

### **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: March 19, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of New School 27Q297 with Existing Schools J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom (27Q226) and P233@Q226 (75Q233@Q226), a D75 School, Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: March 20, 2013

### **Summary of Proposal**

On January 23, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate a new district middle school, 27Q297, that will serve students in grades six through eight, in building Q226 (“Q226”), located at 121-10 Rockaway Boulevard, Queens, NY 11420 in Community School District 27, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.<sup>1</sup> 27Q297 would be co-located in Q226 with J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom (27Q226, “J.H.S. 226”), an existing middle school serving students in grades six through eight, and P.S. Q233@Q226 (75Q233@Q226, “P233@Q226”), one site of an existing multi-site District 75 (“D75”) school serving students in grades six through eight.<sup>2,3</sup> In addition, Beacon, a community based organization (“CBO”), is located in Q226.<sup>4</sup>

On February 14, 2013, the DOE issued an amended EIS that provides updated information regarding the admissions method for new district middle school 27Q297.

J.H.S. 226 is a zoned middle school serving 1,369 students in sixth through eighth grades in Q226 during the 2012-2013 school year. P233@Q226 is an existing D75 program that serves students with an IEP classification of multiple disabilities and autism. P233@Q226 serves approximately 47 students in grades six through eight. These students are served in four SC sections; there is one 12:1:4 section and three 6:1:1 sections. Additionally, there are two sections of students who are served in Inclusion classroom settings.

27Q297 is a new middle school that, if this proposal is approved, would open in September 2013 in Q226, where it would be co-located with J.H.S. 226 and P233@Q226. 27Q297 will grow to serve students in sixth through eighth grade and will admit students through the Middle School Application Process

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<sup>1</sup> A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

<sup>2</sup> P.S. Q233 is an existing multi-site D75 school that serves a combined total of 395 students in kindergarten through twelfth grades during the 2012-2013 school year. P.S. Q233 currently has 7 sites in Queens, including P233@Q226.

<sup>3</sup> D75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, or are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired and/or multiply disabled. D75 provides services to students in a variety of settings, including elementary, middle, and high schools, students’ homes, hospitals, and agencies. These programs are located at more than 310 sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Syosset, New York. Please visit the DOE Web site for additional information about D75 programs at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/default.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> More information about the Beacon program is available at: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/beacon\\_program.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/beacon_program.shtml).

administered by the Office of Student Enrollment. 27Q297 will be open to students and residents of District 27 through a limited unscreened admissions method, offering priority to students residing in the Q226 zone. Limited unscreened schools give admissions priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending an information session, attending an open house event, or visiting the school's exhibit at any one of the Middle School Fairs. In 2013-2014, 27Q297 would enroll approximately 105-115 students in sixth grade. In 2014-2015, 27Q297 would serve approximately 210-230 students in sixth and seventh grades. In 2015-2016, 27Q297 would complete its phase-in reaching "full scale," and serving approximately 315-345 students in grades six through eight.

Q226 has been identified as an under-utilized building.<sup>5,6</sup> Q226 has the capacity to serve 2,034 students.<sup>7,8</sup> In the 2012-2013 school year, the building only serves 1,416 students,<sup>9</sup> yielding a utilization rate of 70%.<sup>10</sup> If this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space to accommodate J.H.S. 226, P233@Q226, and 27Q297. Once 27Q297 reaches full scale in 2015-2016, the Q226 building would serve approximately 1,724-1,788 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 85%-88%.

