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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
Co-Location of American Dream @X030

1 [START RECORDING]

2 SUPERINTENDENT JOLANDA TORRES: Okay. Good
3 evening, welcome. We are okay with translation?
4 Yes? Okay. Okay, we are ready?

5 FEMALE VOICE 1: Mm-hmm.

6 SUPERINTENDENT TOMES: Okay. Everyone needs
7 to speak to the microphone. Okay?

8 Okay. Good evening, everyone. This is a
9 joint public hearing of the Department of
10 Education, Community Education Council, and the
11 school leadership team for the proposed co-
12 location of grades six through eight of American
13 Dream Charter School 84X, and the number will be
14 determined later on. Once approved, with
15 existing school PS 30, the Wilton School 07X 30
16 in building X 30.

17 Beginning in the school year 2014/15, and,
18 as you know, I am Jolanda Torres, your community
19 superintendent, and I am the Chancellor's
20 designee. We have asked the District 7
21 Community Education Council and the school
22 leadership team in the building to participate
23 in this joint public hearing.

24 I am joined tonight by, on my left, Mr.
25 Carlo Lopez, who is one of the members of the

1 school leadership team for PS 30, as well as
2 the UFT representative. Okay? We have Ms.
3 Norme Lisally [phonetic] from the Community
4 Education Council. She's one of the members.
5 Mr. John Fielder, Treasurer for the CEC; Ms.
6 Almeta Trammel, First Vice President for CEC;
7 Ms. Paulette Williams, member, and Love Andujar,
8 member.

9 FEMALE VOICE 1: Recording secretary.

10 MALE VOICE 1: Recording secretary.

11 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Oh, I apologize, Ms.
12 Andujar, recording secretary.

13 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose
14 of this hearing is for you to provide comments
15 about the proposal. Before I describe the
16 proposal, I want to make sure that you
17 understand that, if you want to have the
18 opportunity to speak, you need to have signed
19 outside, outside the auditorium. There is a
20 sign-up sheet there, and it will close in 15
21 minutes. Then, you will be given—the speakers
22 will be given the floor in the order in which
23 you signed up. All comments are limited to two
24 minutes.

25 There may be elected officials who arrive at

1 different times throughout the meeting. If
2 they wish to speak, we will do our best in
3 accommodating them at the first opportune
4 moment. Those who are here at the start of the
5 public comment segment will be asked to speak
6 first.

7 Once again, as I mentioned before, all
8 comments will be mentioned in the analysis of
9 public comment to be published and provided to
10 the Panel for Educational Policy the evening
11 before the Panel votes, and this will be on
12 October 15, 2013.

13 In addition, we also welcome any comments
14 and feedback you may have at any time before the
15 Panel votes on the proposal. The e-mail address
16 and phone number where comments can be made are
17 d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the number is
18 212-374-5159.

19 So the proposal summary is as follows: The
20 New York City Department of Education, or DOE,
21 is proposing to co-locate grades six through
22 eight of American Dream Charter School, or
23 American Dream, in building X 30, located at 510
24 E. 141st Street, Bronx, New York, 10454,
25 beginning next year, school year 2014/15.

1 If the proposal is approved by the Panel
2 for Educational Policy, grades six through
3 eighth of American Dream will be co-located in
4 this building at PS 30 Wilton School. PS 30, as
5 you all know, is an elementary school that
6 serves grades kindergarten through fifth grade
7 and also offers prekindergarten programs.

8 American Dream will admit students through a
9 charter lottery. Siblings of students currently
10 enrolled--that would be for the future--enrolled
11 at American Dream, and students identified as
12 English language learners, or ELL students, or
13 immigrants. American Dream's educational
14 program will include a dual language program
15 component designed to help students achieve
16 success in both languages, English and Spanish.

17 In the 2014/15 school year, American Dream
18 will serve 90 to 115 students in grade six only.
19 The school will then add one grade each year
20 until it serves approximately 260 to 335
21 students in six through eight by the school year
22 2016/17.

