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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING
Co-Location of Explore
Envision K-5**

June 3, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. SONIA PARK: Good evening. Okay, we're
3 going to get started - -. Good evening,
4 everyone. My name is Sonia Park. I'm here - -
5 the Department of Education, and I will be
6 acting as facilitator for this joint public
7 hearing. This is a joint public hearing of the
8 Department of Education, Community Education
9 Council, CEC 19, and the School Leadership Teams
10 of P.S. 190 and Essence School to discuss the
11 following proposal: the proposed co-location of
12 Explore Envision Charter School grades K through
13 five, 84KTBD, with existing schools P.S. 190
14 Sheffield, which is 19K190, and Essence School,
15 19K311, in Building K190, beginning in school
16 year 2014-2015. Tonight's proceedings will be
17 recorded and transcribed. Before we begin the
18 hearing, we ask anyone who wishes to speak
19 during the public comment portion of the evening
20 sign up at the table - -. Signup will end in 15
21 minutes. Only the people who have signed up to
22 speak will be able to participate in the public
23 comment. All panel participants were asked to
24 be here no later than 5:30 p.m. Now that we
25 have started, if a panel participant arrives

1 late, he or she will be given the time to speak
2 at the first opportune moment. We want to be
3 respectful of everyone's time. There may be
4 elected officials who arrive at different times
5 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,
6 we will do our best to accommodate them at the
7 first opportune moment. Those who are here at
8 the start of the public comments segment will be
9 asked to speak first. Tonight's format will
10 include a brief presentation of the proposal,
11 and presentations by hearing participants
12 followed by public comment. Speakers should
13 already have signed up at the table in the
14 lobby. Again, if you have not yet signed up,
15 there is still some minutes to do so. Public
16 comments may no longer than two minutes each,
17 and the time will be strictly followed. And
18 speakers will be informed when their designated
19 time has ended. All comments will be mentioned
20 in the analysis of public comment to be
21 published by the Panel for Educational Policy
22 the evening before the Panel votes. Public
23 comments will also be made the evening of the
24 Panel's hearing. That vote is scheduled for
25 June 19th, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Michael J.

1 Petrides School, 715 Ocean Terr., Staten
2 Island, New York, 10301. In addition, we
3 welcome any comments and feedback you may have
4 at any time before the Panel votes on both
5 proposals. The email address and phone number
6 where comments may be made are
7 D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and (212) 374-
8 0208. I would like now to introduce the panel
9 which has been assembled for this evening's
10 joint public hearing. Sorry, I need to over so
11 I can make sure I get the right order - -. We
12 have, Kathleen Boatwright of the CEC has not yet
13 arrived. She has been informed that this
14 hearing is taking place tonight. There's Thomas
15 Franta, from the SUNY Charter Schools Institute,
16 and Superintendent, I'm sorry, - -. And
17 Principal Hill and Principal Makelele. Is that
18 right?

19 MS. CLAUDY MAKELELE: Makelele.

20 MS. PARK: Makelele. My apologies. I will
21 now turn the program over to the Chancellor's
22 designee, Joyce Stallings-Harte, Community
23 School District 19 Superintendent, who will
24 present the proposal. There's only one mike, so
25 - -.

1 MS. JOYCE STALLINGS-HARTE: Good evening,
2 ladies and gentleman. Thank you for being here
3 this evening. The New York City Department of
4 Education is proposing to co-locate a new public
5 charter school, Explore Envision Charter School,
6 which will serve students in kindergarten
7 through fifth grade in Building K190, beginning
8 in the 2014-2015 school year. K190 is located
9 at 590 Sheffield Ave., Brooklyn, New York,
10 11207, in Community School District 19. If this
11 proposal is approved, Explore Envision will be
12 co-located with P.S. 190 Sheffield, an existing
13 zoned elementary school that serves kindergarten
14 through fifth grade students and offers one
15 section of full-day pre-kindergarten, and
16 Essence School, an existing district middle
17 school that serves sixth through eighth grade
18 students. If this proposal is approved, Explore
19 Envision will open with kindergarten, first
20 grade, and second grade, in 2014-2015, and will
21 add one grade per year until it serves
22 kindergarten through fifth grade students in
23 2017-2018. Explore Envision's charter was
24 authorized in June of 2012, by the State
25 University of New York Trustees to serve

1 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
2 Explore Schools currently manages four charter
3 schools in Brooklyn. The school will admit
4 students via the charter lottery application
5 process, with preference given to District 19
6 residents. According to the 2011-2012
7 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report, the
8 "Blue Book," K190 has the capacity to serve 813
9 students. If the proposal is approved, K190 is
10 projected to serve approximately 603 to 753
11 total combined students from Explore Envision,
12 P.S. 190, and Essence School, in 2017-2018,
13 yielding an estimated building utilization rate
14 of 74% to 93%. Thus, K190 has sufficient space
15 to accommodate the proposed co-location. As the
16 Educational Impact Statement states, the
17 Department of Education does not anticipate that
18 this proposal will impact Envision's methods or
19 academic and extracurricular offerings at P.S.
20 190 or Essence School.

21 MS. PARK: Thank you. Explore Envision has
22 been approved by its charter authorizer, the
23 State University of New York's Trustees, or
24 SUNY, to open a new public charter school in
25 Community School District 19. Although this

1 proposal has not yet been approved by the Panel
2 for Educational Policy, SUNY is required to hold
3 a facilities hearing to receive feedback on the
4 proposed co-location of Explore Envision with
5 P.S. 190 and Essence School. As such, this
6 joint public hearing will also serve as a
7 facilities hearing. There is a representative
8 from SUNY in attendance. If you have any
9 questions or comments on the charter itself, Tom
10 Franta of SUNY will now tell you about
11 submitting those questions and comments.