### **Summary of Comments Received**

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building Q226 on March 6, 2013. Members of the School Leadership Team ("SLT") from every school organization in the Q226 building as well as members of the Community Education Council ("CEC") were invited to participate. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. While representatives from the Citywide Council for Special Education and Citywide Council for English Language Learners were invited, they did not choose to participate in the hearing. Approximately 52 members of the public attended the hearing and 15 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 27 Superintendent Michele Lloyd-Bey; Rushell White, Principal of J.H.S. 226; Debbie Edmonds, Principal of P.S. Q233; District 27 CEC Member Joshua Hirschman; P.S. 226 SLT Representative and UFT Chapter Leader Zev Angelou Philip Henry; P.S. 226 SLT Representative and PTA President Mona-Lisa Chandler; P.S. 226 SLT Representatives Aletha Shaw, Francine Davis, Debbie Singh, Anthony Richardson, Kathryn Sanchez, and Claudia Bethea; New York City Council Member Ruben Wills; and Allen Miller and Emily Ades from the Division of Portfolio Planning.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

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<sup>5</sup> All references to building Q226 do not include the on-site TCU Q923. The DOE does not anticipate that 27Q297 will use TCU Q923.

<sup>6</sup> The most recent Under-Utilized Space Memorandum and List was updated on November 20, 2012, and can be accessed at: [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6D8EA76A-82FA-4740-9ED1-66BCABEE8BFB/134525/UnderutilizedSpaceMemorandum112012\\_vFINALforprint.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6D8EA76A-82FA-4740-9ED1-66BCABEE8BFB/134525/UnderutilizedSpaceMemorandum112012_vFINALforprint.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> There is also an on-site Transportable Classroom Unit ("TCU") Q923. All references to Q226 capacity and utilization do not include TCU Q923.

<sup>8</sup> 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report ("Blue Book").

<sup>9</sup> 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012).

<sup>10</sup> All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2011-2012 Blue Book and enrollment data from the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012) or charter headcount as of October 1, 2012. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

1. CEC Member Joshua Hirschman expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. CEC Member Hirschman stated that the new school should not be on the middle school application as it is not official until after the PEP vote.
  - b. CEC Member Hirschman asked why the new school was not being given its own building.
2. J.H.S. 226 SLT Representative Zev Angelou expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. Representative Angelou stated that the proposed co-location is undermining all of J.H.S. 226's work.
  - b. Representative Angelou stated that the new students at the new school are going to be the students that the DOE wants them to bring in—higher performing students.
  - c. Representative Angelou stated that J.H.S. 226 will not get the same resources that the new school will get.
  - d. Representative Angelou stated that the new school will have smaller class sizes than J.H.S. 226.
3. J.H.S. 226 SLT Representative Mona-Lisa Chandler expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. Representative Chandler stated that the school building is crowded enough as it is and that there is no space for another school.
  - b. Representative Chandler asked why the new school was not being given its own building.
  - c. Representative Chandler asked what “available space” means and expressed her belief that there is not enough space for the new school. She further stated that she would like to know how the DOE plans on making sharing of space possible.
  - d. Representative Chandler stated that the new school should not be on the middle school application since neither the Joint Public Hearing nor the Panel for Education Policy vote had happened yet.
4. J.H.S. 226 SLT Representative Aletha Shaw expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. Representative Shaw stated that the building was already over-crowded. With another 300 children in the building there would be a fire hazard.
  - b. Representative Shaw said that some students eat lunch at 10 am. With another school in the building, they will have to eat even earlier due to limited access to the cafeteria.
  - c. Representative Shaw asked why the new school was not being given its own building.
  - d. Representative Shaw expressed her belief that the DOE was going to take away the funding from J.H.S. 226 and give it to the new school. She said that J.H.S. 226's programs would suffer as a result.
  - e. Representative Shaw stated that the new school should not be on the middle school application since neither the Joint Public Hearing nor the Panel for Education Policy vote had happened yet.
  - f. Representative Shaw asked how school safety would work with 3 schools in Q226.



