

Public Comment Analysis

Date: May 28, 2014

Topic: The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 199 Maurice A. Fitzgerald (24Q199) from a K-4 School to a K-5 School and the Temporary Re-siting and Co-Location of a Portion of P.S. 199 Maurice A. Fitzgerald (24Q199) with P.S. 343 The Children’s Lab School (24Q343) in New Building Q313 Beginning in the 2014-2015 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: May 29, 2014

Summary of Proposal

On February 28, 2014, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposed to expand P.S. 199 Maurice A. Fitzgerald (24Q199, “P.S. 199”) to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 199 is a zoned elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through fourth grades in main building Q199 (“Q199”) and its adjacent transportable classroom units (“Q938”) located at 39-20 48th Avenue, Queens, NY 11104, as well as Annex Q777 (“Q777”) located at 50-15 44th Street, Queens, NY 11377 and Annex Q841 (“Q841”) located at 48-25 37th Street, Queens, NY 11101 in Community School District 24 (“District 24”). P.S. 199 is co-located with P.S. 110 (24Q110, “P.S. 110”) in building Q841. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

On April 10, 2014, the Notice of Joint Public Hearing for this proposal was amended to reflect a new date on which the Panel for Educational Policy will vote on this proposal.

Fourth graders from P.S. 199 currently articulate to I.S. 125 Thom J. McCann Woodside (24Q125, “I.S. 125”) for fifth grade. I.S. 125 currently serves students in fifth through eighth grade in main building Q125, mini-building Q825, and Transportable Classroom Unit (“TCU”) Q947 located at 46-02 47th Avenue, Queens, NY 11377, in District 24. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on February 28, 2014, the DOE is proposing to truncate I.S. 125 from a 5-8 school to a 6-8 school beginning in 2014-2015. That proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/May62014PEP>. If that proposal is approved, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, I.S. 125 will serve students in sixth through eighth grades, and will no longer enroll fifth-grade students. I.S. 125 will continue to admit sixth- through eighth-grade students in its zone and students from P.S. 199 will be able to enroll in I.S. 125 in sixth grade after remaining at P.S. 199 for fifth grade. If the proposal to truncate I.S. 125’s fifth grade is not approved, the DOE would reassess its plans for expanding P.S. 199, and would revise this EIS as necessary.

Therefore, this proposal will implement a “grade expansion” so that P.S. 199 would serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. This means that P.S. 199 would serve fourth-grade students as they articulate to fifth grade and be able to enroll new zoned fifth graders in 2014-2015. When P.S. 199 completes its grade expansion as a

full scale elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades, P.S. 199's projected enrollment is 1,115 – 1,175 students in the 2014-2015 school year.

The proposed grade expansion, which was developed in collaboration with the school leadership, provides the opportunity for P.S. 199's elementary students to remain at P.S. 199 across the elementary grade continuum, as well as transition into middle school in the sixth grade along with their District 24 peers. An expansion of P.S. 199's grade levels would provide current students with continued access to this high performing school option. P.S. 199 has received an A on each of its last three progress reports.

Additionally, in the fall of 2013, the School Construction Authority ("SCA") approved the renovation of Q777 following the 2013-2014 school year. Q777 has the projected capacity of 256 seats. Due to the renovation of Q777, P.S. 199 will need additional capacity to accommodate its students for the 2014-2015 school year. Therefore, the DOE is also proposing to temporarily re-site and co-locate a portion of P.S. 199 in new building Q313 ("Q313"), located at 45-46 42nd Street, Queens, NY 11104, in District 24 for the 2014-2015 school year where it will be co-located with P.S. 343 The Children's Lab School (24Q343, "P.S. 343"), a new elementary school. A "re-siting" means students will attend classes in a different building than the one students have attended in previous years.