12 MR. THOMAS FRANTA: Good evening. My name
13 is Tom Franta. I'm Associate Counsel at the
14 SUNY Charter Schools Institute. I'm here
15 tonight to hold a public hearing on behalf of
16 the Board of Trustees of the State University of
17 New York. As Sonia has alluded to, the
18 educational law requires SUNY to hold a public
19 hearing any time one of the schools it
20 authorizes might open in an existing public
21 school building. I'm here tonight to listen and
22 to record your comments about the proposal to
23 locate grades K through five of Explore Envision
24 Charter School, a new charter school, in fall of
25 2014, in part of this building, K190. SUNY's

1 holding its hearing now at the same time as the
2 DOE is holding its joint public hearing so that
3 we don't have to ask community members to attend
4 two different hearings on the same subject.
5 I'll be taking notes on all comments made
6 tonight. In addition, you may give me any
7 written comments you might have with you, or you
8 can email them to charters@SUNY.edu, or mail
9 them to 41 State St., Suite 700, Albany, New
10 York, 12207. Or finally they may be faxed to
11 area code (518) 427-6510. SUNY will accept
12 comments through June 26th, 2013, just five
13 business days after the meeting of the Panel for
14 Educational Policy, where this co-location will
15 be - -. Thank you for your comments.

16 MS. PARK: Thank you. Our next presenter
17 will be Principal Hill of P.S. 190.

18 MS. STEPHAUN HILL: Good evening. - -
19 declines any further public comments at this
20 time.

21 MS. PARK: Thank you. And the next
22 presenter will be Principal Makelele of Essence
23 School.

24 MS. MAKELELE: Good evening, and welcome.
25 At this time, - - decline any further comments.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. PARK: And as previously mentioned, the
3 CEC confirmed attendance at tonight's hearing,
4 but unfortunately is not here at the moment. If
5 a member of the CEC arrives, we will give them
6 the opportunity - - to speak. We have now
7 concluded the formal presentations. I ask that
8 all the people line up for public comments. The
9 first speaker is Morty Ballen.

10 MR. MORTY BALLEEN: Good evening, everybody.
11 My name is Morty Ballen. I'm the CEO and
12 founder of Explore Schools. Good evening,
13 Superintendent, Principal - -, and - -. I just
14 wanted to introduce myself and put a name and a
15 face to - - that we do. Our mission at our four
16 schools is to provide our students with the
17 academic schools and critical thinking abilities
18 they need to achieve in a college prep high
19 school. And I founded Explore in 2002, our
20 first school, after being a public school
21 teacher for six years, and was so compelled by
22 the inquisitiveness and eagerness of our
23 students, and of their parents, who wanted more
24 choices, for public schools, and that - -
25 launched me into opening Explore Charter School

1 in 2002. We've since grown. We've opened an
2 additional three schools. Three of our schools
3 are in District 17. One of our schools is in
4 District 18. And every one of our schools is
5 co-located. And - - a very unique partnership
6 and collaboration with the schools with which we
7 are co-located, characterized by collaboration,
8 cooperation, as we're all grownups here working
9 together for the same goal, that our students
10 have an outstanding public education. Who
11 cares if it's charter or - - district. We're
12 all here for the same thing. It characterizes
13 our work, and how we do business. And we seek
14 to be partners. And I think our track record of
15 - - partnership has demonstrated - - just said.
16 Very nice to meet you all tonight, and thank you
17 for your time.

18 MS. PARK: Thank you. I also should've said
19 earlier that in regards to public comment, - -
20 reminding you that public comment must be
21 limited to two minutes, and will be kept, and -
22 - you when have 30 seconds remaining, when your
23 time is up. And the next speaker is Curtis
24 Palmone [phonetic].

25 MR. CURTIS PALMORE: Good evening. My name

1 is Curtis Palmore, and I am the principal of
2 Exceed Charter School. For the last 17 years,
3 I've been an educator with traditional public
4 schools and also charter schools. And last year
5 I opened Exceed Charter School, which is the
6 newest school - - students. My school is co-
7 located with two other district schools. This
8 year I've had the privilege of working with two
9 great principals, and doing three basic things
10 that I think has really helped my school - - .
11 The first is that we collaborate on a number of
12 professional development opportunities. Our
13 teachers have worked together at all of the
14 three schools to formally - - our PRT committee.
15 We've done unified trainings around safety
16 measures for all the schools on the campuses.
17 We also have shared a lot of professional
18 development materials within the three schools.
19 That has helped us - - a better school - -
20 received some great resources from those
21 schools. We also have done some great work with
22 our students. Our students most recently were
23 invited to a - - party at one of the district
24 schools in our building. And then we also
25 returned the favor by doing that as well, in

1 having some of the students at one of the
2 district schools visit - -. Lastly, we've done
3 a lot of collaboration in terms of just - - them
4 on the same page - -. Once a month, one of the
5 principals visits my school, and we also do the
6 same thing - - as far as giving each other
7 feedback. Thank you very much.

8 MS. PARK: Thank you very much. And that is
9 the end of our speaker signup list. So - -
10 comments - - tonight. Thank you very much. We
11 appreciate your feedback, - - hearing. The
12 information will be shared with the Panel on
13 Educational Policy, which will have its meeting
14 on Wednesday, June 19th, at 6:00 p.m., at the
15 Michael J. Petrides School, 715 Ocean Terr.,
16 Staten Island, New York, 10301, to vote on this
17 proposal. The email address and phone number
18 where comments may be made are
19 D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the phone
20 number is (212) 374-0208. Thank you all for
21 coming, and this joint public hearing is
22 officially adjourned.

23 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature *Aime Coleman*

Date June 5, 2013