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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
Division of Portfolio
Planning
Co-location of New District HS (TBD)
at Q400**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. TAMEKA MATHESON: Good evening,
3 everyone.

4 VOICES: Good evening.

5 MS. MATHESON: Welcome. This is a joint
6 public hearing of the Department of Education -
7 -Council and- - the proposed co-location of
8 District High School 27Q346 with existing
9 schools from August Martin High School, 27Q400
10 and Voyages Prep-South Queens Transfer High
11 School 27Q261 in Building Q400 beginning in the
12 2014-2015 school year.

13 My name is Tameka Matheson. I am High
14 School Superintendent for Regions 15, 22, 23,
15 27, 30 and 32. We have asked - - 27 - -
16 education council - - and - - Q042 to
17 participate in this joint public hearing. I am
18 - - Joshua Hirschman from the CEC, Principal
19 Smith, August Martin High School and Principal
20 Voyages Prep Transfer High School.

21 This hearing is - - . The purpose of this
22 hearing is to - - invite comments about the
23 proposal. Before I describe the proposals, I
24 want to make sure that you are all aware of the
25 opportunity to provide - - . All those who wish

1 to speak must sign up in the speaker assignment
2 area located just outside the auditorium. The
3 assignment list will close in - - minutes.
4 Speakers will be given the floor in the order
5 that they sign up. All comments are limited to
6 two minutes. There may be - - who arrive at
7 different times throughout the meeting. If they
8 wish to speak, we will do our best to
9 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.
10 Those who are here at the start of the public
11 comments segment will be asked to speak first.
12 All comments will be mentioned in the analysis
13 of public comment to be published and provided
14 to panel on education policy the evening before
15 - - . - - is scheduled for May 29th, 2014. In
16 addition, we welcome any comments and feedback
17 you may have at any time before the panel votes
18 on this proposal. The email address and phone
19 number where comments may be made are
20 D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-7621.

21 The proposal summary. On October 30th, 2013
22 the panel for education policy will - - approve
23 a proposal to co-locate kindergarten through
24 fourth grades of Success Academy Charter School-
25 New York 5, a new public elementary charter

1 school in Building Q400 with August Martin High
2 School an existing district high school that
3 currently serves students in 9th through 12th
4 grade, and Voyages Prep-South Queens Transfer
5 school, a transfer high school serving students
6 in grades 9 to 12 beginning in the 2014-2015
7 school year. Q400 is located at 156-10 Baisley
8 Boulevard, Queens, New York 11434 in community-
9 school district 27, also - - .

10 A co-location means that two or more school
11 organizations are located in the same building
12 and may share common spaces like auditoriums,
13 gymnasiums and cafeterias. However, on further
14 consideration, the New York City Department of
15 Education has concluded that the proposal to co-
16 locate Success Academy New York 5 in Q400 will
17 not be implemented. The DOE has determined that
18 it is more appropriate to co-locate an
19 additional high school in this building because
20 schools serving the same grade levels have
21 greater opportunities to collaborate on the use
22 of specialized shared space such as science labs
23 or shop rooms and to provide expanded
24 partnerships, shared relationships community
25 based organizations that serve the same grade

1 levels and curriculum activities across the
2 schools. The DOE then proposes to co-locate a
3 district high school, 27Q346, that will serve the
4 students students in grades 9 through 12 in Q400
5 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. If this
6 proposal is approved, 27Q346 will be co-located
7 in Q400 with August Martin and Voyages South.
8 In addition, Building Q400 houses an Alternative
9 Learning Center or ALC, which provides an
10 education setting for students in grades 9
11 through 12 who are on a superintendent's
12 suspension for up to one year, as well as the
13 following CBOs: King of Kings, Life Camp,
14 Relationship Abuse Prevention Program and
15 Counseling for Mediation Services.

16 On March 20, 2013, the PEP approved the
17 proposal to open and co-locate Voyages South in
18 the Q400 building beginning in the 2013-2014
19 school year. Voyages South is a transfer school
20 that currently serves 150 students are 16 years
21 of age and older and who have attended another
22 New York City high school for at least one year.
23 In 2015-2016, Voyages South will complete its
24 phase in reaching full scale and serving
25 approximately 230 to 270 students. Transfer

1 schools are small, academically rigorous high
2 schools designed to re-engage students who have
3 dropped out of high school or have fallen
4 behind. If this proposal to open and co-locate
5 27Q346 in Q400 is approved, students will have
6 access to an additional high school option in
7 Queens. 27Q346 will open in Q400 for the 2014-
8 2015 school year and will serve 105 to 115
9 students in grade 9, adding one grade level
10 every year until reaching its full grade span of
11 9th through 12th grades in the 2017-2018 school
12 year when it will serve approximately 420 to 460
13 students. 27Q346 will be open to students
14 through a citywide high school admissions
15 process and will use a limited unscreened
16 selection method with priority for students
17 residing in Queens.

