executive ten year capital plan  
5 when compared to fiscal 2008. The executive ten  
6 year capital plan, the DOE's portion of that plan  
7 was 34 percent. And I'm wondering if there isn't  
8 less of a commitment to building schools according  
9 to those percentages. So again in 2016 it's 28  
10 percent of the DOE's executive ten year capital  
11 plan. But in 2008 it was 34 percent. So we believe  
12 that the city is extremely committed to ensuring  
13 that we have the educational facilities for our  
14 students. And in fact as President Grillo alluded  
15 to we've reached the state, the, the statutory  
16 limit on how much state debt can support our plan.  
17 Consequently the portion of the, the city's portion  
18 of the ten year strategy and actually more than  
19 doubles. So in the last ten year plan the city's  
20 portion that was funding DOE was 9.8 billion  
21 dollars. And in this ten year plan the city's  
22 portion is 20.3 billion dollars. So in fact the  
23 city has increased its support for education in its  
24 capital spending. But that... just absolutely speaks  
25 to the point that I first raised which is about the

2 state funding and including some additional state  
3 funding as we move forward so... because those  
4 percentages definitely went down overall and that  
5 would ultimately mean even though the city is  
6 putting more money in, ultimately it would mean  
7 less seats for our kids here in the city unless the  
8 state steps up to do something more. Am I correct  
9 in that thinking?

10 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well there are  
11 also some aspects for example our mandated  
12 programs. You know once we have completed the  
13 removal and the replacement of all of our PCB  
14 lighting fixtures we won't have that expense in a  
15 future capital plan.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So that does bring  
17 me to another question I had about the... I'm going  
18 to pull it up again and excuse me for not knowing  
19 the exact name of it. But I think it was about 660  
20 million dollars that gets transferred from year to  
21 year for not completed projects or... That number  
22 never seems to really go down and in fact I believe  
23 it's going up. Can you explain... or maybe I'm wrong  
24 on that but can you explain to me how the completed  
25 projects number continues to go up?

2                   DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: It did go up  
3 slightly I think about 40 million dollars. The,  
4 again these are projects that started in the last  
5 capital plan. And those that started in, for  
6 example the last year of the last capital plan will  
7 incur much more, it'll cost much more to complete  
8 them. So those are the kinds of things that make  
9 that rise slightly. But we've really estimated that  
10 number to be six,60 when we see an increase we're  
11 going to increase that in the capital plan.

12                   CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay and during the  
13 preliminary budget hearings we asked for a response  
14 to how many projects, it was question number 21 in  
15 the follow up to you that started in fiscal 2010 to  
16 15 capital plan has the SCA to complete but, and  
17 you said you would provide us with a list but we  
18 never got that list. And I'm wondering if you can  
19 provide us with that list?

20                   DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I apologize for  
21 that. We certainly can.

22                   CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And we never got it  
23 so it was never attached. And with that I'm just,  
24 I'm going to stop here and let my colleagues ask  
25 some questions as well.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
3 you Chair. We will have Council Member Barron  
4 followed by Council Member Chin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you to the  
6 co-chairs for this hearing. And thank you to the  
7 panel for being here. If, if there is a ACS funded  
8 daycare center that has lost its lease because the  
9 landlord has sold the property. What would be the  
10 opportunity for DOE to offer space in another  
11 facility or in a site that they may own that's not  
12 being utilized for the vision of services to those  
13 children. What kind of coordination goes on?

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So we do have a  
15 small...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: If you could  
17 speak a little louder because...

18 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Sure.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...the  
20 construction.

21 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We do have a  
22 small number of locations where we collaborate with  
23 community based organizations and have UPK housed  
24 in DOE facilities. These are our, I think  
25 longstanding relationships in a very few locations.

2 The idea of actually relocating an ACS program to a  
3 DOE building is not something I think that we have  
4 recently explored. Currently there are a number of  
5 implications that... I'm not saying that, that we  
6 wouldn't do it but that, that's not something that  
7 we have been doing. If there are specific instances  
8 you know we're happy to have a conversation. I  
9 don't know if we have space in the immediate area  
10 that would be suitable.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay in terms of  
12 the TCUs there are three schools in my district  
13 that have TCUs that I don't see in this plan and  
14 certainly have not yet been removed. How do you  
15 identify or how do you determine which schools that  
16 have TCUs will be put into your time table? And  
17 what is your time table to have all TCUs removed?

18 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So for all of  
19 the TCUs we have done, we started with a  
20 preliminary assessment of what were the issues of  
21 why the TCUs existed and what the potential  
22 solutions would be. And so we have clearly  
23 identified for almost half of our TCUs exact plans  
24 of what would enable the removal. And so we are now  
25 tackling the ones that the solution may not be

2 quite as immediately obvious or require a lot of  
3 community engagement that we simply haven't started  
4 yet we, which we will. In some cases it is around  
5 enrollment and a, the, the potential need to either  
6 rezone or remove programming from a school that is  
7 attracting students from beyond the zone. In other  
8 cases it may be we need to look at relocating a  
9 program from a building that can't accommodate it  
10 without the TCUs to additional available space in  
11 the area and in some cases it is that we need to  
12 identify potential new capacity that is coming  
13 online or that is funded in the plan where we could  
14 relocate a program. So in some cases it is, we may  
15 know that it's dependent on new capacity and simply  
16 haven't identified that particular project yet and  
17 in other cases it will require dialogue with the  
18 community on what is the best way to bring the  
19 enrollment into alignment with the main building?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: There is a  
21 school east New York family academy. 70 percent of  
22 the students are importable.

23 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: What's your  
25 plan?