- e. Representative Sanchez stated that P233@Q226 has an equal say in shared space right now in Q226. She asked whether that would change with a new school.
  - f. Representative Sanchez stated that P233@Q226 has their own hallway and that she wanted that to remain the same.
9. J.H.S. 226 SLT Representative Claudia Bethea expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. Representative Bethea stated that the focus should be on improving J.H.S. 226 and doing what is best for the students: not on opening a new school.
  - b. Representative Bethea stated that the new school should not be on the middle school application since neither the Joint Public Hearing nor the Panel for Education Policy vote had happened yet.
  - c. Representative Bethea said that the Beacon program helps kids after school and that the DOE could not afford to take away Beacon.
  - d. Representative Bethea stated that J.H.S. 226 would not get the same resources as the new school, which would negatively impact J.H.S. 226 students.
10. New York City Councilmember Ruben Wills expressed opposition to the proposed opening and co-location of a new middle school.
  - a. Councilman Wills said he had written a letter to the DOE asking for the joint public hearing to be canceled due to the possibly dangerous weather but that the DOE ignored the letter.
  - b. Councilman Wills said that the DOE did not counsel the community with regards to the proposal.
  - c. Councilman Wills stated that the new school should not be on the middle school application since neither the Joint Public Hearing nor the Panel for Education Policy vote had happened yet.
  - d. Councilman Wills said that there is not enough space for another middle school.
  - e. Councilman Wills asked why the DOE was proposing to spend more money on new staff instead of giving more resources and funding to J.H.S. 226.
  - f. Councilman Wills said that the proposal was a slap in the face to members of the community. He declared that he had put \$1 million into the building while the DOE had done nothing.
  - g. Councilman Wills stated that the community needed more elementary school seats not more middle school seats.
  - h. Councilman Wills said that multiple schools would create conflicting schedules. He further argued that it was not acceptable to have multiple schools share public spaces.
11. Multiple commenters said that there were already many issues with overcrowding in Q226 and that adding a third school to the building would not be possible due to a lack of space.
12. One commenter stated that the library at Q226 is incredible now and full of resources. He said that the proposal would result in resources being taken away from J.H.S. 226 students and that there were not enough library resources for another middle school.

13. One commenter stated that the new middle school would take away all of J.H.S. 226's best students.
14. Multiple commenters stated that J.H.S. 226 would not get the same resources as the new school, which would negatively impact J.H.S. 226 students.
15. One commenter stated that if there was extra space in Q226, then J.H.S. 226 should be given the extra space to help support its students.
16. One commenter expressed his belief that the co-location was part of the DOE's plan to eventually try to phase out J.H.S. 226.
17. One commenter said she had been teaching for 47 years and had seen the building evolve. She further stated that statistics can make anything work.
18. One commenter said that more parents should have come to the hearing and represented the school. She expressed disappointment with the low turnout by parents.
19. One commenter said that his intelligence had been insulted and that the proposal has offended him.
20. Multiple commenters stated that the school was improving a lot at that they were happy with the status quo.
21. Multiple commenters expressed frustration that lunch was happening so early for some students at J.H.S. 226.

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

22. New York City Councilmember Ruben Wills requested that the joint public hearing be postponed due to possibly dangerous weather conditions. Councilmember Wills stated that the storm was predicted to have up to 6 inches of snow and wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour which would create dangerous conditions for parents and children to travel and deter many of them from attending the hearing.
23. One commenter stated that Q226 already is too crowded and that there is no space for more students.
24. One commenter asked how the lunchroom, gym, etc., would be shared.
25. One commenter stated that the education levels decrease nationwide every time politics and money get in the way of educating children. The commenter further stated that the proposal shows students that an empty building is better than a future for them.

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

Comments 2(c), 2(d), 4(d), 5(b), 6(c), 7(b), 9(d), 10(e), and 14 relate to the allocation of resources to J.H.S. 226, P233@Q226, and the new middle school, specifically whether there would be enough resources for all three schools and whether there would be any discrepancy in resources between existing schools and the new middle school.

In New York City, we fund schools through a per pupil allocation. That is, funding "follows" the students and is weighted based on students' grade level and need (incoming proficiency level and special education/ELL/Title I status). If a school's population declines from 2,500 to 2,100 students, the school's budget decreases proportionally—just as a school with an increase in students receives more

money. Even if the Department of Education had a budget surplus, a school with declining student enrollment would still receive less per pupil funding each year enrollment falls.