18 According to the 2012-2013 enrollment
19 capacity utilization report, Q400 has the
20 capacity to serve 1895 students. During the
21 2013-2014 school year, the building is serving
22 998 students, yielding a building utilization
23 rate of 53 per cent. This means that the
24 building is under-utilized and has space to
25 accommodate additional students.

1 If this proposal is approved, in 2017-2018
2 when 27Q346 and Voyages South are fully phased
3 in the building, 27Q346 is projected to serve
4 420 to 460 9th through 12th grade students,
5 August Martin is projected to serve a total of
6 785 to 825 9th through 12th grade students the
7 ALC is projected to serve a total of 60 to 80
8 9th through 12th grade students and Voyages is
9 projected to serve approximately 230 to 270
10 students in grades 9 through 12. Combined,
11 there will be approximately 1495 to 1,635
12 students served in Q400, which yields a
13 projected utilization rate of 79 per cent to 86
14 per cent. Thus, there is sufficient space in
15 Q400 to accommodate Voyages South, August
16 Martin, the ALC and 27Q346.

17 At the - - shift to presentation of panel
18 participants and as I mentioned earlier, we have
19 - - , Joshua Hirschman, president of the CEC and
20 he will make a statement.

21 MR. JOSHUA HIRSCHMAN: My biggest concern
22 would be--I understand that this - - but since
23 I'm not in a courtroom and - - . So I'm hoping
24 that - - . So my only concern really is one - -
25 regarding the school - - 10:30 in the morning

1 and they had - - . The proposal - -

2 MS. MATHESON: Thank you. I'm going to ask
3 that we proceed to the public comment.

4 MS. MOSELY: All right. Good afternoon.
5 Can you hear me? Okay. My name is - - Mosely
6 [phonetic]. I'd like to thank you for this
7 opportunity to address these issues. I am here
8 representing - - Community, which is a community
9 based organization here at - - High School. Our
10 home office is in studio 316 on the third floor.
11 We're very concerned about the location of or
12 the co-location due to the fact that we are - -
13 three-quarters of a million dollar studio
14 facility. Our program has been extremely
15 productive and we feel that it will obstruct the
16 flow of the students who are in our program
17 learning technologies, producing film. We do
18 video arts and we are essentially the
19 communication arts - - , you know, just to back
20 up - -, yes, we are very concerned about the
21 potential loss of this program. I would also
22 like to say that on behalf of myself and we have
23 a representative - - as well as one of our
24 graduates who has - - experience with the
25 program that - - to on and pursue marketing,

1 filming and so forth that - - . It's really a
2 concern for us.. Our graduation rate - - this
3 program - - and so far we've been able to
4 service about 230 students since - - . So thank
5 you and I'd like to just see if Mr. - - speak to
6 the technical aspect of what's required for a -
7 - of this nature. We would just state that - -
8 . You said we have two minutes to introduce -
9 - .

10 MALE VOICE: - - . And one of our concerns
11 is that because of the potential move, - - that
12 our program - - in the sense that our students -
13 - technically the move is senseless - - grid
14 system - - . So we are hoping that - - co-
15 existence.

16 MS. MATHESON: Thank you. - - ?

17 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

18 MS. MATHESON: Next we have Chavon - -
19 [phonetic].

20 MS. MARCHUA: - - . I'm Chavon Marchua
21 [phonetic]. I recently graduated from August
22 Martin - - freshman in FIT - - advertising
23 marketing communications. If it wasn't for - -
24 program, I wouldn't have decided that - - .
25 Through the three years I believe we have been

1 there, I went through a lot of different
2 stages - - program, I - - be able to - -
3 apologize - - a lot of these - - processes they
4 required of me and - - technical aspects that I
5 needed to learn - - education at - - I was also
6 able to learn how to become that person - -
7 engage myself in communications having fully
8 given my attention to their - - program which I
9 am also involved in. I teach there on Saturdays
10 - - . - - a major - - . - - huge loss
11 especially because of the fact that - - . Thank
12 you.

