

Welcome.

>> Good evening everyone.

I'd like to call this meeting to order.

As a reminder please note that panel meetings are being live streamed over the Internet for the convenience of those unable to attend recording and transcript will be posted on the panel website following the meeting.

And also please note that if you signed up for a public comment regarding an issue pertaining to your school's personnel we will ask that you speak with one of the staff members in the audience.

That way they'll be able to discuss with you the matter and take down specific information for follow-up.

I thank you in advance for that.

Madam Secretary, can you please call the roll.

>> Fred Baptiste is absent.

Isaac Carmignani.

>> Present.

>> Elzora Cleveland present.

Deborah Dillingham, Norm Fruchter, Vanessa Leung, Kamillah Payne-Hanks is absent.

Lori Podvesker here.

Robert Powell is absent.

Ben Shuldiner.

Here Roberto Soto-Carrion is absent.

Laura Zingmond and Miguelina Zorilla-Aristy.

I know I saw her.

Everyone on the stage introduce themselves start with my left.

>> Operations.

>> Sophia -- Sophia pappet.

CEO of childhood education.

>> Deborah Dillingham Queens borrow appoint e.

>> Norm Fruchter mayoral appointee.

>> Ben Shuldiner mayoral appointee.

>> Miguelina Zorilla-Aristy mayor al appointee.

Isaac Carmignani mayorial appoint tee.

Chief of staff.

Vanessa Leung, mayoral appointee Lori Podvesker mayoral appointee.

Elzora Cleveland, mayoral appointee Laura Zingmond Manhattan appointee.

Chief financial officer.

David Ross contracts and purchasing.

>> Thank you everybody the first order of business this evening will be approving the minutes from the August 12th panel meeting.

Is there a motion to approve the minutes from the August 12th panel meeting.

Thank you panel member Cleveland.

Is there a second?

Thank you panel member Zingmond.

Raise your hand if you vote to approve the minutes.

Nine in favor motion carries.

Thank you Madam Secretary.

Senior deputy chancellor Gibson would you like to share some remarks with us this evening.

>> Good evening, I'm happy to be here this evening to share good news from the chancellor that we just announced the appointment of Yolanda Torres to be the head of FACE family engagement office and Yolanda was formerly the superintendent in district 7 and we look forward to working with her in this new capacity.

Thank you.

>> Ursilna Ramirez.

>> I wanted to let everybody know that we've decided to postpone our vote on Amazon contract this evening, being that we're committed to serving all New York City students, and we had, we had to make sure we were responsive to concerns raised by our advocates in the blind and visually impaired communities.

So we're working closely with Amazon and partners to ensure all school communities including those with visual impairments will be able to take advantage of the e-book and E content marketplace when it meets their needs.

Wanted everyone to have an update and look forward to conversations.

Before we get underway with the voting portion of the meeting I'll say a few words about public comment and rules of decorum at this meeting.

During public comment speakers will be permitted up to two minutes to comment and I'll ask the secretaries to call the speakers up from the signup sheets and to ensure that the speakers finish their comments in the allotted time.

We will call speakers up in groups of five.

If you have a green ticket, please proceed to the aisle to my far right.

Once your number is called and if you have a yellow ticket please proceed to the aisle to my far left once your number is called.

And the clock will indicate the amount of time remaining for each speaker and a light will indicate when there is one minute left in the allotted time so that speakers will know when their time is up.

And at the conclusion of each speaker's time we will move on to the next speaker.

If a speaker is not here when his or her name is called we will move on to the next speaker.

Once we move on, you cannot redeem your place in the queue.

So the first item on tonight's agenda is approval of chancellor's regulation A 101, Madam Secretary could you please introduce the resolution.

>> Yes, the title of the resolution is resolution regarding the approval of chancellor's regulation A 101 regarding admissions readmissions transfers and list notices for all students.

I'm going to switch hats here and now will speak briefly as the general counsel for New York City's DOE.

I wanted to clarify what's going before the panel tonight is approval of an amendment to the chancellor's regulation so we can become in compliance with the state law.

Recently the law was changed to make it easier for families of all students to enroll in schools and so there were a number of changes made accordingly.

Several kinds of documentation that may not have been received as proof of residency will now be accepted.

A number of really good changes.

So that is the reason for tonight's vote on the amendment.

I do know that there are many who want to continue to participate in the very deep conversation that we've been having on diversity.

I see that some of those folks stakeholders that are actually in the audience tonight.

Those conversations are going to continue.

They are ongoing.

You'll be continued to have a seat at the table to talk with us.

But that's not what we're voting on tonight.

So I want to make sure that everyone understands this is simply for us to become in compliance with state law.

But the other conversation about diversity, at large, is still continuing and we will keep you posted.

>> Is there a motion to adopt this resolution?

Motion to adopt.

Thank you panel member Zingmond.

Is there a second?

Thank you panel member Cleveland.

Are we taking public comment.

We'll now take public comment on this item.

Madam Secretary.

>> So it appears that we have about 20 people total signed up for public comment.

Not just on the amendment to the regulation but on our other matters, contracts and general public comment.

So we'll take everyone's comment now so that folks don't have to wait until the end of the meeting.

I'm going to start with the CEC members.

And then for those of you -- sorry we have to get organized.

Those of you who signed up for the regulation, we will call you first and then we will move to those of you who signed up for general public comment.

So to start, can CEC member forgive me looks like either Mario or Maria Garcia.