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So as that is  
3 one of the schools that we have not yet identified  
4 a specific plan.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I would think  
6 that that should be something near the top of your  
7 list because it's something that requires a lot of  
8 thought and a lot of planning and a lot of  
9 strategizing. I asked last time you were here that  
10 it seems to me that since it hasn't been identified  
11 and a plan has not been thought up, that that's a  
12 real problem. The principal has not been involved  
13 in dialogue because I've spoken with him. And as  
14 said to me it seem, I said then that it seems to me  
15 that you're looking to perhaps since you don't have  
16 a plan and haven't targeted this as a really  
17 potentially dangerous situation in terms of closing  
18 a school and you assured me oh no we're not going  
19 to do that, the school's not going to be phased  
20 out, it's not going to be closed. So how are you  
21 going to accommodate 70 percent of the children in  
22 other locations while you remove the reportable and  
23 once they're removed the school cannot hole those  
24 350 students. So what's going to happen to the  
25 school? I think that it's a part of what I see as



2 being very evasive and not coming in with some hard  
3 facts in terms of questions that had been passed to  
4 you that you should have expected to be asked not  
5 being prepared to have an answer for that. So what  
6 is your plan for the East New York family academy  
7 that has 70 percent of its students importable with  
8 a building that certainly has no capacity for any  
9 additional students?

10 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So for that  
11 particular school we would have to look at what are  
12 potential alternative locations that might have the  
13 space available for that school. What is potential  
14 new capacity... [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I said last time  
16 you were here I know the area, there is no space I  
17 that immediate area. I said that to you last time  
18 you were here. We need a new building. We need a  
19 site to be constructed for those students if in  
20 fact you're saying that yes we certainly want to  
21 maintain that as a high school. Yes we want to  
22 maintain that population and that staffing numbers.  
23 And I'm very displeased that you don't have a  
24 concrete plan or even a skeletal plan to offer it  
25 this time.

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We appreciate  
3 your perspective. We are not closing schools. This  
4 administration is working with our schools. We are  
5 not closing schools. We have identified plans to  
6 remove almost half of our TCUs in the first year  
7 and a half of this plan. And we are continuing to  
8 work to identify removal plans for the next 194. We  
9 are committed to identifying plans for all of our  
10 TCUs.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to work  
12 very closely with you as well as the school  
13 principal who has not been involved in this process  
14 at all.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So  
16 Council Member Barron...

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I just  
19 want to make sure we that we... an opportunity for  
20 you to schedule time with the council member to get  
21 this all hashed out and you can invite your  
22 principal... whatever you...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
25 ...necessary. Okay. Council Member Chin followed by

2 Council Member Johnson and then Council Member  
3 Treyger. And we've been joined by Council Member,  
4 [coughs], excuse me, this is the worst allergy  
5 season ever, Council Member Gibson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank  
7 you Chairs. Every time you see me I'm going to be  
8 repeating myself over and over again right? My  
9 district is overcrowded. I know that we're one new  
10 school... school, it looks beautiful. I pass by there  
11 every week and I see the progress, it's great. Once  
12 that school is open it's going to be full. Right?  
13 There's no room to expand. So we were allocated  
14 another thousand seat and then it got cut down to  
15 less than 500. And we have this great group of  
16 parents and community activists called build school  
17 now that's submitted a list of potential site to  
18 you. So have you had a chance to review it?

19 PRESIDENT GRILLO: We...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That's my first  
21 question.

22 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Okay. We have and as  
23 part of your suggestions you've talked to us often  
24 about working with developers in your area and we  
25 are in discussions right now with the development.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So you are  
3 talking? But I think it's good to give some  
4 feedback back to the coalition because they work  
5 very hard in identifying the sites. So at least  
6 they get some feedback.

7 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yes. I believe, I  
8 believe we've had conversation in the past on some  
9 of those sites so let me go back and make sure that  
10 they've been fully informed as to what we found.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That would be  
12 good. Because like as we, as we're talking now in  
13 my district there are new buildings that's going  
14 up. I mean the parking garage on Fulton Street went  
15 down like that. So another high-rise residential  
16 building is going to be built and that is like a  
17 couple of blocks from the... school. So people are  
18 advertising our schools and they're building new  
19 building like crazy. And all these buildings are as  
20 of right and you're able to get some preschool  
21 seats that's great but I mean pre-kindergarten seat  
22 but we need seats for kindergarten and all the way  
23 to the middle school. The other question I have is  
24 that now we have in this capital plan you have a  
25 footnote on the two sites that we have in lower

2 Manhattan even though it's not all the way down one  
3 on Bleeka [phonetic] street, the NYU sigh  
4 [phonetic] and then one on the lower east side..  
5 development. Progress is going. I mean they have  
6 torn down old building and new buildings gonna  
7 [phonetic] go up. And there is a site for a school.  
8 So going forward how do we make sure that we  
9 convince the DOE and SCA that these are two great  
10 sites that we don't want to lose, that we want to  
11 see a school build there as soon as possible.

12 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Well I, I will  
13 address the NYU site and we really very much  
14 appreciate your involvement in our last discussion  
15 with NYU where you extended the deadline for us to  
16 make a decision on that. And we are continuing to  
17 look at that. As far as the other site I think..  
18 [cross-talk]

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So the, the..  
20 development there, I believe we've shared with you  
21 in the past our expectation in terms of the  
22 timeline of the housing that is being built as part  
23 of the spearhead development will require the  
24 school for the next capital plan. We do, we, we're  
25 in fact seeing very flat enrollment to declining

2 enrollment in that particular area at the moment.

3 So we do have space in that particular area for the  
4 New York term and we anticipate that the need for  
5 the seats from that development will really appear  
6 in the next capital plan. So that's when we first  
7 see funding... school.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But you can also  
9 continue to review because in light of, you know  
10 with the buildings going up and also population  
11 could change and... because there also other new  
12 market rate housing and other development or  
13 affordable housing that's going to be being built.

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Right.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And, and that is  
16 absolutely consistent with our reassessment of  
17 enrollment in new projections on an annual basis so  
18 that we can make adjustments to the plan as needed.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. The last  
20 point I wanted to raise is that there's also such a  
21 great need for senior center sights, community  
22 center sights. So I think going forward I... looking  
23 at school to see if there's possibility of  
24 incorporating space in there for community to use  
25 especially for senior centers. Because a lot of our

2 senior centers you know old and they, they... they  
3 need new facility. So why we're building school if  
4 we can also incorporate community facility in there  
5 I think that would be a great benefit to the  
6 community.

