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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 17, 2018  
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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT P.S. 150**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Well, first of all, I want to say to all of the kids, thank you. It is so wonderful to be with you. I know you're happy that we were able to save this school?

[Cheers]

Well, this is a real statement to our principal that they like school this much.

[Laughter]

So, you did something right. And to all the teachers, and to all the parents, everyone part of this community – congratulations to all of you, because saving this school, it took a village to say the least. Everyone got involved. I want to say that my children went to New York City public schools and we felt that the schools that our kids went to were our second homes, we really did. We spent a lot of time there, we felt a deep connection to the schools, to the teachers, everyone who worked there. It was a sense of family. And I know for everyone at P.S. 150, there's a really deep sense of family and belonging, and that was threatened, and we had to do something about that.

So, I understood – I want to say the parents, especially, really raised their voices so that you could hear them all the way from here to City Hall, and it made a big difference. I want to say to Principal Bonnet, and to Buxton, and Anshal – your leadership really mattered here and made a big difference, and I thank you.

I want to of course thank Deputy Chancellor Goldmark and Chancellor Carranza who cared a lot about getting this right. I want to thank Community Board 1. And you're going to hear from the elected officials in a moment.

I want to give thanks to someone who's not here, but really played a pivotal role, because I was walking a couple of blocks from here some weeks ago and Daniel Stark walked up to me and he said, you need to know about this. And I only had heard about it very broadly, I hadn't heard the

details, and he gave me a sense of how urgent it was and how immediate it was. And I had a meeting with Chancellor Carranza only a few days later and I said, we've got to figure this out, there's got to be a way to save this school. And that helped to put the wheels in motion, along with all the great efforts of the parents and the elected officials. So, everyone pushed together towards the solution we needed, which is to let people stay in their own school, let the kids enjoy their own school until the new one is ready.

Now, I also want to say to everyone real quick, this is the beginning of City Hall in Your Borough Week for Manhattan. Thank you, Borough President, for hosting us in Manhattan. And what a good way to begin, celebrating both the activism of the community that lead to a positive outcome and also a great school here in Manhattan – a great public school – that people care this much about. So, this is a beautiful way to start this week where we'll be doing things all over Manhattan. All of the senior members of the administration will be out in the neighborhoods in Manhattan, acting on issues of concern to every-day New Yorkers.

I want to give some other credit here, and this is important because, you know, if it had come down to just dollars and cents and the profit-motive, this school would not get to stay. The company that owns this site could have said, sorry, we're just about making money. But I called up the CEO, Steve Roth, and I knew one thing about him – that he was a graduate of New York City public schools and he felt a lot about it – graduated DeWitt Clinton High School and it was a big part of his identity. And I talked to him about what it meant for the kids and the parents of this generation to be able to stay in this school until the new one was ready. And I want to give him credit – he said, I need to get the facts, but I understand how important it is. And he called back a week later and he said, we're going to get this done, we're going to make sure that these parents and these kids get to stay in this school. And I want to give him some credit for that because it's not every day you hear that in New York City. Let's give him a round of applause too.

[Applause]

So, to everyone – an extraordinary effort that got us somewhere and a good example of the fact that when there's accountability, it makes a difference. There is accountability for our public schools. It runs from the principal, up to the Chancellor, and right to me. And it was literally – an every-day New Yorker was able to walk up to me and say, we've got a problem, and that helped us get to the solution, because, in the end, this is the power of Mayoral Control of education. The buck stops here and that accountability leads to action.

So, everyone, thank you for your strong voices. Thank you for everything you've done to save this school. Let me say a few quick words in Spanish –

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

So this is an example of the power of being able to control our schools the right way and make this kind of impact. Now, as I said, the elected officials played a crucial role. They sounded the alarm. They pushed for a solution. I want to bring them up. I want you to hear from each of them. I'm going to start with someone who is a picture of persistence.

And I want to say to all the kids, whatever you dream of in your future, you can achieve it. And whatever height you are doesn't matter, as you're about to see –

[Laughter]

Council Member Margaret Chin –

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