And next up we'll hear from David Goldsmith and Jim Devore.

Good evening.

My name is Maria Garcia, my family and I are long time residents of west Harlem currently serve as the parents of blind children of New York and have served on the boards of the city wide council on special education as well as national organization of parents with blind division a division of the national Federation of the blind.

I also serve on the executive board of the New York state commission for the blind as the governor's appointee.

Most important, I am the parent of a wonderful daughter who happens to be blind and has cerebral palsy.

Laura is 18 years and attends Bronx collaborative high school.

Both as a parent and a representative of parents of blind children in New York I have seen how critical decisions like the Amazon contract are to the academic and future success or failure of our blind children.

I want to thank commissioner Fiorina and the panel for postponing today's vote on the contract to investigate accessibility options.

My daughter, like more than, like the more than 1,000 blind students in this district, has tremendous potential to live a meaningful and productive life and strong ambitions of what she might accomplish.

But when a school employs inaccessible technology, the opportunities for our blind kids shrink as the hurdles to education increase.

At its best, Amazon's E contract would mean a blind student like my daughter would be unable to navigate through a book and access critical information available to her sighted peers at its worse it excludes blind students all together.

When our students with disabilities are excluded they fall behind not only in their academic but in their own belief about their abilities as equal members of school and society.

They internalize themselves as second class citizens.

This need not be so.

The technology exists and is commercially available to make the books and platform accessible and to put our blind children on equal footing.

The New York City's Department of Education has the largest population of blind students in the nation.

The impact of your decision is tremendous.

As you consider how to move forward, this administration faces the choice to entrench barriers that push our district's blind students and other students with disabilities further behind.

Or to choose to serve as an example to uphold the value of students with disabilities and your legal obligation to provide equal educational opportunities.

I hope you will choose the latter course and be a role model to districts around the country and know that the national Federation of the blind and parents of blind children stand ready to assist in that effort.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker David Goldsmith.

>> Good evening.

So my name is David Goldsmith CEC president of CEC 13.

I'm also a member of the district 13 task force for equal access to academic excellence and diversity.

I'm here to speak about a very small footnote in the chancellor's regulation with some extremely large and crushing language.

That language states, and I'm glad to hear the conversation on this continues, but we need to push and push now.

Shocking language.

So get ready.

Race may be considered as a factor in school enrollment only where ordered by the court.

That wasn't George Wallace in 1955.

After brown versus Board of Education.

That's 2015 and that's in our regulations.

So we in district 13 as well as many other districts throughout New York City are painfully living the consequences of having our children attend schools that are highly segregated on almost every level imaginable.

After 60 years since Brown versus Board of Education, everyone knows that separate is not equal.

And that it's understood that not only do integrated schools very effectively close the achievement gap, but that middle class students as well thrive in such schools.

Recent New York Times articles and NPR features pointed out that indeed New York City public schools are the most segregated in the United States of America. How can this?

In a city where so many people live here choose to live here because this is a diverse city.

We in district 13 have learned that the schools of the southern states were forced by federal courts to right the wrongs of separate and not equal.

District 13 is joined with one, three, 14, 17, 15 and many others and so many times in our efforts to find solutions to these problems, the Department of Education continues to cite that clause to shut us down.

That clause in the regulations stands in the way just like George Wallace did, he stood in the doorway to stop students from desegregating the schools.

This chancellor's recommendation must be changed the language must be changed and you'll hear some suggestions creative suggestions to help you do this.

We hope you do it sooner than later.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.

Jim Devor from CEC 15.

>> Hi, I'm Jim Devor as you said I was the past president of Communication Education Council for district 15.

I rise here in support of a change in the amendment, a change in the footnote as described by the prior speaker.

My claim to fame in this regard is I'm, I along with David, were the parents of the diversity initiative at PS 133, which upon achieving the mayoralty that the administration took great credit for.

That footnote that's been described as clearly not an accurate description of the law as it stands.

Clearly race may be a factor and without court order.

It cannot be the factor.

And we think that even in situations where there was no reference to race whatsoever, there was opposition by the Bloomberg administration and in particular by the still sitting general counsel to our plan which called for an affirmative action program to advantage those who are English language learners and those who received, who were entitled to free lunch.

One can achieve diversity through a variety of ways.

And one does not necessarily have to be explicitly about race, although race should always be known as a factor.

You'll always be looking at the consequences.

Eight out of nine Supreme Court justices in the Seattle case affirmatively spoke in favor of that view of the law.

The only exception being Clarence Thomas.

Clearly understanding the racial ramifications of diversity plan is something that is not necessarily has to be said by the back of one's hand or looked upon as something that we dare not say in public.

We think there are successful ways that have been implemented in other cities. And in New York City.

And we think that the record of the Bloomberg administration that only accepted one diversity plan in its 12 years should not be replicated by this administration and the first step we should take towards that is to amend and change the offending amendment.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.
Eric Goldberg, CEC second district two.

>> If he shows up, maybe he stepped out, we'll call him then.
Okay.

Then we're going to move to Katie Lappen and could those speakers who signed up for the regulations -- I'm sorry, the first speaker for comment on the regulation amendment is Wendy Lecher.
Can we have those who have tickets one through five, actually it's one through seven, if you can just line up or go near the microphone now.
We'll hear from Wendy Lecher.

>> Good evening I'm Wendy Lecher senior attorney for the education law center cosigner of testimony submitted by civil rights groups and community groups across New York City.