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So we actually  
8 from a programmatic perspective think that there  
9 are some potential opportunities. However our  
10 challenges typically when we find a site we need  
11 all of the space that we are able to obtain to  
12 provide the school facilities that the seat need  
13 that we are trying to fail. And, and so that is the  
14 challenge that if we find a great site in an area  
15 of overcrowding you know we want to maximize those,  
16 that space for our school children because  
17 frequently we, we don't have enough space to even  
18 meet those needs.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But keep that in  
20 mind because... [cross-talk]

21 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Absolutely.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...there could be  
23 possibilities. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
25 you Council Member Chin, Council Member Johnson

2 followed Council Member Treyger followed by Council  
3 Member Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you Madam  
5 Chair. I want to start off by saying I am so  
6 excited about 75 Morton Street in my district. You  
7 and your team... have done an incredible job with  
8 regard to community engagement and the DOE has done  
9 an incredible job at coming together and working  
10 with the parents, community boards, PTAs and I  
11 think everyone feels really good about that  
12 process. And I think people feel like it's been a  
13 significant departure of what they had expected in  
14 the past. And the SCA has been completely adaptable  
15 and creative about finding ways to address some  
16 concerns so I'm really really really grateful for  
17 that. And I'm also excited for you know it was our  
18 first year for the sixth avenue elementary school  
19 at sixth avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> street. And it is a  
20 gorgeous beautiful school. So I want to just thank  
21 Lorraine because she has been a real pleasure to  
22 work with whenever I've gone to her on anything  
23 that was significant or important she has been  
24 responsive and she's gotten back to me right away.  
25 I, I did bring up some questions in the preliminary



2 budget hearing that I just wanted to raise again.

3 And you mentioned Lorraine that the New Beacon High

4 School is opening up this fall on 44<sup>th</sup> Street

5 between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues and I think I

6 mentioned in the preliminary budget hearing that on

7 that block is also PS51 and now with Beacon and

8 PS51 coming to that block every day there's going

9 to be you know thousands of kids next to one of the

10 busiest gas stations on the west side of Manhattan

11 and a bunch of taxi automotive places. And I just

12 want to make sure that we have a plan in place for

13 the Fall so that nothing bad happens. Because I

14 don't know if a plan has been put together yet to

15 address any safety concerns. I wanted to, to ask

16 about sort of system wide, citywide the building

17 condition assessment survey BCAS which looks at the

18 most urgent conditions than the capital dollars

19 that you all just talked about five billion

20 dollars, 1.37 billion in enhancement safety science

21 lab upgrades, accessibility bathroom upgrades,

22 technology. Can you just walkthrough it with me

23 again the, the process by which they go through and

24 determine whether something is one through five and

25 what is determined an urgent project?

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Sure. Our BCAS  
3 survey is a, every year we put together a team of  
4 architects and engineers. They visit every single  
5 school. They rate the systems, the major systems  
6 within the building. And when I say major systems I  
7 mean the heating system or the roof system, the  
8 windows, that sort of thing. And when we, when we  
9 see a five in particular in the area of roofing or  
10 anything that would, would cause a leak in the  
11 building that's probably one of the first things  
12 that we, we attack. Because once a leak starts it  
13 damages other things very very quickly. So that's  
14 one area. Obviously heating if heating isn't  
15 working, certainly or is, is just about ready to,  
16 to live out its useful life we will certainly  
17 attack that as a five. There are other things for  
18 example. If you've got, if you've got 40 windows in  
19 the building and two of them are not working those  
20 two windows will be a five. But the window system  
21 is still functional so that will be somewhere in  
22 the neighborhood of a three. So that might not be,  
23 get on our list of things to do. If you look at  
24 those major systems first the fives first and then  
25 when we can anything below that.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And you know  
3 when, when you and I sat down a few months ago I  
4 gave you a list of different issues in some of the  
5 schools in my district. And I would love the  
6 opportunity not to be a pest but just to understand  
7 when the BCAS teams go out to some of these sites  
8 where the principals and PTAs have said this is a  
9 really significant problem and it hasn't been  
10 addressed in years and I guess it's not getting  
11 picked up as an urgent matter when BCAS comes out  
12 every year I would love the opportunity to, to tag  
13 along and to just see what else in the school  
14 they're determining is an urgent issue because,  
15 because some of these things need to get done and  
16 you and I have been able to handle some of them but  
17 there are other schools that I haven't gone to you  
18 on because I don't want to bug you with everything  
19 on every school.

20 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Feel free to bug me  
21 on every school. It's fine. Again we wish we could  
22 do everything, we wish we could do everything  
23 quickly but we wish we could do everything quickly  
24 but we have to, we have to deal with the most  
25 urgent needs first.

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1 EDUCATION

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And the  
3 custodians should be doing some of this as well.

4 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Wells, well there is  
5 often times confusion on the part of the school as  
6 to what is a capital expenditure as to what is  
7 maintenance or operation...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Yep.

9 PRESIDENT GRILLO: ...so yeah.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very  
11 very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Well  
13 thank you Council Member Johnson. Council Member  
14 Treyger followed by Council Member Miller. And...

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank...

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...we've  
17 been joined by Council Member Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you very  
19 much. And welcome Deputy Chancellor and President  
20 Grillo and I'm so glad you just said that we have  
21 to address the most urgent needs first because as  
22 you know and at probably every hearing I, I repeat  
23 again how schools in my district, many of them  
24 particularly in Coney Island are still dealing with  
25 the impact of Superstorm Sandy and they felt it, in

2 housing, they felt it in schools, their libraries,  
3 infrastructure, parks, you name it. Do we now have  
4 a clear timeline on when work is underway and  
5 expected completion of permanent boilers and other  
6 critical infrastructure fixes to these damaged  
7 schools?

8 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Every school short of  
9 one has been bid and awarded, projects have been  
10 awarded and many of them are in construction. They  
11 all have schedules which I can be happy to share  
12 with you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes. And your  
14 office, I will say that your office has been in  
15 touch with me about making sure that FEMA is  
16 actually signing things and not just announcing  
17 things as we've seen in other cases. So let's, if  
18 you can give me just a clarity on timeline when do  
19 we expect this work to be completed, that'll be  
20 helpful.