23 As indicated in the Building Utilization
24 Plan, the BUP, BUP, there is sufficient space in
25 this building, in X 30 to meet the instructional

1 space needs of both PS 30 and American Dream
2 during and after the phase-in period of American
3 Dream. Building X 30 has a combined target
4 capacity to serve 638 students. During the 2013
5 to '14 school year, present year, the building
6 serves a total of approximately 525 students,
7 yielding a building utilization rate of 82%.
8 Based on projected enrollment, the DOE believes
9 that there will be underutilized space in
10 building X 30 during this school year 2014, the
11 first year of this proposal.

12 In the school year 2016/17, American Dream
13 reaches stable enrollment serving students in
14 grades six through eight, and X 30 is projected
15 to serve approximately 726 to 861 students,
16 yielding a building utilization rate of 114% to
17 135%.

18 I do want to acknowledge another CEC member,
19 Ms. Joletta Guevara, and she is also the
20 representative for English language learners on
21 the CEC. Welcome.

22 Although a projected utilization rate above
23 100% may suggest that the building will be over
24 utilized, or overcrowded, in a given year, this
25 rate does not account for the fact that rooms

1 may be programmed for more efficient, or
2 different, uses than the standard assumptions in
3 the utilization calculation. In addition,
4 charter school enrollment plans are frequently
5 based on target class sizes for different use of
6 administrative space contributing to building
7 utilization rates above 100%, while not
8 impacting the utilization of the space allocated
9 to the traditional space of the public school in
10 the building. For further details and space
11 allocation, you can look at the plan that has
12 been attached to the proposal, which is the
13 Building Utilization Plan.

14 This proposal is not anticipated to impact
15 the instructional programming admissions
16 processes or enrollment of students currently
17 attending PS 30. The DOE supports American
18 Dream's placement in X 30 and anticipates that
19 the school will provide additional educational
20 opportunities for families in District 7.

21 This proposal is also intended to increase
22 the number of programs geared towards English
23 language learners in District 7 and to increase
24 the number of middle school seats in the
25 District. American Dream has submitted a

1 preliminary application for charter
2 authorization by its charter authorizer, the New
3 York State Department of Education, or SED, to
4 open a new public charter school in community
5 school District 7.

6 Although, this proposal has not yet been
7 approved by the Panel for Educational Policy,
8 the State Education Department is required to
9 hold a facilities hearing to receive feedback on
10 the proposed co-location of American Dream with
11 PS 30. As such, the joint public hearing will
12 also serve as a facilities hearing.

13 Do we have a representative from the State
14 Education Department? No? She's on her way?

15 FEMALE VOICE 1: She's on her way.

16 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Okay. The
17 individual is on his or her way. So, once the
18 individual is here, he or she will be able to,
19 then, to give you more information in terms of
20 where you can submit your questions and
21 comments.

22 So this is the end of the summary. I am now
23 going to present to you the individuals that
24 will be speaking for the CEC, and I will and
25 over the microphone to Ms. Trammell.

1 MS. ALMETA TRAMMELL: Good evening. My
2 name is Almeta Trammell. I am speaking on
3 behalf of Community Educational Counsel for
4 District 7. In the absence of my president, I
5 am speaking tonight on behalf of Matteo--

6 FEMALE VOICE 1: - - .

7 MS. TRAMMELL: You can't? Can you hear me
8 now? Okay. I'll try not to super-scream.
9 Okay. So let me just start over. My name is
10 Almeta Trammell. I am speaking on behalf of our
11 President, Alberto Matteo, who is absent tonight
12 and couldn't be here.

13 So what I want to say is that we are in full
14 support with the parent body of PS 30 and
15 support that a charter school should not be
16 brought into this space and that the school
17 should be allowed to grow because we know the
18 enrollment is increasing every week here at this
19 school, and, that if the school is left free to
20 go ahead and grow back, that PS 30 can become
21 the model school, and continue to be the model
22 school, it has always been in District 7. Thank
23 you.