We are essentially asking that you further amend chancellor's regulation A 101 to be in compliance with federal law.

I understand that a discussion is beginning in the administration regarding what to do to reduce school segregation today over 60 years after Brown V Board of Education.

As a vital first step in the process we simply ask you correct the record in chancellor's footnote A 101 as Mr.

Goldsmith read the footnote reads race may be considered as a factor in school enrollment only where required by court order.

This footnote is a blatant misstatement of the law, pure and simple.

The law of this land is that race conscious measures, measures that use race as a factor in school enrollment are absolutely permissible.

U.S.

Supreme Court justice Anthony Kennedy in his controlling opinion in the 2007 case common lip known as PICS districts are free to raise race conscious measures to raise the issue in schools the issue of raise conscious issues is it erecollects false barrier across the city to address the harmful segregation that plagues New York City schools.

I would like to emphasize that's not just joining my reading of the law.

Organizations like NAACP and Latino justice, all deaf, and John Brit ton and professor Theodore Shaw former of the NAACP defense fund and parents and community groups directly affected by policies they're your allies in reducing school segregation in your communities you should give them every tool to speed along a process to be a more equitable inclusive school.

I want to say one more thing I want to suggest the language we want you to replace.

We would like you to replace it with the following language a correct statement of the law.

School districts are strongly encouraged to consider legally permissible race conscious and race neutral approaches to promote diversity and reduce racial segregation.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker, Lisa Donald.

>> Hi, good evening panel.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to address you tonight.

Proposed amendments to chancellor's regulations A 101.

Although Ms.

Jackson chase has advised us that it's not the purpose of these changes. What we want to talk about, the amendment has missed an important change, and it is important for you to listen to the parents who are here tonight and the parents are not here tonight who have been working on this issue for literally decades.

I can tell you that parents and advocates in communities across New York City are working on community-based solutions to address school segregation. And we're looking to the New York City Department of Education for support and collaboration towards this goal.

For the past 12 years the parents and community members and CEC for school district one and all choice district no zones or catchments has been in these conversations.

We've been asking the DOE to please collaborate with us on creating a fair and equitable admissions policy to address the issue of increasing stratification that has accompanied school choice along with the endemic race sxs class isolation that zoning creates in our schools.

The last administration believed that choice is equity.

Despite the school by school demographics that prove in district one that that is not true.

In fact data demonstrates the choice alone with no controls for fairness and equity actually is heing grates.

We are glad you're going to be continuing conversations with us but we've already been having these conversations for a dozen years.

Although this is not relevant to the proposal tonight, the suggestions made by the previous speakers in terms of changing the footnote I'd like to know is it in your power to change those tonight and rectify our regulations with federal law?

Is there any reason why you cannot not change that footnote tonight?

If not, can you not vote on the entire regulations and wait and pass something that at least gives us this very important start to show that you support the work the communities are doing to address segregation in our communities.

Thank you.

>> Ms.

Donald we would have to give proper notice and put it on the agenda so the panel members can discuss amongst themselves because you've raised the issue.

Next speaker.

Number three.

Kara chasoli.

>> I'm the founder integrate for Y for me I'm in district seven and I'm committed to integration and communication in between our most segregated school.

Integrate NYC investigates desperate impact on New York City school experiences and segregated communities.

We support the community advocates and civil rights lawyers that suggest there's revisions to be made in footnote one A 101 that race considers a factor in school enrollment only where required by court order in order to be compliance with federal law.

As an organization committed to increasing communication and collaboration between segregated school communities, researchers, academic policyholders we feel it's a result of a breakdown between the community segregated communities and department of administration.

Many parents, administrators teachers students have been working on diversity in our schools.

Especially for the fact that we live in a city in the top five most segregated school systems in the United States.

I as an educator and all of us here as people who make up the school system know the devastating impact of segregating students and in turn segregating with the resources necessary for learning development and access to opportunity. For example, one student, after completing a school exchange this year, named Sam, from the south Bronx, after visiting the upper east side says I feel it's essential for New York state to change how students are accepted into schools with abundance of resources and guidance because certain kids are rejected and in the end all children should have proper guidance.

Kate a rising 12th grader on the upper east side during the presentation I saw how it affects us.

The exchange partner whispered me in my PE class.

How did he feel so uncomfortable in a place that felt like a second home to me. I realized we had been segregated so long it was tough for him to feel belong. I hope you shift student demographics to create environments where students have access to equal resources amongst peers of racial groups by revising footnote one on A 101 you can help us to encourage school administrators to take on the urgent action to increase.

And we want to work with you to transform the experience across race and class and our department Department of Education.

Thank you.

>> Next speaker number four, rosily friend.

>> Hello I'm Rosa Lee friend and a leader of save our schools.

Our people in Chicago are engaged in a hunger strike against the actions in the city which are trying to reduce community input in the schools in especially in the minority neighborhoods.

Here in New York we already have rather extensive segregation and we're seeing people be more openly racist all around the country.

The law does allow race to be a consideration and I know from the data from all the researchers in education that it benefits learning when children are in integrated settings, when they're with children of different backgrounds.

It gets them thinking.

Other viewpoints, other ideas.

I know that equitable funding for schools is advanced if you did this.

We see in district one a willingness to go against the overwhelming hatred of the United States, in the United States.

These amazing people would like to work together to foster diversity in their district.