21 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Well again it's,  
22 it's, it varies because the damage in some schools  
23 is far worse than in other schools. The boiler  
24 repair work will take up to a year and a half to  
25 two years, I mean the boiler replacement work. The

2 repair work might go much quicker. Some, some  
3 boilers are not going to be replaced. A lot, most  
4 of them are but in those cases that will go much  
5 much faster. So I'll be happy to share the actual  
6 schedule with you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes. And I  
8 would like to work with your office because some  
9 principals have notified me that some of the  
10 replacement work that was done immediately right  
11 after Sandy, I think this even probably pre-dates  
12 this current administration was not the original  
13 work that was done before. For example there's a  
14 principal in Coney Island that said that her  
15 gymnasium was damaged, PS329 and what they have  
16 done in place of it was not the original work  
17 where... And so I'd like to follow-up with you.  
18 Because now that we're getting into, into some work  
19 and some things are actually happening I just want  
20 to make sure that the schools are getting what  
21 they, what they rightfully deserve. I'd like to  
22 also just, I mentioned this at the, when we had the  
23 OMB director here as well that, and I think I  
24 mentioned to you, to your office before is that  
25 usually city council funds, Reso A funding are, are

2 used for school enhancement, you know computer  
3 labs, science labs, and in my case... I'm working  
4 with the borough president to do some great things  
5 at Grady [sp?] for a culinary program. But I find  
6 myself hearing from schools about infrastructure  
7 needs time and time again. And many of the schools  
8 in my district were built... district 21 an parts of  
9 20 were built during the new dealer. And so as, if  
10 I want to get a computer lab they say no the wiring  
11 is old and you have to first deal with the  
12 electrical problems which are in the millions and  
13 millions of dollars range. So what are we doing to  
14 make sure because I, they, they only give us about  
15 five million dollars each in capital? What are we  
16 doing to really address the greatest infrastructure  
17 needs in our city. Because some schools are being  
18 built which are new which are great but there are  
19 some schools built in the 1930s that have constant  
20 needs and I can't get them a computer lab until the  
21 electricity is fixed. I just, to hear what is the  
22 plan to address the most critical infrastructure  
23 needs of our schools?

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well we do have  
25 505 million dollars funded in the plan to upgrade

2 the you know connectivity, broadband wireless  
3 connectivity in schools. And so every school will  
4 be receiving an upgrade over the course of the five  
5 years of this capital plan. Where we identify a  
6 need for additional electrical capacity we work  
7 very closely with SCA to ensure that, that we have  
8 the capacity to provide those types of services.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yeah I mean  
10 especially since the, you know the DOE is starting  
11 to man, you know require, urge educators to use  
12 computers in the schools to have their grades on  
13 the database to report cards through computers. And  
14 when I try to help them get computers they have,  
15 they can't because they have to first deal with  
16 this issue of infrastructure. So we have to be  
17 mindful that if we're mandating one thing..

18 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...and we're not,  
20 and they're not, they don't have the capacity to  
21 accommodate that we just have to be, be mindful of  
22 that. And I'd like to just add my comments as well  
23 as to the TCUs we mentioned there's, there's a  
24 school in my district, a couple schools in my  
25 district as well in district 21; PS101, PS97 that



2 still have TCUs. We'd love to work with you about  
3 timelines and when those schools will get those  
4 issues resolved. Thank you. Thanks Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
6 you Council Member Treyger. Council Member Miller.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam  
8 Chair and the Co-Chair. Good afternoon. My, my  
9 questions are quite simple as well. I want to talk  
10 about some of the timelines and obviously the TCUs  
11 we have a few like everyone else still remain...  
12 district... move... Also had a question as to there  
13 were... what, if there were any availability because  
14 there were actually some schools in the district  
15 who... looking for some. And we would, having a  
16 little bit of problem. We reached out to the office  
17 on that. So if you can get back to what the process  
18 would be on that, that, that and the process of, of  
19 new construction there was a need for additional  
20 classrooms. For district 29 in southeast queens  
21 there are number where, where, waiting,  
22 anticipating with great anticipation some new  
23 classrooms, spaces, PS176 and, and what is it 3...

24 PRESIDENT GRILLO: 35 is it?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yeah.

2 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Is it? It's 35 I  
3 think.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: And, and... the  
5 other school?

6 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I believe it's PS35,  
7 PS35.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yeah it's...  
9 currently the St. Pascal's...

10 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Oh.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...and yeah, and  
12 converted. So, so we're anticipating, we're eagerly  
13 anticipating... That one is going to be ready for  
14 September right?

15 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yes, 35 I believe is  
16 going to be ready or is St. Pascal... I don't know  
17 we'll have to check.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay.

19 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I'm sorry. Mm-hmm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...so and, and I'm  
21 sure this has been asked and, and I'm going to  
22 double down... There are also a number of schools in  
23 the district, close to 20 that are still waiting to  
24 have their lights replaced as part of the program.  
25 What, what's the timeline on that?

2 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Alright. Well we  
3 anticipate that all of the projects, that's 777  
4 schools will be in construction by the end of this  
5 fiscal, or the beginning of the next fiscal year.  
6 All of them will be completed by December 2016.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay good. And  
8 on these projects, I want to talk about the MWBE  
9 program and particularly the mentoring program,  
10 how's that going, how's that work and how do we get  
11 more engagement and get...

12 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...more people  
14 involved?

15 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right. As, as I often  
16 brag our MWBE and mentor program is probably the  
17 finest in the state of New York. We're very proud  
18 of it. We often do outreach into the communities if  
19 there is a particular outreach that you would  
20 invite us to we'd be happy to come and speak with  
21 new and emerging businesses throughout your area  
22 and encourage them to be part of it. Because  
23 certainly in particular based upon the, the PCB  
24 removals and 777 schools it was difficult and has  
25 been difficult to get qualified electrical

2 contractors to do such a massive undertaking. So we  
3 would appreciate as many people as we could  
4 possibly include we would like to include.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay thank you  
6 so much. And I also want to commend you and your  
7 staff on the, on the engagement that you have done  
8 in the community.. my office and moving these  
9 projects along.. [cross-talk] Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
11 you Council Member Miller. We'll have Council  
12 Member Rosenthal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.  
14 It's good to see you guys here. Thanks for coming.  
15 Just a couple of very quick questions. Deputy  
16 Chancellor Rose, I love saying those words..