Fair Student Funding (FSF) dollars – approximately \$5.0 billion in the 2012-2013 school year based on projected registers – are used by all district schools to cover basic instructional needs and are allocated to each school based on the number and need-level of students enrolled at that school. All money allocated through FSF can be used at the principals' discretion, such as hiring staff, purchasing supplies and materials, or implementing instructional programs. As the total number of students enrolled changes, the overall budget will increase or decrease accordingly, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its student population. In addition to the FSF student-need based dollars a school receives, all schools receive a fixed lump sum of \$225,000 in FSF foundation and \$50,000 in Children First Network Support to cover administrative costs.

New schools receive Fair Student Funding in the same manner as other schools. Funding follows the students and is based on pupil academic needs (i.e., special education, ELL, poverty, and/or proficiency status).

New district schools are provided with additional funds to cover start-up costs such as supplies and textbooks that may be required. This Other than Personal Services (OTPS) for new schools funding allocation is based on a fixed per-school amount, and a per-pupil allocation. A new school in year one of implementation at a newly constructed site will receive \$22,000 and a new school in a newly leased or existing site will receive \$51,000 in OTPS per school. Thereafter, the school will receive \$100 per-student in OTPS based on projected registers for the newly added grade. In the case where there is no new grade phasing-in, the school will not receive an allocation in that year.

Principals have discretion over their budget and make choices about how to prioritize their resources. New schools may choose to hire fewer administrative staff (e.g. only a single assistant principal) freeing up dollars to be directed toward other priorities.

Comments 3(a), 3(c), 4(a), 6(b), 8(a), 10(d), 11, 15, 17 and 23 concern the space allocations to J.H.S. 226, P233Q226, and the new middle school and contend that there is no space for an additional school.

There are currently hundreds of schools in buildings across the City that are co-located. In all cases, the allocation of classroom, resource, and administrative space is guided by the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the "Footprint") which is applied to all schools in the building. The DOE seeks to fully utilize all its building capacity to serve students. In all cases, the DOE seeks to provide high quality education and allow parents/students to choose where to attend school.

The Footprint is the guide used to allocate space to all schools based on the number of class sections the school programs and the grade levels of the school. The number of class sections at each school is determined by the Principal based on enrollment, budget, and student needs; there is a standard guideline of target class size (i.e., number of students in a class section) for each grade level. At the middle school and high school levels, the Footprint assumes every classroom is programmed during every period of the school day except one lunch period. The full text of the Instructional Footprint is available at [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011_FINAL.pdf).

During and after all schools in the building are fully phased in or have completed phasing out, each school will receive its baseline footprint allocation which indicates that there is enough room in the building to support all four schools. There will also be approximately 25 full size rooms of excess space in the building. The Office of Space Planning will work with the Building Council to ensure an equitable allocation of the excess space. In determining an equitable allocation, the Office of Space Planning may consider factors such as the relative enrollments of the co-located schools, the instructional and programmatic needs of the co-located schools, and the physical location of the excess space within the building.

Furthermore, the utilization of Q226 is currently 70%. During the first year of the proposed co-location of 27Q297, the utilization of the building will be between 72%-74%. Once all schools in the building are fully phased in or have completed phasing out, utilization in the building will be between 85%-88%. This means that Q226 has adequate capacity to all of the schools in the building and that there will be sufficient space to accommodate an increase in student enrollment if demand is above the current projections for the new school.

Comments 4(b), 7(c), 8(e), 10(h), 12, 21 and 24 concern the use of shared spaces (cafeteria, gym, etc..) and how those spaces would be shared to ensure every school has adequate access to the shared spaces.

Specific decisions regarding the allocation of the shared spaces will be made by the Building Council, consisting of principals from all co-located schools, in conjunction with the DOE's Office of Space Planning. The Office of Space Planning will also work with all schools in building Q226 to ensure a smooth transition, if necessary, of any rooms currently being used by J.H.S. 226 or P233@Q226.