Following the 2014-2015 school year, the re-sited students will return to Q199, Q938 and Q841, where additional space is expected to become available for P.S. 199. The DOE intends to propose, in a separate future EIS, to re-site P.S. 110 from Q841 to new building Q315 beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, such that only P.S. 199 would occupy building Q841 after the re-siting of P.S. 110. The re-siting of P.S. 110 would create additional space in Q841 for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond, which can be used to accommodate additional P.S. 199 students. Therefore, if the re-siting proposal for P.S. 110 is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP"), for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond, the DOE anticipates that P.S. 199 will be accommodated in its entirety at Q199, Q938, and Q841, and will no longer need to use Q313 or Q777. For the purposes of this EIS, it is assumed that the anticipated proposal to re-site P.S. 110 will be approved by the PEP. If the proposal to re-site P.S. 110 is not approved, or if building Q315 is not completed in time for the 2015-2016 school year, the DOE will issue a separate EIS describing an alternate siting plan for P.S. 199's students.

If this proposal is approved, a portion of the kindergarten and first grade of P.S. 199 will be re-sited to the Q313 building and co-located with P.S. 343 for the 2014-2015 school year, during the renovation of building Q777 and until P.S. 110 is re-sited from Q841. Alternatively, depending on P.S. 199's enrollment in the 2014-2015 school year, the leadership of P.S. 199 may decide to re-site a portion of different grades to Q313 for the 2014-2015 school year and continue to serve kindergarten and/or first grade in buildings Q199, Q938, and Q841. For the purposes of this EIS, the DOE has projected that 225-235 of the 355-375 P.S. 199 kindergarten and first grade students will be re-sited to building Q313 for the 2014-2015 school year. The leadership of P.S. 199 will decide which students will be served at Q313 during the period of re-siting and may ultimately decide to change which grades are served at which sites.

Building Q313 is approximately 0.3 miles from building Q199. P.S. 199 will not need space in Q313 after additional capacity becomes available in P.S. 199's Annex Q841 in the 2015-2016 school year, when P.S. 110 is expected to be re-sited from Q841 to its permanent space in building Q315, pending approval by the PEP of the anticipated re-siting proposal for P.S. 110.

P.S. 343 is a new zoned elementary school that is anticipated to open in building Q313 in 2014-

2015 and will phase-in one grade per year to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade at full-scale. If this proposal is approved, building Q313 will serve approximately 225-235 P.S. 199 students in the 2014-2015 school year. In the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 199 students who were re-sited to Q313 will relocate to main building Q199, Q938, or to the Q841 annex.

Where possible, the DOE aims to utilize available space in other local school buildings to alleviate overcrowding or serve students during a temporary period of construction. According to the Program of Requirements (“POR”) from the SCA, Q313 has the capacity to serve 432 students. In 2014-2015, the DOE anticipates that new school P.S. 343 will serve approximately 70-80 kindergarten students in Q313, which would yield a utilization rate of 16%-19% if this co-location proposal were not approved. This indicates that the building will be “under-utilized” and would have the capacity to accommodate additional students as the new school grows to scale. If this proposal is approved, in 2014-2015, P.S. 199 and P.S. 343 will serve a total of 295-315 students in building Q313, yielding a building utilization rate of 68%-73%.

According to the 2012-2013 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), Q199, Q938, and Q841 together have a target capacity of 1,003 students. According to the 2012-2013 Blue Book, Q199, Q938, Q841, and Q777 have a target capacity of 1,108 students. During the 2013-2014 school year, 1,108 students from P.S. 199 and P.S. 110 combined are being served in buildings Q199, Q938, Q841, and Q777, yielding a building utilization rate of 100%. If this proposal is approved, in the 2014-2015 school year, it is projected that there will be 1,090-1,170 P.S. 199 and P.S. 110 students served in Q199, Q938, and Q841, yielding a building utilization rate of 109%-117%. In the 2015-2016 school year, it is projected that P.S. 199 would serve 1,095-1,155 students in Q199, Q938, and Q841, yielding a building utilization rate of 109%-115%. In the 2019-2020 school year, when P.S. 199’s enrollment is stabilized across kindergarten through fifth grade, P.S. 199 would serve 1,020-1,080 students across Q199, Q938, and Q841, yielding a building utilization rate of 102%-108%.

Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation, as described below.

This proposal is contingent on the completion of building Q313 by September 2014. If Q313 is not ready at that time, the DOE would issue a separate EIS describing an alternate siting plan for P.S. 199’s students.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS, which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/May62014PEP>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 199.