17 [laughter]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Sorry, Deputy  
19 Chancellor Rose, so widely proud of that, okay  
20 sorry.. you mentioned a 500 million dollar plus  
21 project on connectivity. Could you talk about that  
22 just a little bit more?

23 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Sure. And I may  
24 also have.. come and join me. So we have 500 million  
25 dollars scheduled for upgrades across all of our

2 school buildings. And I... Ling why don't you come on  
3 up because I can't put my finger on the page which  
4 I'm sure you have.

5           LING TAN: Hi, my name is Ling Tan. I'm...  
6 Director... for the Capital Program for technology.  
7 So the 505 that we set aside in the five year plan  
8 for the infrastructure upgrade basically all our  
9 schools now have fiber to each of the building. So  
10 this is an upgrade for the next technology. So the  
11 process has been ongoing for the last 10 15 years.  
12 So I think except for a few lease sites where they  
13 still have the old frame relay we're working to get  
14 them. Because either the lease make them not  
15 capital eligible we have one that is on... on the  
16 street because of another projects that has been  
17 dug up. So other than that... so this 505 is based  
18 on... so we... about three to 400 schools every year in  
19 terms of the main, mainframe relay that each school  
20 has a main network notes. So whatever the equipment  
21 needs to be updated... So for example if there's a  
22 new access point for the wireless... we would put  
23 them on a cycle. So that's basically what the 505  
24 covers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Is that  
3 contracted work or is that on site professionals?

4 LING TAN: No those are basically  
5 contractor works.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Is it one  
7 contractor?

8 LING TAN: Well right now we're not in...  
9 it didn't need to be one contractor... various  
10 functions that are involve in that; equipment,  
11 integration, and... like some minor electrification  
12 so it could be multiple contracts.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm wondering  
14 if this is... [cross-talk]

15 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: If I could just  
16 add to that... [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...connected...

18 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: There will be  
19 an RFP to be issued very shortly that enables  
20 multiple contracts for different geographies and  
21 enables... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep.

23 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...companies to  
24 bid on different parts of that work.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Was, was this  
3 the former computer special, service specialers  
4 [phonetic], specialist contract that was awarded  
5 and then rescinded?

6 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yeah so, so... we  
7 are, we're issuing new E...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

9 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...RFPs for the  
10 work that was originally planned to be awarded to  
11 that one contractor.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, so that's  
13 quite a change in number; 505 million. That's  
14 great. I mean it, that's your estimate for the  
15 cost. You think bids will come in around 500  
16 million.

17 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So I think the  
18 other contract that you're referring to may have  
19 also included a number of expense items, not just  
20 capital.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay...

22 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So this...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'd be  
24 curious to know.

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...505 million  
3 dollars is strictly the capital portion of our  
4 programs.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Could we,  
6 could I get some follow-up... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Can I just clarify...  
8 [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...information  
10 on that?

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...clarify something  
12 on that.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So that was the  
15 original 1.2 billion dollar contract that you're  
16 talking about or is, are, is this a different  
17 contract? What contract is it? This is a subset of  
18 that original 1.2? And... [cross-talk]

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Correct.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: There's still a  
21 commitment of 5.5?

22 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: 505...

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 505 I mean.

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...million  
25 dollars of capital for the infrastructure. That



2 other contract also included other items beyond  
3 this capital.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what is the  
5 total cost of that contract now? 600 and something  
6 million?

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I don't have  
8 those figures with me.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright, just wanted  
10 to make sure we were talking about the same thing.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm wondering  
12 the exact same question. And I would love the  
13 details of, of what we're talking about to know...  
14 [cross-talk]

15 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We can follow-  
16 up.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...that  
18 question. Great. Thank you so much. And then  
19 specifically Chancellor Grillo can I ask about the  
20 pre-K site at 606 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street. Is, if that is  
21 moving along that was the TF cornerstone site?

22 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I, I would have to  
23 check that but that's, very glad that you brought  
24 that up because I will double check. That's a good  
25 area, that's a good area of need for us, yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. That  
3 was a... [cross-talk]

4 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Let me double check.  
5 Yes I, I do remember, yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. And  
7 that was commitment from the SCA to lease that  
8 space for a pre-k site? Great. Thank you. And do  
9 you know if there are any plans to purchase the old  
10 Beacon site, currently west end secondary school  
11 given the challenges...

12 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...of the land.

14 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Currently we are in  
15 the process of negotiating with the landlord. I  
16 think we've, we've actually had conversation about  
17 that. He was reluctant but we certainly approached  
18 him in a certain way and he was willing to come and  
19 sit at the table so we are now talking with him to  
20 negotiate an extension on the lease.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh okay.

22 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Okay.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So not a  
24 purchase.

25 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Well  
3 I'd love to... of those... we have you know...

4 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yep.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...whatever it  
6 is, 120 freaked out parents. And are you on  
7 schedule for starting school in September at West  
8 End Secondary.

9 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yes we are.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And at that  
11 site?

12 PRESIDENT GRILLO: At that site.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
16 you Council Member. We will now enter into the  
17 second round. The, so I wanted to talk about the  
18 private consultant to do school seat need  
19 projections. The projected seat need was, has held  
20 steady at about 50 thousand for the general, for  
21 general years despite the 70 thousand UPK seat  
22 programs. So we're trying to understand how you  
23 have projections... this program comes in, and where  
24 does, that identified... When did SCA last rebid its  
25 contract for the seat need projections. If a

2 different firm other than the usual two did the  
3 demographic projections would the projections  
4 change?

5 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Okay. Actually we  
6 have two firms...