24 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Thank you, Ms.
25 Trammell. Okay. So Ms. Joletta Guevara, who is

1 a CEC member, right, and she is the L
2 representative on the CEC. She is going to
3 speak in Spanish, and, then, we will translate
4 into English.

5 MS. JOLETTA GUEVARA (Through Interpreter):
6 Good evening, everybody, my name is Joletta
7 Guevara, and I'm a CEC member. I am learning
8 English, as well. I represent all of the
9 parents in District 7. I am not in full
10 agreement that a charter school should be
11 implemented in this school. I think it would
12 not only affect us parents, but also our
13 children, the students. If another school is
14 here, the children will be affected in that they
15 don't have their own space, and they are already
16 used to a certain kind of system. That was all.
17 Thank you.

18 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Okay. Thank you,
19 Ms. Guevara. Any other CEC members? Okay. So
20 thank you, CEC members, for your comments, and,
21 now, I'm going to have Mr. Carlos Lopez, who is,
22 as I said before, a representative of the school
23 leadership team at PS 30 and, also, the UFT
24 representative.

25 MR. CARLOS LOPEZ: Hello, parents, staff

1 members, students of PS 30, thank you for
2 coming here tonight to show your love and to
3 show your support for this school.

4 First, and foremost, in talking about the
5 educational impact statement, to start off with,
6 PS 30 is not a rubber stamp. We will not allow.
7 We will not let it be easy for another school to
8 come in and utilize our space, which is our
9 space.

10 Now, we all know that people want a piece of
11 PS 30 because PS 30 is a very bright and shining
12 school. We were mentioned in the focus of
13 Jonathan Kozol's books, *Ordinary Resurrections*,
14 as well as *Amazing Grace*. And, within the
15 books, Jonathan Kozol lists PS 30 as one of the
16 best urban schools in America. We find that PS
17 30 and the parents who come to PS 30, the
18 students who are here, we have an ardent love
19 for PS 30.

20 We actually were an A school three years
21 straight when Success Academy wanted to come in.
22 They came in, but we made it impossible for
23 them, and they are no longer here. PS 30, in
24 that time, we had to relinquish two rooms that
25 were computer laboratories on the third floor.

1 We had to relinquish a music room. We had to
2 relinquish, also, an art room. And, also, we
3 had to put most of our speech teachers,
4 counselors, and ESL teachers in the same room,
5 or not even in the same room, but working
6 outside of the rooms pushing into classrooms.

7 We have two occupational therapists on any
8 given day. They do wonderful work with the
9 children. They have their own room. They are
10 entitled to that.

11 What are you telling us? That if another
12 school comes in here, we have to relinquish the
13 space that is not factored into the formula of
14 building utilization by the Office of Portfolio
15 Planning, such rooms as an OT room, occupational
16 therapy, which our children do need. Do you
17 want the occupational therapist to play ball
18 with them in the hallway? Do you want them to
19 teach them skills of manual dexterity in the
20 stairways? We need our rooms, and PS 30 is
21 growing.

22 If I could just bring your attention here to
23 page 2, we'll start with page 2. We see many
24 contradictions throughout this proposal, and one
25 such, I actually would like to point out. In

1 the third paragraph, starting on line 3, it
2 says, and I quote, as discussed in Section 3B
3 and the attached Building Utilization Plan, the
4 BUP, building PS 30 has sufficient space to meet
5 the instructional needs of both schools under
6 the citywide instructional footprint, despite
7 having a utilization rate of over 100%. And,
8 then, they continue to explain.

9 Although a utilization rate in excess of
10 100% may suggest that a building will be over
11 utilized, overcrowded, do we want our building
12 anymore overcrowded? Do we want our children to
13 be in a space even more over utilized in a given
14 year? And that takes me to page 3, where it
15 says that PS 30 projected enrollment or 2013/14
16 is 525 students. We are already up to 553.
17 Next year, we'll be up to past 600. We have
18 already opened up two extra classrooms, and,
19 since many students are sewn for this school, we
20 expect to see much more of a population increase
21 in the enrollment of our school.