I think anyone who is interested in helping children learn, all children learn not just a few privileged children learn.

It's hard to understand how anyone, how any conscientious person would not do everything they could to support the efforts of these people, supported by research and supported by decency and supported by the law despite this erroneous regulation.

Thank you.

>> Number five.

>> Thank you for the opportunity to address this.

I'm speaking on behalf of district 15 parents for middle school equity.

We're a group of parents whose goal is to reform the middle school placement process in Brooklyn's district 15 to create clear and equitable criteria thereby establishing a greater racial ethnic disability based balance across schools we believe the district's system of so-called middle school choice leads to segregation on a number of levels is developmentally inappropriate for ten-year old puts an unfair burden on parents especially with those without the means to navigate a complicated stressful time consuming application process.

We are very concerned about the provision and the proposed amendment to chancellor regulation A 101 that says incorrectly that race may be considered in a factor in enrollment only where required by court order we understand this incorrect statement is not a revision that is up for a vote today but we strongly feel that it must be corrected.

We think it is important that the panel does not approve this amendment without correct this or tonight.

District 15 parents believe our current system applying for school is a current right issue.

It results in two sets of schools in our district.

One that siphons off white high scoring high performing student and one lower performing and children of color.

The process of sorting out ten-year-olds into our district into two schools is damaging we're working to see it's reformed.

And district 15 places students in middle school according to a choice process that results in student bodies at the most selective schools that are disproportionately high and higher income when compared to the makeup of our district.

Placement in middle school is a factor to determine where students are made to go to high school.

The fear for the elite high schools across the city which means the process of assigning fifth graders to middle school presents inordinately high stakes.

Due to parents with kindergarten segregation to see whether our this is the consensus we talked to people throughout the district received 400 responses 93 percent of parents wanted to see a change, the footnote in CRA 101 stating race can be only considered as a factor when considered by court order is wrong.

The U.S.

Supreme Court permits the race conscious measures to achieve diversity and reduce racial isolation, district 15 middle school placement offices complem replifies how the city's choice exacerbates the issue.

Our civil rights remind us the need to ensure that students of all race national origin backgrounds have equal access to quality and instructional programs and support and thus have an equal opportunity to attain the academic success upon which our future dpeendz.

depends.

In current form New York's choice process including middle school placement in district 15 is built upon the premise that sorting students into a few selective schools is more important than equity of access, 15 support more equitable school assignment policies and district is actively looking to reform it's critical that DOE support this by accurately reflecting the status of the law district 15 for middle school equity respectfully requests that the regulation is corrected.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker number six, Katie lapham.

>> I'm Katie lapham.

And I am a district 13 parent.

of this child right here.

And she goes to PS 9, which is an integrated school and I wish to see schools like that in the city.

So I'm here to support my colleagues.

I'm also a teacher, I taught for nine years in east New York and I know firsthand the effects of segregation on our schools and the inequities that I see.

And I strongly urge you to change the language in the footnote to promote integration as much as possible because segregation hurts our schools, our communities, and it's not good for our children.

It's not good for the future of this country and the city.

So I support everything that's been said here and I hope you will take that all into consideration and look into changing the language.

Thanks.

No.

7 Jane Myzell.

>> Thank you for listening to the discussion tonight, even though you set aside this issue.

I think it's very important that you hear from people, and I appreciate you listening.

My name is Jane Myzell a teacher at city college I'm a former DOE classroom teacher as well.

And during one of the celebrations of brown versus Board of Education, I was in a fifth grade class at PS 156 in the Bronx and the students had read information about the passing of, about the law, and they looked around the room and they said well what happened.

Doesn't seem to be happening now.

And I could not argue in the south Bronx there is no integration in our schools. And there was more a sense of surprise on the part of these fifth graders who had the kind of idealistic response to the whole story.

In fact, they were reading Thurgood Marshall's arguments and they listen to the question Felix Frankfurter to Thurgood Marshall and he said what do you mean by equal and Thurgood Marshall who was arguing in favor of brown versus Board of Education in favor of the plaintiffs said equal means getting the same thing at the same time and in the same place.

So that was the beginning of their discussion.

And these students started coming up with ideas for how to bring people together across boundaries in New York City.

And some of them were very reminiscent of the kind of work that's been going on in districts one and 13 and 15.

So turn this problem over to the people including the students and I think you'll begin to see some real progress.

I would like to say also that if there's an effort going on to keep the middle class in the public schools and in the process give in to the impulse to stay segregated through these choice systems, I would ask you to consider that work really needs to be done to find another way.

And you're being offered wonderful insights here about how to go about deeper kind of solution instead of the superficial find of fear ridden solution, we have to give the middle class what they want or they will leave.

Let's look at ways we can truly come together.

That's one of the great gifts and great assets of New York City public schools and schools across the country it's a place to bring people together to get to know each other across socioeconomic lines and every other kind of line.

>> Thank you.

>> What's the next steps of meeting with advocates to discuss the change in the language in the amendment?

In the footnote?

>> So what I would like to do is after the first day of school make sure that we're sitting -- I know we've had ongoing conversations and both our deputy chancellor for strategy and policy Josh Wallic has had conversations with his team but I'd like to have conversations with the advocates in addition to senior chancellor Gibson that oversees our access work to talk about this particular footnote but I'll just generally talking about diversification in our schools I want to make sure we have clear next steps and we'll meet after the first day of school I'll make sure we contact set up folks here and we can chat. For those who have general public.