Summary of Comments Received

A joint public hearing regarding the proposal was held at P.S.199 on April 10, 2014. At the hearing, interested parties had the opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 33 members of the public attended the hearing and one person spoke. Present at the meeting were District 24 Superintendent Madelene Chan; Anthony Inzirillo, Principal of P.S. 199; P.S. 199 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representative Annette Riznowsky; Community Education Council (“CEC 24”) Member Denise Vasquez; Cody Reiter Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; and Emily Ades from the Office of District Planning. An additional

community meeting was held at the Q199 building on April 7, 2014. At that meeting, interested parties had another opportunity to provide input on and ask questions about the proposal. Approximately 60 members of the public attended the meeting and 5 people spoke. Present at that meeting were: Anthony Inzirillo, Principal of P.S. 199; Deputy Chancellor Dorita Gibson; Superintendent Madelene Chan; P.S. 199 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representative Arlette Ahryznowski; Council Member Daniel Dromm; Matt Wallace Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; and Jillian Roland from the Office of District Planning. Additionally, a walkthrough of the Q199 building was conducted by Deputy Chancellor Dorita Gibson from the DOE on April 7, 2014, just prior to the community meeting.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing and community meeting on this proposal:

1. One commenter mentioned that she would like to retain both annexes at St. Raphael’s and St. Theresa’s and inquired whether it would be possible to renovate the St. Theresa’s building after school.
 - a. She also commented that more funding should be allocated if P.S. 199 expands to serve fifth graders.
2. Councilmember Dromm expressed support for the principal and the families of P.S. 199 and is interested in hearing from the community.
 - a. He stated that he was concerned about the Temporary Classroom Units (“TCUs”) and inquired about the plans for removal.
 - b. He expressed concerns about the historical overcrowding at P.S. 199 and asked how the proposal will address this issue.
3. Arlette Ahryznowski, representing the P.S. 199 SLT, expressed support for the grade expansion proposal.
 - a. She requested that the St. Theresa’s building be utilized for District 24 students when the renovation of the additional floors is completed and that it be considered as a continued annex for P.S. 199 when it is complete.
 - b. She inquired about the capacity of new building Q313.
 - c. She inquired when St. Theresa’s will be completed.
4. A commenter requested that transportation be extended to 3rd through 5th graders.
5. Several commenters inquired about the future use of the St. Theresa’s building after the renovation is complete.
6. One commenter mentioned that the community should be more active in the school especially now that the school is expanding.
 - a. She expressed support for the proposal and is happy that the fifth grade is coming back to P.S.199 after so many years.
7. Matt Wallace, representing Councilmember Van Bramer, expressed support for the new Q313 building.
 - a. He expressed concerns about the overcrowding at P.S. 199.
 - b. He requested that community members reach out to the Councilmember to express their opinions.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

8. Multiple written comments expressed support for the proposal.
 - a. One commenter stated that she is very happy with the quality of education at P.S. 199, particularly in the areas of Language Arts and Math.
 - b. One commenter noted that she supports the proposal and would like to see additional art and physical education programs at P.S. 199.

9. One written comment expressed opposition for the proposal to expand P.S. 199 to serve fifth graders due to overcrowding at the school.
 - a. She expressed that there is no nurse in the annex locations.
 - b. She stated that the TCUs are not appropriate for the children and that students have to go outside to go to the main building for the cafeteria.
 - c. The commenter expressed that the afterschool enrichment programs at P.S. 199 are not clearly presented to the families.
 - d. She stated that due to the expansion, fourth graders will not be able to apply to Louis Armstrong.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

Comments 1, 3a, 3c and 5 requested information about the St. Theresa's building.

As mentioned in the Educational Impact Statement ("EIS"), in the fall of 2013, the School Construction Authority ("SCA") approved the renovation of the St. Theresa's building, which is also known as Q777, following this school year. Q777 has the projected capacity of 256 seats. Unfortunately, it is not possible to complete the extensive renovations while the building is occupied. The anticipated projected completion date is to be determined. However, the building is expected to be available for partial occupancy in 2015, which means that during the 2014-2015 school year, the DOE will work with the community to determine the most appropriate usage for the additional District 24 capacity.