22 We actually see here that if there is a
23 school that does move in--and I have no problem
24 with other educational institutions. When it's
25 done right, it's great. But when you force

1 other children to relinquish the privileges of
2 a computer lab that we have a grant for, and we
3 opened up a room specifically for computers, and
4 then just have it as two computers per room, and
5 maybe they won't even have a computer lab.

6 So you are telling me that if a school moves
7 in here, they rooms that weren't calculated in
8 the Office of Portfolio Planning formula for
9 calculating building utilization rates, speech,
10 ESL, science, art rooms, music rooms, labs,
11 occupational therapy rooms, counseling rooms,
12 these rooms will cease to exist? That's
13 mismanagement in education.

14 We find that PS 30 is a very good school.
15 We will not allow PS 32 to be a warehouse of
16 other schools, especially a junior high school--
17 and I have nothing against junior high schools.
18 They are beautiful schools. But we do not want
19 to be a feeder school for the international high
20 school across the street. There is already two
21 middle schools and a high school across the
22 street. Why are you going to house another
23 middle school directly across the street? What
24 is this, competition? No. This is being a
25 feeder school.

1 In one page, it says that this school is
2 proposed to go from six to eight. And, then, on
3 one page, it says six to ten. And, then, on
4 another page, it says six to twelve. What is
5 the truth with this impact statement?

6 We find on page 3, second to last paragraph,
7 it says, "PS 30's building has the capacity to
8 accommodate all of the existing and proposed
9 schools during and after American Dream's
10 proposed phase-in period. That's what they
11 would like it to be, a phase-in, but it's not
12 going to be a phase-in 'cause we are not going
13 to be phased out.

14 We are fighting for the rights of our
15 children, for the rights of our community. We
16 have teachers that will speak afterwards and
17 will attest to their young ones and how precious
18 it is for the space that we have right now, that
19 our young ones have that space.

20 Charter schools are excellent when run
21 properly when they come with their own building,
22 or probably in a school that was revamped, but
23 PS 30 has been here since its inception. One
24 charter school has come and gone. I'm sure that
25 another one will, as well. But PS 30 is here to

1 stay. Mark your words, PS 30 is here to stay.

2 Four years prior, when we had Success
3 Academy Charter School coming in, and we had the
4 PEP meeting, the Panel meeting for public
5 educational policy, they didn't expect PS 30
6 parents to show up in Brooklyn with the amount
7 of parents that we had. We showed up with over
8 30 parents and over 15 students, and everybody
9 on the PEP Panel said the same thing, I never
10 thought there would be such an outcry of support
11 for a community in Mount Haven, District 7, one
12 of the most overpopulated and oversaturated
13 districts with charter schools in New York City.

14 The same thing that they did to District 5,
15 they think they are going to do in District 7,
16 just coming over the 138th Street Bridge. It's
17 not going to happen. PS 30 is an honor school.
18 We are an honor school. We love our shelter
19 children. We love our children from all walks,
20 and we are here to serve, and we will continue
21 to serve. Continue to fight for PS 30.

22 Can every PS 30 parent, every PS 30 student,
23 every PS 30 staff member put your hands together
24 right now for PS 30? Show your support. Thank
25 you.

1 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Thank you, Ms.
2 Lopez. I just want to double check if the State
3 Education Department representative is here?
4 Ms. Calbin, is the representative from the State
5 Ed Department here?

6 MS. CALBIN: - - .

7 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Okay. So we have
8 concluded the formal presentations, and, now, we
9 are going to open the floor for public comment,
10 and there is only one person that has signed up,
11 Maria Noverto. There is one more? Okay, Maria.

12 MS. MARIA NOVERTO (Through Interpreter): My
13 name is Maria Noverto, and I want to speak about
14 the parents in favor of this school. I'm a
15 mother with one child in this school, and I'm
16 going to talk as a mother.