>> For those who testified earlier I'm Renee.

Ive two daughters at 163 elementary school in upper Manhattan.

I serve on the school leadership team as well.

I also serve as the pro bono council to an international law firm called orker and Sutcliff in that capacity we've worked with dedicated committed compassionate leaders who have been trying to improve the conditions of all children in our schools for years.

And unfortunately have not made a lot of progress over that time.

In many areas of the city our segregation is caused not entirely by housing patterns but in large part by admission plans and admissions decisions that the DOE knows or should know maintain and perpetuate the unlawful status quo.

Consequently, some and even many schools are burdened with high numbers of at risk students and are disproportionately made up of students of color or severely unfunded and lack resources to overcome the inequities putting the students at life long disadvantage.

Fortunately the chancellor change has been discussed tonight is a barrier to eliminating the barrier segregation.

If footnote one is meant to be a status activity current status of the law it's unequivocally false and must be changed to the language that Ms.

Lecher suggested.

If the PP leaves that footnote is that would be acting contrary to the law and the testimony of all major civil rights organizations including the NAACP defense fund and Latino justice Asian American legal defense education fund and all the parents, active advocists and have been requesting a change in policy. Also been discussed the leading court decision on point the PICs decision the controlling opinion in that case written by Kennedy said achieving racial diversity avoiding were compelling issues that a school district could constitutionally pursue.

Justice Kennedy forcefully wrote it was profoundly mistaken to read constitution that state and local authorities should must accept the status in the schools.

And it's bern mentioned that the DOE and Department of Justice issued guidance specifically allowing for the elimination of footnote like footnote one.

We call on you to put that agenda on tonight's discussion for the next meeting. There's no reason to wait.

There are no barriers to changing the footnote.

There are no legal barriers.

In fact it's a legal mandate you change it so progressive change and change for the betterment of all students can take place.

Thank you.

[Applause] now we'll move to general public comment.
If you have a green ticket, the number is one through seven.
Please move to one of the microphones.
First speaker will be Kim Watkins, speaker number one.

>> Good evening.

Good evening.

My name is Kim Watson representing the parent leadership at PS 191, manned school in the upper west side that was unfairly named to the persistently dangerous schools list from the New York state education department. This spring a screen door hit a elementary schooler in the head and caused an injury.

The school is not dangerous, actual incidents at the school remain statistically flat between the years 2012-2013 and then 2013-14.

The first of the two years that the school was being watched by the -- New York state education department.

But not a single step was taken by the DOE to prevent what essentially were reporting errors and kind of passed the buck mentality that landed squarely there the lap of a brand new principal who was trained on the New York City DOE system on March 25th of this year.

By that day the DOE claimed that it was too late to appeal, sealing the fate of PS one 91.

191.

The federal unsafe schools choice act say that parents on this list be notified in within ten days.

It's not happened.

Furthermore transfers are to be offered but so far parent leaders at the school have been told that some families not all will be offered transfers because district three has very little space.

Meanwhile wait list families from PS 199 who were placed at 191 this year because it was the overflow school they have gotten space been found at all the best schools in district 3 and we're hoping panel you'll help us first push the DOE for an audit of the incidents that occurred, the chancellor has indicated she's willing to audit the data and help reverse the PDS distinction by working with the state education department and commissioner ELia and to please evaluate this prioritized compliance enrollment procedure that took place at the behest of the students that are supposedly already enrolled at this unsafe school.
Thank you.

>> Next speaker, Beth Heller.

>>

>> First of all, I'm delighted to put a face to the name.

We've been in e-mail communication and I first want to thank you and the others members of the other PS 191 PTA for the spirited defense of your experience at the school and we're delighted that you feel so strongly and positively about the school and the school environment.

I did send a response to the PTA's letter to the chancellor yesterday and I'm going to guess by some of the things this evening that you did not yet receive that.

But that is coming to you very shortly.

And perhaps after the meeting's over I can speak with you to address some of the things you specifically said and that there is in fact a response coming to the PTA formally.

>> Thank you.

>> Next sperks Beth heller.

>> Good evening, I'm Beth Heller some know me I report for the Brooklyn heights blog and parent of a incoming kindergarten in Brooklyn heights.

And strong advocate for the families wait listed at PS 8 the dust has settled I'll read it quick ly as possible to make all points I'd like follow up on, as you're aware waiting list of 50 children after much up roar advocacy by officials new district school task force has been formed.

Yea task force.

They are informing the CEC on many issues including overcrowding.

One of those members of that task force is Chris Young and I implore everyone on this panel to please familiarize yourself with the data he's pulled together about all the construction in downtown Brooklyn.

It's going to overwhelm downtown Brooklyn and the DOE needs to stand up, look, add money to the capital plan and build more schools and it's imperative I'll tell you why.

But first I'd like to ask specifically deputy chancellor rose since car man is not here this evening implore the office of planning to share data with the CEC 13 that they have specifically asked for.

They have formed their own task force for rezoning and they are waiting for the office of district planning to deliver various scenarios and while they're waiting they are not being utilized as they have been tasked to do.

The office of district planning has said that they would deliver various scenarios by the week of August 31st.

While their next working session is September 1st it would make a lot of sense for those scenarios to be delivered to CEC prior to September 1st so they could make important decisions and have meaningful conversations with one another about the rezoning process that is under a very, very tight deadline.

Also so those are my two points about that.

Next I also strongly urge you to please add money to the capital budget.