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Two  
8 firms?

9 PRESIDENT GRILLO: ...that do that. And we  
10 did that very specifically because the... question is  
11 this accurate, is this not accurate... So we have two  
12 independent firms doing it and they are almost  
13 identical in their findings.

14 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

15 PRESIDENT GRILLO: So I think it's four...  
16 [cross-talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
18 Identical to what was already found in the past or...

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Identical to  
20 each other.

21 PRESIDENT GRILLO: What, to each other.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay. So  
23 what, where are we now in that number?

24 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Okay so... Alright yeah  
25 our last contract was bid out four years ago. We're

2 about ready to do another RFP for it, those  
3 services.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So is  
5 the, is the, the contract term four years on  
6 average?

7 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Oh yeah, it was two  
8 years and it had two extensions, a year and..

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Two  
10 years with two year extensions.

11 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right.

12 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And what  
13 was our last number of project, projected numbers?

14 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I think we, well you  
15 said 49 thousand seats total.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: 49  
17 thousand seats?

18 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yes.

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: And then if I  
20 would add particularly as it relates to pre-K we do  
21 not assume that 100 percent of the pre-K need will  
22 be met in DOE buildings. And so while we have been  
23 expanding DOE capacity for Pre-K significantly  
24 through the tremendous work of the SCA over the  
25 past year we are also expanding the pre-K seats in

2 what are now called NYECCs I think, New York Early  
3 Childhood Centers. So private providers who, who  
4 are working under contract to provide UPK seats.  
5 And they have provided a significant portion of the  
6 increase in, in the UPK capacity.

7 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay.

8 The commitment plan includes only 23 budget lined  
9 for the Department's 13.5 billion dollars and your  
10 capital program. The city gives the SCA authority  
11 to carry out the capital projects identified in the  
12 five year plan through approval of a large lump sum  
13 commitment therefore the commitment plan is useful  
14 only in so far as it shows the very broad  
15 categories of planned commitments and proposed  
16 funding levels. Can these details be provided to  
17 the council going forward because it is very  
18 challenging for us to have appropriate oversight on  
19 what projects cost, how we can follow the money..

20 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...if we  
22 don't have the detail.

23 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I completely  
24 understand your concern. But those of you, well  
25 those of us who've been around for many decades we

2 remember what it was like to do this type of  
3 construction and the length of time that it took to  
4 do new schools as well as these major capital  
5 improvement projects. So when the SCA was created  
6 25 years ago it was given certain abilities that a  
7 typical city agency would not have. So in that  
8 particular idea of the commitments means that for  
9 us that we don't, we don't need to go through every  
10 single step that another city agency needs to go  
11 through in order to get a project up off the ground  
12 and get it going and dealing with issues as they  
13 arise like change orders and things like that. So  
14 for example if I was, if I was another agency and I  
15 ran into some significant issue as I was  
16 constructing a school I would typically have to go  
17 back to OMB or to others to get approval to  
18 continue on with that, with that change. This gives  
19 us the ability to streamline this work, do it as  
20 quickly as possible and of course at the end of the  
21 day our, the details of, of cost are available for  
22 anyone.

23 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.

24 So I need you to help me..

25 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...figure  
3 out a way...

4 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...how we  
6 can communicate those project by project so that we  
7 know what's happening...

8 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Sure.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...not  
10 after the fact but before. And... So we're going to  
11 follow-up and the team can follow-up with you on,  
12 on the finance division how to best engage... We get  
13 that.

14 PRESIDENT GRILLO: We do provide the  
15 council with a report, a status report on each and  
16 every project.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right.  
18 But the status report for us to match that with the  
19 actual dollar amount...

20 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I see.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...when it  
22 comes to the, from the finance division  
23 perspective...

24 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I see.



2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...is what  
3 we need. So we understand the status of how  
4 everything's going on.

5 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Mm-hmm.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: How we  
7 match that up and, and get the balance of this is  
8 what...

9 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Understood.

10 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND:  
11 ...challenge.

12 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Understood.

13 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So the  
14 finance division is going to reach out and follow-  
15 up...

16 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Sure. Absolutely.

17 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...on how  
18 we can identify program areas or, or how this  
19 funding is going to be done. The city's executive  
20 ten year capital plan totals 83.8 billion an  
21 increase of 16.1 billion from the preliminary  
22 budget yet the DOE, DOE's portion of the executive  
23 ten year capital strategy actually decreases by two  
24 billion from the preliminary ten year capital  
25 strategy to 24.9 even though the mayor said during

2 his briefing on the fiscal 2016 budget that  
3 education was a priority for his administration.  
4 Given that statement why was there a decrease of  
5 two billion dollars in the DOE's ten year capital  
6 strategy? And how does the administration  
7 anticipate meeting the DOE's capacity needs?

8 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We certainly  
9 support the range of capital investment that are  
10 required by other agencies in the city as well. And  
11 we know that we are not the only need for capitals  
12 funding. It's early in the plan. You know this  
13 budget for this five year plan started out  
14 initially lower than it is today. And we will  
15 continue to work with OMB and the city to ensure  
16 that we are meeting the needs of our students. And  
17 we know that this city is committed to doing so.

18 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Do you  
19 find, do you know now which capital programs you'd  
20 prioritize when you're looking though get, to get  
21 the increase what, what are the, what are your  
22 priorities? What do you think you will, can we see?

23 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Well I think  
24 our current plan gives you a very good roadmap of  
25 how we think about our priorities. We think there

2 is a significant amount of funding that is required  
3 every capital plan to maintain the existing  
4 buildings that we have. A portion of that funding  
5 needs to be used to upgrade existing facilities so  
6 that they are as useful as possible in a modern  
7 classroom setting. We continue to see pockets of  
8 overcrowding. And so a portion of our funding is  
9 used to ensure that we are providing new seats in  
10 areas where we cannot accommodate our students in  
11 existing buildings. And then finally there is a  
12 piece of whether it is legislatively driven or  
13 legally driven there are always mandates whether  
14 that can be insurance, that can be changed costs on  
15 prior plan projects or it can be mandates like the  
16 boiler conversions. So if you think of those three  
17 categories that really gives you a very clear  
18 roadmap for how we think of the needs. And, and our  
19 goal is to ensure that we continue to meet those  
20 needs.