If conflicts emerge and progress is impaired, the Building Council will follow the dispute resolution procedures outlined in the Campus Policy Memo available at the following link:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/campusgov/KeyDocuments/CampusMemo.htm>.

Comment 1(b), 3(b), and 4(c) question why the new middle school cannot be placed in its own building.

As mentioned in the [Five-Year Capital Plan](#), the School Construction Authority's (SCA) capital planning process has continued to include an annual review of our system's needs. In this era of severely constrained finances, the Department is faced with a growing student population and an aging infrastructure. Given the current economic conditions, needs must be prioritized to ensure the most critical issues are addressed first. The Department and the SCA annually undertake a comprehensive assessment of alternatives to address the need to balance the City's severe economic conditions with the projected growing demand for public school education. Realignment strategies such as increasing the utilization of existing facilities, grade truncations and adjustments to local school zones are some of the tools identified to achieve the most efficient use of our existing buildings. Additionally, co-locations allow us to use our limited facilities efficiently while simultaneously creating additional educational options for New York City families. This is necessary because we have scarce resources and a demand for more options.

The above strategies and construction of new facilities are designed to address the most critical existing and anticipated capacity needs with priority given to existing overcrowding at the neighborhood or district level.

For the 2013-2014 school year, there will be two new middle school buildings in Queens, Q404 in District 30 and Q312 in District 30, which will add some necessary elementary, middle and high school capacity to the borough.

Comment 9(c) questions whether there will be any impact to the space in Q226 used by Beacon.

The DOE does not expect the proposed co-location of 27Q297 to impact the continued siting of or space allocations for the Beacon program.

Comments 4(a), 4(f), and 8(c) suggest that adding a third school into building Q226 would create a fire and/or safety hazard.

As described in the EIS, if this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space to serve J.H.S. 226, P.S. Q233, and 27Q297 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) while 27Q297 phases-in. After all three schools receive their baseline footprint allocations, there will continue to be excess space in the building. More details can be found in the EIS.

Pursuant to Chancellor’s Regulation A-414, every school/ campus is mandated to form a School Safety Committee, which is responsible for developing a comprehensive School Safety Plan that defines the normal operations of the site and what procedures are in place in the event of an emergency. The School Safety Plan is updated annually by the Committee to meet the changing security needs, changes in organization and building conditions and any other factors; these updates could also be made at any other time when it is necessary to address security concerns. The Committee will also address safety matters on an ongoing basis and make appropriate recommendations to the Principal(s) when it identifies the need for additional security measures.

The DOE makes available the following supports to schools around safety and security:

- Best Practice Standards for Creating and Sustaining a Safe and Supportive School as a resource guide
- Reviewing and monitoring school occurrence data and crime data (in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Coordinator and NYPD)
- Technical assistance when incidents occur via the Borough Safety Directors
- Professional development and support to CFN Safety Liaisons
- Professional development and kits for Building Response Teams, and
- Monitoring and certifying School Safety Plans annually.

Comment 1(a), 3(d), 4(e), 6(a), 9(b) and 10(c) relate to the middle school application process and the listing of the new middle school as an option for District 27 middle school students prior to the Joint Public Hearing and Panel for Education Policy vote.

As discussed in the EIS, the DOE is aware that the proposal to co-locate a new middle school (“27Q297”) in J.H.S. 226 will not be voted upon by the PEP until after the deadline to submit middle school choice applications for the 2013-2014 school year has passed. District 27 students will not be penalized by the

outcome of this proposal. New schools, including 27Q297, will be available for eligible students who choose to submit a “new schools” application.

In districts across the city with proposed new schools, students received a supplementary application last week for any new options for which they are eligible. The new school application is optional. Students who choose to participate may receive a new school placement in addition to their placement from the original application process. Both placements will be provided on the same notification letter and families choose which placement they would like for the 2013-2014 school year.