I will give you data that Chris Young has pulled together.

It will be easier that way.

It's pretty clear that rezoning PS 8 is imperative but with all the back-to-schooling coming board it will overwhelm the schools and the eight other districts that are in the school.

And lastly at one of the PEP meetings June 10th I made the suggestion that the DOE and school construction authorities could on bended knee, please approach the ja hoef va's witness organization to discuss which they will put on the block, next I was told at a PEP afterwards speaking to a member privately that the PEP heard my suggestion and has started to look into those buildings, specifically the ones on Columbia heights and vine, the iconic watch tower buildings, Jehovah's Witnesses are vacating Brooklyn heights by 2017.

They own tons and tons of real estate.

Please do not allow all of those buildings to be con converted to residential.

It would be a traf city and a hugely missed opportunity by the DOE and school construction authority to not review those buildings with a very, very close inspection.

I beg you for the betterment of all district 13.

Not just PS 8.

Thank you so much for hearing my words.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker Christine Mulmawe.

>> Hi panel.

My name is Christine ulmawe president of PS 101 parents association in Forest Hills.

The last time I spoke it was July, and car min Fiora was not here that weekend, I'm beginning to think she's giving me the cold solder shoulder.

I'm kid diagnose, the last time I came to thank her for the amazing meeting she held CEC 8 she shared her vision how she wanted stronger arts programs at school what I'm here to tell you and her tonight is that we raised a nice amount of money this year and we're going to use that towards arts residencies and have two arts residencies per grade because we believe in that for our children and we also believe in the chancellor's vision.

We strongly believe in her and I feel very happy to have her as our chance lorp. She worked with our principal.

I feel like I'm working with her as I'm working with the principal.

So what I wanted to say was that since we are using our budget to help see through the chancellor's vision, we're hoping that the chancellor will use her budget to help us, because we know she strongly believes every child should learn in a safe and learning environment.

And we have a teacher who is a former science teacher and who has paid this year through the DOE to be a technology specialist, I guess.

We would like to keep him in that position.

This person should not be with children there's 40 plus allegations of him verbally abusing and physically man handing children.

We do not think he should be with children.

So we're asking chancellor.

Fiorna as we're using our budget to see through your vision could you please help us to keep this position at PS 101 and keep the former science teacher out of the classroom.

Thank you very much.

>> Next speaker, Mr.

Putnam.

>> I'm lucky to see Ms.

Gibson here.

Someone I'd actually like to speak with.

My wife was a formerly discontinued public schoolteacher for PS 34 Q.

I know your office is well aware of it as I've spoken personally to Shane na Cavelli know 'em ril Ketpano and destaff Stefano has spoken to you as well as Jill gutman.

I'm here to speak to how long will the DOE look the other way to abusive bullying incompetent principles?

als.

Kathryn eldeny was a vindictive principal.

One person quoted that principal eldeny had a personal vendetta.

And this is a bad example of a principal how the DOE tends to protect them.

There are confirmed reports that Kathryn teacher evaluations are being corrected by the DOE.

Now is the time to do what's right and just and hold incompetent principals accountable for their actions and other abusive bully principles.

The principle of 34 Q is one of these incompetent abusive bully principals.

Teacher turnover rate is 25 percent.

Astoundingly only 23 percent of the school passed the New York state ELA.

Something that was a A rated school just a few years ago.
Couple this with a direct e-mail from several teachers at PS 34 Q to the
chancellor detailing the principals tampering with the school's quality review.
How long before that e-mail lands in the hands of New York Post.

How about a real review.

I'm sure the teacher suffering the cruelty of this principal will welcome the
investigations.

At June PEP meeting speaking on behalf of the chancellor told my wife Jill
gutman they were giving him a chance and put her -- told to have Adam Ross come
represent her once the legal was done HR would take over.

We had the UFT legal contact tore.

er a month later we received a letter saying she did not need to involve the
union and called my wife she could handle this and it would not be a problem.

Finally, two weeks ago, Ms.

Jackson chase called my wife with no explanation told her she would not help her
and would not be reinstating her.

What type of cruel monsters are you people?

Why would you tell my wife you were going to reinstate her and then renege?

We have e-mails from Ms.

Jackson chase.

>> I'm sorry, your time is up and we could again talk about this off line.

>> Well, all I'm going to say I'm formally requesting a meeting with Ms.
Gibson's office to review my wife's rating and discontinuance.

>> Thank you.

Next speaker Dr.

Anna Marie Thomas.

>> Good evening all.

Thank you for the opportunity I'm Dr.

Anna Marie Thomas, 39-year veteran retired teacher of the New York public school
system.

I want to publicly thank my sisters and brothers who so articulately brought
forth the issues that we've been fighting for 12 years.

And really offer to you, my brother who was talking about his wife, not only do
we have segregation of students but we also have the disappearing of the black
and Latino teachers from our classrooms, which is another travesty that needs to
be addressed.

[Applause] and the methods that were used to get rid of teachers like myself
you're looking at a teacher that was in the rubber room.

But I won my case and I went back into the classroom and I taught until I was
ready to retire.

I'm one of few that won this, but I'm going to challenge all of you to
understand the policies and the procedures that you have, that you're fighting
to put in place, to continue this corporate ization of our public school system.
You need to be investigated.

Not the teachers who are constantly being blamed for the lack of success of our
schools.

What happened to the funding that we're supposed to get from the New York
public, New York state Department of Education?