21 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I  
22 want to talk about the two billion dollar general  
23 obligation bond act as known as, or known as the  
24 smart school bond. So generally I have a lot of  
25

2 detailed questions which I will follow-up with you  
3 on but...

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Great.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...can you  
6 walk us through how you envision implementing this  
7 program. I know President Grillo you talked about  
8 the nuances to your, or to your agency about being  
9 able to be more flexible. Does this bond, do these  
10 dollars now come with procurement rules? Does it  
11 come with having to go to the smart school's review  
12 board or OMB, how do we... what is this funding that  
13 you're getting? And we're really excited about...

14 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So it  
16 has to do all that huh?

17 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes. So we  
18 would have to develop a plan that will go to the  
19 smart school's review board. It requires community  
20 input. And so we, clearly there are very specific  
21 categories of projects that can be used for this  
22 plan. We need to consider how the timing of the  
23 application and the review board will play into  
24 which projects have the potential to be used for,

2 to be applied for this funding to fund those  
3 projects.

4 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
5 you. And so one of the things that constantly  
6 schools are asking us for and we can't give through  
7 reso A is tablets. And we understand that tablets  
8 are very very vital to where we're going in  
9 society. But as you know we are limited because..

10 ELIZBETH: Mm-hmm.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...of our  
12 rules to be able to purchase tablets do you see the  
13 school construction authority being able to buy on  
14 behalf of schools buying the tablets and, and  
15 issuing them for schools through this bond?

16 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So that's  
17 something that we have to consider. There are  
18 different rules of capital eligibility for the  
19 smart schools bond act than we use in the city. And  
20 so that's something that we will look into and have  
21 to consider.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So in  
23 this case it would be the state buying the tablets  
24 and then the S, SCA being able to issue them so  
25 that.. is what we're suggesting.

2 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: If that were to  
3 be one of the ways we would use the funds it would  
4 have to be through application to the smart  
5 school's bond act.

6 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: So I  
7 think... you know that's what we're trying to say.

8 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

9 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: If, it  
10 would be great if you could do that and if not for  
11 us to figure out the best way to get these tablets  
12 into the school, especially when we're talking  
13 about young people on the autism spectrum and it's  
14 been proven how, how great...

15 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

16 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: ...of a  
17 tool it is for both parents and also teachers. But  
18 it's kind of interesting that a young person or an  
19 adult can go get a tablet at a public school. I  
20 mean, not a public school, at a public library but  
21 they can't do, or work on it in school. So it seems  
22 counterintuitive to, to what we're trying to teach  
23 our young people.

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: And  
3 parents. Because I'm sure it would be great for  
4 parents. So I hope you were able to pick that up,  
5 go to the state, figure it out, and then bring us  
6 some tablets. And now I'll go to Chair Dromm.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Just to follow up on  
8 that question though Chair Ferreras what portion of  
9 the smart schools bond act is dedicated to  
10 technology?

11 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So there isn't  
12 a specific portion that is required. There are a  
13 limited range of types of projects that we could  
14 apply to use the funding for. And that includes  
15 replacement of TCUs with permanent...

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Haven't we committed  
17 some... [cross-talk]

18 ELIABETH: ...removal of TCUs...

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...of the money  
20 already to removal of the TCUs though?

21 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We, we are  
22 committed to... [cross-talk] a significant investment  
23 in removal of TCUs. We are committed to a  
24 significant investment in IT infrastructure and  
25 are, the total 13.5 billion dollar budget includes

2 the proceeds from the smart schools bond act but we  
3 have not yet said this project will be funded  
4 through the stream.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay got it. The  
6 proposed amendment reflects a decrease of 7.7  
7 million for athletic field upgrades if I'm not  
8 mistaken. Why is that? Is that? Will we have to do  
9 less athletic field upgrades?

10 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Alright this had to  
11 do with one single project where we awarded it and  
12 there was a difference in the dollars...

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm sorry Lorraine  
14 it's really hard for me to hear... [cross-talk]

15 PRESIDENT GRILLO: I'm sorry. This had  
16 to do with one single project that went out to bid  
17 and was awarded at a, at a lesser cost. It was one  
18 project.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Okay so it was  
20 just a one project then.

21 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you, does the  
23 school construction authority have anything to do  
24 with swimming pools in schools?

25 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes.



2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. There are some  
3 very nice swimming pools around. Are they open for  
4 public use?

5 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So swimming  
6 pools similar to any school facility are available  
7 for use by outside organizations through the  
8 extended use permits. So an, an outside  
9 organization has the opportunity to request time.  
10 They must provide, they must meet certain  
11 requirements in terms of lifeguard staffing and  
12 insurance requirements for anything using the pool.  
13 But they are available.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is that true also of  
15 athletic fields?

16 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes it is.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Outside groups can  
18 use them?

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes outside  
20 groups can use them when schools are not using them  
21 for their own...

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And do they pay a  
23 fee?

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: They do. The,  
25 the extended use fees cover the costs of security

2 and custodial staff who need to be present while  
3 the facility is in use.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is there, are there  
5 any... I'm particularly interested in swimming pools  
6 for some reason but...

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Actually I've just  
9 been told that there was a very nice one at the Far  
10 Rockaway High School as a matter of fact. The  
11 upkeep and maintenance of those swimming pools...  
12 whose responsibility is that?

13 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So our swimming  
14 pools are maintained by the Division of School  
15 facilities who maintain all of our buildings.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And do any outside  
17 groups give funding for those swimming pools?

18 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I would have to  
19 follow up on that. I'm not a hundred... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And, and  
21 another example at PS125 I believe on 123<sup>rd</sup> Street  
22 in Harlem, district five has a swimming pool also.  
23 And I'm just curious to know if outside groups use  
24 that or since it's a building that many schools are

25

2 co-located in how the division of who gets to use  
3 the swimming pool is determined.