In order to give families the broadest possible pool of choices and to ensure students receive both placements at the same time on their notification letters, we included many schools that have been proposed but not yet approved by the PEP, including proposed new school 27Q297. However, we clearly indicate that the schools have not yet been approved in the new school round application. Should the proposal not be approved, students would not receive a new school placement.

Comment 4(g) asks whether the new middle school will have a uniform as J.H.S. 226 currently has a uniform for all students.

Decisions regarding the use of school uniforms rest with the school’s principal/administration. The DOE has confidence in the abilities of J.H.S. 226 and the new school to create strong cultures supportive of student progress and high quality performance.

Comment 2(b) and 13 questions the admissions process of the new school, and whether the new school would select only high performing students to attend.

27Q297 is a new middle school that, if this proposal is approved, would open in September 2013 in Q226, where it would be co-located with J.H.S. 226 and P233@Q226. 27Q297 will grow to serve students in sixth through eighth grade and will admit students through the middle school application process administered by the Office of Student Enrollment. 27Q297 will be open to students and residents of District 27 through a limited unscreened admissions method, offering priority to students residing in the Q226 zone. Limited unscreened schools give admissions priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending an information session, attending an open house event, or visiting the school's exhibit at any one of the Middle School Fairs.

Comment 2(a), 7(a), 9(a), 10(f-g) 19, 20 and 25 voice general opposition to the proposed co-location and question the need for another middle school in Q226.

The DOE works to ensure that students and families in every community have high-quality educational options. In an effort to increase choice and access to high-quality educational options, but due to space limitations, roughly half of our schools share space in a building. Co-locations allow us to use our limited facilities efficiently while simultaneously creating additional educational options for New York City families. This is necessary because we have scarce resources and a demand for more options. Many school buildings successfully house co-located schools.

Due to space limitations, it is not unusual for schools to be co-located in a building together. There are numerous examples of co-located school buildings or campuses in New York City where the schools are functioning and co-existing successfully.

These examples include:

- The Julia Richman Educational Complex, which houses four small high schools, a K-8 school, and a District 75 program;
- Building M113 currently houses three schools: STEM Institute of Manhattan, a district elementary school, Harlem Success Academy 4, a charter elementary school, and Opportunity Charter School, which serves sixth through twelfth grade in District 3;
- Building M092 currently houses three schools: St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School, a charter middle school serving students in grades fifth through eighth, P.S. 92, a district elementary school which serves students in grades K-5, and Democracy Prep Charter School, a charter middle school serving students in sixth through eighth grade.
- Building K324 currently houses three schools: M.S. 267, an existing middle school serving students in grades sixth through eighth, La Cima Charter school, a charter elementary school serving students in grades K-5, and Bedford Stuyvesant Collegiate, an existing charter secondary school, which is currently in the process of growing to serve students in grades 5-12. Members of the building council worked together to secure financing from KaBOOM to resurface the schoolyard and playground for all of the children at K324.

At this time, the DOE believes that providing another middle school option for middle school students in the Q226 building will benefit current and future students at both J.H.S. 226 and in Queens.

The DOE commends and acknowledges the students and staff at J.H.S. 226 for their hard work and for creating a positive learning environment in the school. However, the DOE believes that the students in this community would be well-served by an additional school option. J.H.S. 226 will continue to receive funding based on per pupil allocations weighted based on students' grade level and need.

Although the DOE recognizes that people in the community may have strong feelings against this proposal, the DOE believes that, if this proposal is approved, the school communities at 27Q297, J.H.S. 226, and P233@Q226 will be able to create productive and collaborative partnerships.

Comment 5(a), 10(b), and 18 concern the process of taking community feedback into account.

The DOE appreciates all feedback from the community regarding a proposal. When the Educational Impact Statement was issued, it was made available to the staff, faculty and parents at J.H.S. 226 and P.S. Q233, on the DOE's Web site, and in each school's respective main office. In addition, the DOE dedicates a proposal-specific website and voicemail to collect feedback on this proposal. Furthermore, all schools' staff, faculty and parent communities were invited to the Joint Public Hearing to provide further feedback.