17 My son is very happy in this school. I
18 think this is a perfect school. The way they
19 are now, it is perfect now. They don't need
20 children of other ages in this school. They are
21 the way they are right now, that is perfect, the
22 way they are. I don't want my child to grow up
23 with adolescents or preadolescent kids. I want
24 my son to grow with children of his own age and
25 could share the cafeteria with children of his

1 own age. If you want space for older
2 children, older kids, go look for their own
3 space for those kids.

4 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Speaker number two?

5 MS. ANNA VASQUEZ: Hi, my name is Anna
6 Vasquez. I'm the parent coordinator from PS 30.
7 I want to ask the question, why are you
8 proposing another charter school at our
9 building? We need our space for our students
10 and staff. There are other buildings that are
11 unoccupied. Catholic schools that are closing,
12 why can't you utilize those buildings? Where
13 our school is growing, every week we have two
14 and three students who register in our school.
15 Sorry.

16 We also have a great participation of
17 parents participating in meetings, workshops.
18 If another school comes into our building, I
19 will have to share space with them. I will lose
20 my parent room. Where am I going to have my
21 workshops, my cook shops. We have a great
22 participation of parents. They attend
23 workshops, meetings. I mean, I need the space,
24 and the school needs the space.

25 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Okay, Ms. Smith,

1 also from the SLT, right?

2 MS. JACQUELINE SMITH: Yes. Good evening,
3 parents. My name is Jacqueline Smith, and I
4 work here at PS 30. I'm a prekindergarten
5 teacher. I've been here for many years.

6 This school is a wonderful school for our
7 little children. We do not need to be
8 overcrowded. I see that, by the projected
9 2016/2017, 135 capacity. What is that? We
10 don't need that. We need these spaces for our
11 children to grow and learn. Please look for
12 other places for the junior high school to be
13 in. We need this building.

14 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Was there any other
15 speaker? Okay, Ms. Calbin. Okay, but, hello,
16 how are you?

17 MALE VOICE 1: - - .

18 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Good, good. CEC
19 member, it seems like we are not going in the
20 order, but the CEC member has asked to speak,
21 and, then, there is a parent. She said that she
22 signed to speak, as well. So can we start with
23 Ms. Andujar, CEC recording secretary?

24 MS. LOVE ANDUJAR: My name is Love Andujar,
25 and I am the recording secretary of the CEC. I

1 just want to say that I stand behind you, the
2 parents of PS 30, as well. If you are not in
3 agreement with a charter school being located
4 here at your school, I am behind you 100%.

5 One of the questions, or the question, that
6 I have is, I noticed that in the wording, it
7 states a lot that you don't anticipate any
8 interruptions with certain programs or certain,
9 you know, things that are going to be going on
10 in the school. My question is, what happens if
11 it does happen, if it does interfere directly
12 with the programs and the students' learning?
13 What happens then?

14 I remember once something was mentioned that
15 it's like sharing a roommate, or someone coming
16 into your apartment, and you have to share the
17 space. Well, the difference is that, if it is
18 an apartment, right, you get to ask questions.
19 You filter, and, at the end of the day, if you
20 don't want them, they don't come in. It's not
21 that way when it comes to a school that's being
22 co-located.

23 So I just say that, again, this is a very
24 wonderful school. My mother actually attended
25 this school as a child. And, I mean, looking at

1 the projections, the school is growing. And,
2 at some point, being a parent of a child that's
3 in a co-located school, someone always loses.
4 Someone always gets less than, and I don't think
5 our schools are in a position to sacrifice
6 anymore for our children.

7 So I would hope that the parents' concerns,
8 the staffs' concerns, and the teachers' concerns
9 are really listened to because there is no room
10 for a charter school in this building. There
11 just isn't. Thank you.

12 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: There is one
13 additional parent from PS 30?