No funding comes to our schools and the most in need are our youngsters who are
special ed, who are disabled.

None of them are in your charter schools, but we, our tax money, is going to fund those schools.

[Applause] you need to do what you need to do because we're going to court, my brother who so aptly brought the issue about the federal government and what it states, let's get back to doing the right thing.

And I thank you for this opportunity.

[Applause].

>> Thank you.

That concludes our public comment period.

So we're going to again go back to the resolution.

Are there any questions or comments from the panel on the resolution regarding the approval of chancellor's recommendation A one zero one.

101.

Panel member Fruchter.

>> First I wanted to thank all the CEC officers and members and if you're an activist and the educators who brought these issues to us today, I got the testimony during the week and raised the question with the administrators and with the council and several things I'm appreciative of when I say what I think we should do.

I understand in the footnote it did not originate with the revisions of A 101, that it's been there for a while, number one.

Number two, I also understand that the purpose, this revision's purpose of A 101 is to make sure that the change rules about access for all categories of students and third that there's a timeline involved.

and that we have to pass it.

So I agree to pass it tonight.

But I think that the testimony of what is brought to us and my own sense not being a lawyer is that the footnote is wrong it's legally inaccurate and it's potentially damaging.

So -- [Applause].

>> So as I understand our bylaws any member can put an item on the agenda for the following meeting.

And I will put for the agenda following meeting a resolution that revises the footnote to bring it into line what the testimony has presented and I invite all the panel members who feel the same way to join me in putting that resolution on the agenda for the next meeting.

Because I think that I don't feel very good about passing A 101 with that footnote in there and I think it is within our power to get rid of it and we should do that as quickly as we can.

Second, I'm appreciative of the conversations that have been going on throughout the DOE about a variety of issues around diversity.

But I'll give you two specific examples of conversations that started with the new administration and are still ongoing.

One has to do with more than a dozen schools that wanted to change their enrollment and student admissions policies in order to increase diversity in those schools.

Those schools met with the chancellor and a range of her staff and administrators in October of this year.

Discussions in the DOE are still going on.

Those schools were hopeful that they would get approval of a change of policy for a new school year.

They didn't.

So they're going to go through another school year with the same policies. I don't know how complicated again I'm not a lawyer the issues are, but I think this is too long.

There should have been an answer before this.

And we had several presentations from a small group called the committee on teacher diversity or teacher diversity community which brought a very simple set of issues to the panel.

Their data shows that under the Bloomberg administration there was relatively little hiring but the hiring that there was disadvantaged black and Latino teachers enormously and increased the nondiversity of what is already a nondiverse teaching force in New York City.

They have been in some discussion, I've had a hard time trying to figure out quite what it is, with the administration for a while, and there has been no action.

I think what I fear is that this is the tip of the iceberg in terms of how long the discussions take with no action.

So I would love to hear something about when the diversity discussions which I applaud will be concluded and when they will be coherent action on at least these two issues and the other issues that are on the diversity table across the school system.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> Thank you panel member Fruchter.

>> I want to make a comment on the latter part because I do think on your comment about diversity in our schools yes the conversations are ongoing and agree they're taking probably longer than anticipated.

I do want to -- sounds like -- I think what you're doing sounds right.

I want to have a conversation with everybody because I do think it's beyond this particular footnote.

I want to talk more broadly about what we can be doing in enrollment program, zoning all aspects when we talk about diversity with our schools.

On the second point, when it comes to diversity in our teaching force, I think we've actually done some great work there.

And we have through the young men's initiative and through city hall deputy mayor's office and access and watching an initiative to really attract young men of color to come into the teaching force predominantly going through historically black colleges and colleges that have primarily Latino students.

I think programmatically I think we've done a lot on the teaching part.

It's going to take a ability in terms of time on the recruitment effort but I think we're making head way, appreciate your comments on time and we're going to work on that.

>> Thank you.

Were there any other comments panel member Cleveland.

>> Norm, I just wanted to say that I agree with you wholeheartedly that we need to further address this concern.

That yes we do need to move forward in taking an action today.

So I will be voting tonight to put in favor for the resolution change but with a strong, strong concern that we need to rectify that footnote as soon as possible and that possibly panel members would be kept included in the conversations being held around it so that we will know what is happening, when it will happen and the public knows my work.

Many of you do know me very well.

I need to be kept informed about the decisions that we are making.

We are doing great work.

I am very proud of what we have done thus far.

And I want to continue that effort.

So please keep us in the loop.

Norm, I second a presentation to the agenda a resolution that you would write in any point.

I'm ready to second, having that added to an agenda for a conversation and movement.

>> I'll definitely make sure that panel members are invited.

Panel members are invited to the conversation with folks.

That will definitely take place.

>> Panel member Zingmond.

>> I'll second Elzora's request to be included, and I also encourage members of the community, when you do send something send it to all the panel member Fruchters.

panel members, we do read everything I know I read everything.

I know we have conversations.

It helps us to read and ask questions and be informed.

I want to say for tonight I don't want a recent immigrant to not be able to get into a school immediately because all they have is a baptismal certificate or anything.

I don't want to disadvantage some needy kids because of a broader issue.

But that said, certainly let's work with Lee to eliminate this erroneous language.

It doesn't make any huge changes and I think it's a far bigger more complicated undertaking because we're a vast city and what diversity efforts with look like and one part of the city would be very different than others, it depends on the makeup.