In addition, the relevant options for providing feedback are listed below. Commentary received through these venues as well as at the joint public hearing is addressed in this analysis of public comment which is made available to the Panel in advance of its vote.



Email: [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: 212-374-7621

Website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=389>

Additionally, there is an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments at the March 20 PEP meeting at which this proposal will be considered. That meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday March 20, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place at Brooklyn Technical High School, located at 29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

Comments 7(d) and 8(b) relate to students with disabilities and how they will be served in Q226 if the proposal is approved.

The proposed co-location of 27Q297 is not expected to impact current or future student enrollment or instructional programming at P233@Q226. Students with disabilities would continue to receive all mandated services.

The proposal to co-locate 27Q297 in Q226 is not expected to impact the admissions process at P233@Q226.

This D75 program will admit future students in a manner consistent with current D75 enrollment procedures. Should future students require inclusion programming, the D75 office will work with the families to provide the appropriate district placement for each student. Students will be placed in D75 schools based on individual student needs and recommended special education services.

Comments 8(d) and 8(f) relate to P233@Q226 and whether the program will be able to maintain its own hallway and sole access to the building's side entrance.

Specific decisions regarding the allocation of shared spaces and entrances will be made by the Building Council, consisting of principals from all co-located schools, in conjunction with the DOE's Office of Space Planning should this proposal be approved. The Office of Space Planning will also work with all schools in building Q226 to ensure a smooth transition, if necessary, of any rooms currently being used by J.H.S. 226 or P.S. Q233. The proposal is not expected to impact the partial site accessibility of Q226.

Comments 10(a) and 22 relate to Councilman Wills' request to cancel the joint public hearing the day it was scheduled to proceed due to the potentially dangerous travel conditions that night and the DOE's decision to proceed with the hearing despite his request.

The DOE has a general practice of postponing joint public hearings because of inclement weather only when the weather is severe enough to also warrant the cancellation of classes. We feel strongly that cancelling a joint public hearing at the last minute can create confusion in the community. Postponing the hearing also creates a number of logistical problems, especially when the postponement comes so close to the Panel for Educational Policy's scheduled vote.

However, the DOE is sensitive to the issues created by the weather. To that end, the Portfolio team has developed a number of other ways for the community to provide feedback—those opportunities are open the moment a proposal posts up through the Panel for Educational Policy’s vote on a proposal.

With specific reference to the proposed co-location of new school 27Q297 with existing schools J.H.S. 226 and P233@Q226, the relevant options for providing feedback are listed below. Commentary received through these venues as well as at the joint public hearing is addressed in this analysis of public comment which is made available to the Panel in advance of its vote.

Email: [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: 212-374-7621

Website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=389>

Additionally, there is an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments at the March 20 PEP meeting at which this proposal will be considered. That meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday March 20, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place at Brooklyn Technical High School, located at 29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

Comment 16 concerns plans to changes to building Q226 that may occur in the future. In particular, the comment suggests that the co-location proposal is part of a larger plan to phase out J.H.S. 226.

The DOE works to ensure that students and families in every community have high-quality educational options. In an effort to increase choice and access to high-quality educational options, but due to space limitations, roughly half of our schools share space in a building. Co-locations allow us to use our limited facilities efficiently while simultaneously creating additional educational options for New York City families. This is necessary because we have scarce resources and a demand for more options. Many school buildings successfully house co-located schools.

In reference to locating 27Q297 as a means to phase-out J.H.S. 226, the DOE anticipates that there will be sufficient space in building Q226 to accommodate both school organizations. The utilization of Q226 is currently 70%. During the first year of the proposed co-location of 27Q297, the utilization of the building will be between 72%-74%. Once all schools in the building are fully phased in or have completed phasing out, utilization in the building will be between 85%-88%. This means that Q226 has adequate capacity to all of the schools in the building and that there will be sufficient space to accommodate an increase in student enrollment if demand is above the current projections for the new school.

### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to the proposal.