14 MS. STACY: Hi there, my name is Stacy, and
15 I'm a parent of three. My three girls come to
16 this school, and what I do feel like is I don't
17 want junior high school students coming into
18 this school 'cause there are little kids in the
19 school. I feel that, at that age, their
20 sexuality, they know, like, certain things, and
21 I don't want that around my little children.
22 That's one thing.

23 And, second of all, there is a lot of
24 bullying going around, too. My kids are too
25 small for that. I understand, like, you know,

1 they need their space and everything, but
2 there are other buildings that could be
3 occupied. This building is already overcrowded
4 as it is. Like they said, there is other kids
5 that need to come in to this community, too,
6 that's around this district. And by denying
7 other children to come in, and having this
8 middle school to come in, it won't be space for
9 our children around this community.

10 So that's all I just wanted to say. I just
11 wanted to speak that out.

12 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: Thank you. Hey,
13 thank you to all the parents and members of the
14 community of PS 30. As I mentioned to you
15 before, also, this is a proposal that has been
16 submitted to the State Education Department, and
17 we have a representative from the State Ed
18 Department. Gentleman?

19 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Good evening. I apologize
20 for arriving when I did. I know that traffic
21 from Brooklyn wasn't so nice today.
22 Nonetheless, I'm glad to be here, and I hope
23 that everyone who had something that they feel
24 is important to say had an opportunity to speak,
25 whether you speak in English or Spanish. I hope

1 you feel that you had an opportunity to be
2 heard this evening.

3 I want you to know that I had a script here,
4 but I won't read it because a lot of the
5 information that's here, you probably already
6 heard. But I do want you to know that the
7 application for this charter will go before the
8 Regents for approval, or not, in December of
9 2013. It's not something that has been approved
10 yet, but it is something that they will consider
11 in December.

12 The process by which the Board of Regents
13 set policy is they are accountable to the
14 elected representatives that serve the voters in
15 the electorate around the State of New York.
16 So, in the Bronx, your Regent is Betty Rosa, who
17 used to be the superintendent of community
18 school District 8. And so if any of you are
19 familiar with her, she is the person that you
20 might reach out to with any issues that you have
21 that are related to education policy in the
22 State of New York.

23 You should also know that the Regents,
24 although they issue charters, they do not decide
25 where charters are located in buildings that are

1 owned by New York City. They also do not
2 decide where charters are located when they seek
3 to be in private space. So even though SED
4 issues they charter, we authorize the charter,
5 and we have a contract with them, we do not
6 determine the space that they occupy. That is
7 determined between the Board of Trustees of the
8 charter school and, in this case, the New York
9 City Department of Education.

10 If any of you have any questions, I will be
11 here until the doors are closed, and the lights
12 go out, to answer any questions you may have.
13 My name is Jamal Young, J-A-M-A-L. The last
14 name is Young. And I'm with the New York State
15 Education Department, and I'm based in Brooklyn.
16 Thank you.

17 SUPERINTENDENT TORRES: So, once again,
18 thank you for your comments. And, as we said
19 before, the comments--the whole hearing has been
20 recorded. We welcome all of the comments and
21 feedback that you may have at any time before
22 the Panel for Educational Policy votes on this
23 proposal, which will take place on October 15th.

24 The e-mail address, once again, and the
25 phone number where comments can be made are

1 d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the number,
2 212-374-5159. We thank you all for being here,
3 for your participation, and this joint public
4 hearing is now closed. Have a good night,
5 everyone.

6 [END RECORDING]

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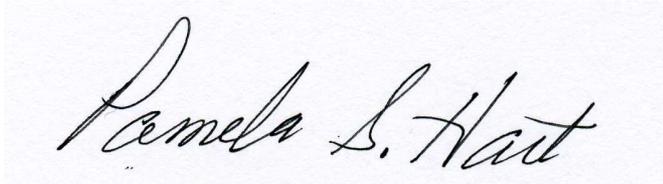
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Pamela S. Hart" in a cursive script.

Signature: _____

Date: October 9, 2013