Comment 1a pertained to how funding is allocated to schools that are expanding grade spans.

As mentioned in the EIS, the expansion of a school creates the need for one-time other than personal services ("OTPS") funding to cover any additional textbooks and supplies that may be required. The OTPS per capita allocation to offset these costs has historically been \$80 per student. Since P.S. 199's grade expansion is expected to initially result in approximately 190-200 additional fifth grade seats, the DOE estimates that P.S. 199 would receive a one-time award of approximately \$15,200 - \$16,000 in 2014-2015 based on projected registers.

Comments 2b, 7a, and 9 concern overcrowding at P.S. 199.

The proposed re-siting and temporary co-location of a portion of P.S. 199's students is intended to provide additional space for P.S. 199 so that it can continue serving its current students as well as continue to admit new students during renovation of Q777. The temporary re-siting of a portion of P.S. 199 to Q313 provides students with an annex that is only 0.3 miles from the main building, while construction at Q777 provides the community with much-needed additional elementary school capacity.

If this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space for P.S. 199 to serve its students in kindergarten through fifth grade in the 2014-2015 school year. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed expansion of P.S. 199 would significantly impact the utilization of buildings Q199 or Q938. Additionally, during the 2014-2015 school year, the DOE does not anticipate that the proposed expansion of P.S. 199 would impact the utilization of building Q841. As described in detail in the EIS, the DOE anticipates proposing to re-site P.S. 110 from Q841 to new construction when it is available in the 2015-2016 school year. If that proposal is approved by the PEP, in the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 199 would serve more students in the Q841 building.

Further, on October 22, 2013, the District 24 CEC approved a plan to create a P.S. 343 elementary school zone which was carved out of P.S. 199's zone, and thus will impact P.S. 199's enrollment. This re-zoning will take full effect in the 2019-2020 school year and the DOE anticipates that enrollment at P.S. 199 will decline in order to allow for more space in the existing school buildings. More information is available on the DOE Web Site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=535>

Comments 2a and 9b expressed concerns about the TCUs and inquired about an anticipated removal plan.

Funding has been allocated in the proposed 2015-2019 Capital Plan for the removal of all TCUs; however, the schedule of TCU removals is based upon many factors. As mentioned above, there is additional capacity in the neighborhood with the newly acquired space at Q777 and new building Q313. The intention is for this new capacity to alleviate the need for the TCUs in this area. The DOE is aware of the community's requests to remove the P.S. 199 TCUs and will consider this request based on the factors described above.

Comment 3b inquired about the capacity at new building Q313.

Building Q313 has a designed capacity of 432 students which is based on the designed capacity of the building as per the Program of Requirements from the School Construction Authority.

The official target capacity and utilization rates are not available yet since the building is still under construction. However, there is sufficient space in Q313 for both P.S. 343 and the temporary co-location of P.S. 199's annex. As noted in the EIS, in 2014-2015, the DOE anticipates that P.S. 343 will serve approximately 70-80 kindergarten students in Q313, which would yield a utilization rate of 16%-19% if this co-location proposal were not approved. This indicates that the building will be "under-utilized" and would have the capacity to accommodate additional students as the new school grows to scale.

Comment 4 suggested that transportation be extended for 3rd through 5th graders at P.S. 199.

P.S. 199 students traveling to Q313 will be provided with transportation according to Chancellor's Regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

Comment 9a stated that there is no nurse at the annex location.

There is a school nurse assigned to the St. Raphael's building who will service all students in the building regardless of which of the schools they attend.

Comment 9d suggested that students at P.S. 199 will no longer have the opportunity to apply to Louis Armstrong.

If the proposal to expand P.S. 199 is approved, students will still have the ability to apply to choice schools such as Louis Armstrong. For more information on middle schools:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Resources/default.htm>

Comments 3, 6a, 8 and 8a express support for the proposal and do not require a response.

Comments 2, 6, 7, 7b, 8b and 9c did not pertain to the proposal and do not require a response.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.