May start with more economic and other times more of other metrics but I certainly I'm all for nuance and hard work and appreciating complexity but I'm also for action.

So please keep in the loop.

We can't all congregate together at the PEP meetings to hear PEP members otherwise it becomes a PEP meeting.

But that said, I would welcome not having divisions among mayoral or borough lines.

And thank you for talking about this and raising this.

>> One quick.

>> Panel member Carmignani.

>> It may be there's procedure where we have to take a vote but I will say this I'm still wrapping my heads around this issue that are in this footnote.

But hearing the discussion and listening to what my colleagues were saying it's clear that we need to not only look at this but look at this with a deadline where we're going to take some action.

Of course, that would support discussion here at our next meeting as norm as put forward.

Having four children of color I can understand what the issues are growing up in east New York.

I saw growing up in bushwick being in schools in that area can kind of understand it.

We can hear the noise of what this business can be like.

>> I know this is probably an issue that's close to heart for many of us on the panel and looking forward to that discussion.

And the discussion with all communities of color.

Now I think we need to move to actually -- I need to put into motion is there a motion to put this on the agenda for the next calendared meeting?

Footnote discussion?

>> I'll move.

>> September 29th.

>> I'll move it.

>> Thank you panel member Fruchter.

Any second?

>> Thank you panel member Cleveland.

>> Now I'd like to call for a vote to actually add this footnote discussion to the agenda on the next calendar meeting September 29th.

Please vote if you --

>> This is all in favor.

>> This is all in favor.

Nine in favor.

Unanimous.

Now we'll actually vote for the resolution.

Are there any other questions or comments before we move to the votes please raise your hand if you vote to approve the resolution regarding the approval, the resolution regarding the approval of chancellor's regulation A 101.

Nine in favor.

Tonight's agenda requiring vote is consideration of contracts.

I'll ask that contracts committee member Isaac Carmignani summarize for the panel the contracts committee recommendations regarding the contracts listed on tonight's agenda.

>> So the contracts committee met on Monday August 24th and reviewed the contracts being considered by the panel tonight.

I met with contract committee members Fred Baptiste, Vanessa Leung and Ben Shuldiner.

At the meeting the committee unanimously recommended the approval of contract items two through 24.

The contracts committee recommends that contract items 2 through 24 be considered in five resolutions.

Resolution one, contract items two to six, resolution two, contract item seven, resolution three, contract item eight; resolution four, contract items nine through 17.

Resolution five, contract items 18 through 24.

>> Thank you panel member Carmignani.

Mr.

Ross I believe you have text to read into the record regarding the contract items.

>> I have a few, first I've noted panel members with technical changes and addendum to the pre kindergarten contracts approved by panel members at prior meetings these changes have been posted on the Web.

Item 6 on today's agenda contract with bank street college for professional development states the term of the contract is ten months.

The correct term is actually ten months and ten days.

The annual cost of 128,000 remains the same.

The June 23rd, 2015, meeting item three the panel approved the selection of the Greek American institute incorporated to provide universal programs at early education centers.

The agenda indicated the annual amount is 296 thousand 550 dollars 60.

\$296,550.60.

However the correct amount is 311 thousand 386 dollars 85.

\$311,386.85.

And it stated the amount correctly the Greek Institute was changed in a technical change provided at the July 29 meeting to Greek American Institute of New York City.

Thank you.

>> Madam Secretary, could you please present the five resolutions set forth by the contracts committee.

>> The resolutions are all entitled resolution regarding approval of contracts and is indicated by panel member Carmignani, the first resolution contains contract items 2 through 6, the second resolution contains contract item seven. The third resolution contains contract item 8.

The fourth resolution contains contract items 9 through 17 and the fifth resolution includes contract items 18 through 24.

Panel members please note that if you wish to vote differently for a specific contract item within a single resolution you may do so.

Simply signal to me when the vote is called for the relevant resolution and indicate the item number within that resolution and your corresponding vote.

>> Thank you Madam Secretary T is there a motion to adopt the resolutions being considered tonight?

Thank you panel member Fruchter.

Is there a second?

Thank you panel member Podvesker.

So does the panel have any questions or concerns regarding tonight's contracts?

Okay.

So we'll move now to the vote.

Madam Secretary, could you please note any recusals related to these contract items.

>> There are no recusals for these resolutions.

>> Thank you Madam Secretary.

Please raise your hand if you vote to approve the resolution regarding approval of contract items two through six.

I have nine in favor.

It's unanimous.

>> Please raise your hand if you vote to approve resolution regarding approval of contract item seven.

See eight in favor.

Opposed.

Abstain.

Motion carries.

Please raise your hand to vote resolution of approval contract item 8.

Nine in favor, it's unanimous.

>> Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Now please raise your hand if you vote to approve resolution regarding approval of contract items nine through 17.

>> I'll note that we just have Item No.

15 in there because there were no additional prekindergarten contracts listed other than those in Item No.

15.

>> Thank you I see nine in favor.

Motion carries unanimously.

Raise your hand if you vote approval of contract items 18s through 24.

18 through 24.

Saw nine in favor.

Saw unanimous, motion carries.

So that concludes the voting portion of the meeting.

And actually now any other -- just checking, next regular meeting of the panel for education al policy will be held on Tuesday September 29th at Michael J. Pertriti on Staten Island.

The meeting is now adjourned.

Thank you and good night everyone.

[Meeting adjourned] .