4 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So within a co-  
5 located building the, how the pool gets utilized  
6 would be part of the same building council  
7 discussion process as any other shared space in the  
8 building; the gymnasium, the cafeteria, the  
9 auditorium. All of those spaces the principals in  
10 the building counsel would discuss how they would  
11 allocate the space. Any time that those schools are  
12 not using the pool it is potentially available  
13 through the extended use permit process.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And the staffing of  
15 the pools; how does that, where does that fall... for  
16 lifeguards for say DOE usage?

17 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I believe  
18 schools who are using their swimming pools provide  
19 the lifeguard or certified instructor when the  
20 pools are...

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: But there are some  
22 schools where schools are not using the pools, is  
23 that correct?

24 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I couldn't say  
25 for sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay because I think  
3 if I'm not mistaken the example I gave of the  
4 district five school may be one of those schools.  
5 And I'm just curious... I'm going to follow up with  
6 you on this because... [cross-talk]

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Mm-hmm.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...it just seems to me  
9 an avenue for outside usage is available and in  
10 addition curious to know about actually how that is  
11 divided up with when you have the collocated  
12 schools.

13 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So the proposed  
15 amendment also provides for 121 million for  
16 upgrades to libraries, the funding for these  
17 upgrades... it's decreased by 18 million. Can you  
18 explain to us why that is?

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: We like  
20 libraries...

21 PRESIDENT GRILLO: We like library... I,  
22 exactly right, I, I... [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well you know with  
24 my predecessor Robert Jackson...

25 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Yes...

2 DROM: ...there was a hearing that we held  
3 on librarians and the use of school librarians has  
4 been a topic covered in news reports as well. And  
5 so that's why I'm curious to know has there been a  
6 decrease in assignment of librarians to public  
7 schools? Is there less interest in libraries? Is  
8 there more of an emphasis on technology? I know in  
9 my school at one point the library was taken out to  
10 put a computer room in. And that's why I'm, I'm  
11 curious about this.

12 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: So we do find  
13 in some of our schools a very popular request is an  
14 upgrade to a library, to make a portion of it more  
15 of a technology or media center, that it, you know  
16 it's a different type of resource that schools find  
17 now very useful. So that is one type of upgrade  
18 that now is available and, and we do do in some  
19 cases for schools where we have funding and need.  
20 So that's very popular. I don't think, I don't  
21 think there's a, a specific program at the moment  
22 related to libraries or at librarians but we can  
23 follow up on that.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And then we  
3 don't know exactly why that decrease of 18 million  
4 dollars in upgrades to libraries is there?

5 PRESIDENT GRILLO: No I'd have to...  
6 [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...get back to us on  
8 that as well. So with pre-k sites... when will the 55  
9 pre-k sites be open?

10 PRESIDENT GRILLO: We have a, a large  
11 portion of pre-k sites opening. The, the bulk of  
12 them will open September 2015. There will be a  
13 handful that will open January 2016. And then the  
14 rest September 2016.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And we're  
16 still currently looking for additional sites, is  
17 that true?

18 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Always looking.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Always, okay good.  
20 And by the way I forgot to thank you also for the  
21 siting of PS398 I believe is the number, the white  
22 castle site. So I want to thank you President  
23 Grillo for moving so quickly on that and providing  
24 my district with a new school. So hopefully we'll  
25 see that through right to the end together.

2 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Great.

3 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Chair Dromm if  
4 I can just follow up on your questions about PS125..  
5 [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

7 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: ...swimming pool  
8 there... The notes that I have say that it is used  
9 for physical education and/or by the public school  
10 athletic league.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay thank you.

12 Alright that's a, that's good news to, to know.  
13 Leases. Leases are up in, in a number of schools.  
14 The section and capacity category totals 350  
15 million is intended for the replacing of the school  
16 buildings whose leases will expire during the five  
17 year plan. And for 3,500 seats that otherwise  
18 became, become unavailable. How many leases does  
19 the SCA expect to expire in 2016 and throughout the  
20 five year plan?

21 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Well again the five  
22 year plan has, we have 70 leases that come due  
23 throughout that five year plan. And so we have to  
24 prepare ourselves for losing each and every one of  
25 them but do we expect all of the to, to be renewed?

2 It really, it depends upon the location. It depends  
3 upon whether it's a development area. There are so  
4 many variables really. So we just have to be  
5 prepared.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And the full  
7 amount of the lease, lease, leases... what's the cost  
8 to the city for those lease programs?

9 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Gosh...

10 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: I have that.  
11 It'll take me a minute to find but I have it. And  
12 can you just hand me... page, okay. So in this fiscal  
13 year the total cost of leases is 189.5 million  
14 dollars.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 189.5?

16 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: That's correct.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Does that include  
18 leases in catholic schools and buildings like that?

19 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Yes it does.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Alright thank  
21 you. Alright I think I'm done Chair Ferreras. Thank  
22 you very much. And thank you to both the Deputy  
23 Chancellor and to President Grillo.

24 PRESIDENT GRILLO: Thank you.

25 DEPUTY CHANCELLOR ROSE: Thank you.



2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
3 you Deputy Chancellor and President Grillo. Always  
4 a pleasure to work with you. And this committee's  
5 going to have several questions we're going to  
6 follow-up with you on. If you can get back to us we  
7 use them for negotiations during this process. This  
8 concludes our hearing for today. The finance  
9 committee will resume fiscal 2016's executive  
10 budget hearings tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. in this  
11 room. Tomorrow we will hear from the Department of  
12 Youth and Community Development and the City  
13 University of New York. As a general reminder the  
14 public will be invited to testify again on June  
15 9<sup>th</sup>, the last day of budget hearings at  
16 approximately 1:30 p.m. in this room. For any  
17 member of the public who wishes to testify but  
18 cannot make it to the hearing you can email your  
19 testimony to the finance division at finance  
20 testimony at council dot NYC dot gov and the staff  
21 will make it part of the official record. Thank you  
22 Chair Dromm. Thank you all for being here. And this  
23 hearing is now adjourned.

24 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 8, 2015