13 MS. MATHESON: Thank you, - - . Next we
14 have - - .

15 FEMALE VOICE: - - . I am from the BTA,
16 president of - - and Dr. - - and haven't shown -
17 - difficult - - . - - students - - . - -
18 who can handle the students because you're
19 taking away - - program - - . They're not - -
20 students - - is communication. - - students in
21 - - and it's - - take away - - . So I'm - - of
22 the co-location. Also - - had to wait until - -
23 . And if we do that, we just--it's just - -
24 taking away from students - - . The program
25 will disappear if you add - - science program -

1 - . But that's not our choice. The school -
2 - existed - - and not - - . Our programs - -
3 and by adding more or add another school but
4 take away because you say there's no space. The
5 space is being utilized. They may not have the
6 children - - attending, but if you give it a
7 chance to show the DOE that we can provide and
8 give the students a good education, then it may
9 be possible. Let August Martin a chance to show
10 improvement.

11 MS. MATHESON: Thank you - - . Next we have
12 Councilman Ruben Wills.

13 MR. WILLS: Good evening, everyone. Can you
14 hear me? Yeah? Okay. So I'm going - - . For
15 the last two years, - - schools and we thought
16 the last year - - . Just - - transfer school
17 and everything that was said would come true has
18 not become reality. This school - - forecast by
19 - - that we did at Jamaica High School. Jamaica
20 High School they turned into a - - school.
21 Jamaica High School is now being faded out. The
22 DOE was to - - say, oh, we're willing - - campus
23 that will replace Jamaica's - - . August Martin
24 - - campus. This school, the young lady that -
25 - just spoke about - - programs they have there.

1 This school has elected officials that - - in
2 front of the - - here, not just myself but - -,
3 we have Miss - - , we have the - - , we have
4 George - - . - - we've done everything we can
5 in this school but instead of - - resources and
6 put them - - the way they need to be, like
7 upgrading electricity, - - , DOE said - - to the
8 building and - - --I don't understand where
9 these kids are going - -. Because if they're
10 saying it's under-utilized, that means they
11 don't have enough - - . So I don't understand
12 that at all. Instead the DOE giving us the
13 money to - - , to repair all - - , all this
14 money - - sports program, they decided - -
15 school. The put - - transfer school. In
16 October - - 406 accidents - - . Now the
17 district is your - - city. That has - -
18 elementary school, junior high school and high
19 school, - - or take up any other - - . But
20 it's - - . The impact statement - - they
21 stopped - - . They didn't stop. All they did
22 was - - . But when we said stop, the success of
23 that charter school, we weren't saying stop the
24 charter school or stop - - school. We were
25 saying the grades coming into this school were

1 not the right - - . And we were saying leave
2 out - - , let our - - to have the resources that
3 she needs and lower our class sizes and - - .
4 We don't need - - statement. We need - - and
5 that's what we're asking for. We thank - - , we
6 thank the mayor but I - - charter school - -
7 campaign - - . Mr. - - turned out - - . And
8 everyone who should understand - - is power and
9 you need to raise your voice. We have - - stop
10 the school - - , we will be - - . Everybody
11 here will - - . April 22nd, if anybody here has
12 the - - or - - a couple of hours, come to the
13 door and let your voices be heard. Let that
14 judge understand because judges are elected - -
15 is their politics that this is not something
16 that we're going to - - . Now I don't believe
17 that this - - auditorium is not packed - -
18 people just not willing to be involved. I
19 believe that the DOE - - give this
20 administration a break and just show us that - -
21 do what they want - - . But I believe that
22 these - - and we - - we can save August Martin
23 and the other - - trying to stop - - . Now
24 everyone who should have a chance - - email, you
25 should have everybody here - - email and you

1 should email them and tell them respectfully
2 that we do not want this co-location. We want
3 our students to have the resources, give our
4 principal and leadership team the money that
5 they need to carry out the programs that we
6 have. - - that I have a total objection to the
7 school - - . I don't think there's too much
8 more that I can say and I know - - questions. -
9 - make a statement for the last ten years. We
10 need to have control over our schools. We need
11 to be - - our schools need. They're not - - .
12 You need to stand up and have a voice and let
13 your voice speak loud - - . Elected officials -
14 - ourselves. If we have 4000 of you, this would
15 not pass. I guarantee you. The more of you
16 that raise your voices, the more emails you send
17 out, the more phone calls you make, the less
18 likely they are - - . Thank you for allowing me
19 to speak.

20 MS. MATHESON: Thank you. The speaker list
21 is now exhausted. We will move to adjourn - - .
22 I thank you all for your comments. We have - -
23 time for the panel, the educational policy
24 proposal. I need to - - . - - material outside
25 the auditorium on the table, educational impact

1 statement as well as - - that I'm going to
2 share with you now. The email address is - -
3 your comments may be made are
4 D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-7621.
5 Thank you for your participation. This joint
6 public hearing is now closed.

7 [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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doreen Angermayr", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Doreen Angermayr

Date: April 11, 2014