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**New York City Department of
Education - Division of
Portfolio Planning
Launch Expeditionary Charter School
@ K243 - 3/8/12**

1 [START 285_704.MP3]

2 MS. EVELYN SANTIAGO: Is it working? Okay
3 if you would like to speak this evening please
4 feel free to sign at the back. So if you
5 haven't done so and you'd like to speak just go
6 right ahead and do that okay? We're going to
7 begin all right.

8 Okay so welcome everyone and good evening.
9 This is a joint public hearing. Can you all
10 hear me? I can't hear myself for some reason.
11 Okay good evening. This is a joint public
12 hearing. By the way I'm reading from the script
13 because I have to make sure that everything I
14 tell you you--everything here is very important
15 I want to make sure that you receive it. So
16 this a joint public hearing of the Department of
17 Education, Community Education Council and the
18 School Leadership Team for the proposed co-
19 location of Launch Expeditionary Learning
20 Charter School 84k right?

21 And it will be co-located here at P.S. 243
22 the Weeksville School in building K243 beginning
23 2012 2013. I am Evelyn Santiago the District 16
24 Community Superintendent. We ask the District
25 16 Community Education Council and the School

1 Leadership Team of P.S. 243 to participate in
2 this joint public hearing. I am joined tonight
3 by the Principal Hambright-Glover from the
4 school P.S. 243. The--we also have the CEC
5 President Peggy Johnson. Second Vice President
6 Felicia Alexander. Raise your hands ladies.

7 For your information by the way this
8 hearing is being recorded. The purpose of the
9 hearing is for you to provide comments about the
10 proposal. Before I describe the proposal I
11 would--want to make sure you're all aware of the
12 opportunity for your input. All those who--and
13 again all those who wish to speak must sign up
14 in the speakers sign up area located just
15 outside the auditorium or inside the auditorium
16 here. The sign up list will close in 15
17 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in
18 order--in the order they sign up and all
19 comments are limited to two minutes.

20 There may be elected officials who do arrive
21 at different times throughout the meeting this
22 evening and if they wish to speak we will do our
23 best to accommodate them at the first opportune
24 moment. Those who are here at the start of the
25 public comment segment will be asked to speak

1 first so if there are any officials in the
2 audience.

3 All comments will be mentioned in the
4 analysis of public comment to be published and
5 provided to the panel for education policy the
6 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
7 scheduled for March 21st 2012. In addition we
8 welcome any comments and feedback you may have
9 at any time before the panel votes on both
10 proposals. The email address and phone number
11 where comments may be made are
12 D16proposals@schools.nyc.go. The address is
13 also on the handout that was given out this
14 evening.

15 Finally before we begin with the summary of
16 the proposal I want to acknowledge that this is
17 a challenging time for the P.S. 243 school
18 community and that we deeply appreciate P.S. 243
19 hosting this hearing. We will continue to
20 support the P.S. 243 community in whatever ways
21 we can and know how hard the P.S. 243 family is
22 working to provide children with a safe and
23 secure environment where they receive exemplary
24 instruction, support and the opportunity to grow
25 and thrive.

1 The New York City Department of Education
2 is proposing to site Launch Expeditionary
3 Learning Charter School 84K in building K243
4 located at 1580 Dean Street in Brooklyn's
5 Community School District 16 beginning
6 2012/2013. Launch Charter School is a new
7 public charter that has been approved by its
8 authorizer the New York State Education
9 Department.

10 It's a--it's going to serve hopefully up to
11 461 students in sixth grade through tenth grade.
12 Only Launch Charter School sixth grade through
13 eighth grade will be co-located in K243. Launch
14 Charter School will be co-located in K243 with
15 existing implement--elementary school P.S. 243
16 the Weeksville School which serves students in
17 grades kindergarten through five and offers a
18 prekindergarten program. K243 also houses four
19 community based organizations that offer varied
20 programming to the P.S. 243 school community.

21 A co-location means that two or more schools
22 and school organizations are located in the same
23 building and may share large common spaces like
24 the auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeteria.
25 According to the 2010/2011 enrollment capacity

1 utilization report or in other words the Blue
2 Book K243 has the capacity to serve 895
3 students. Currently the building serves 357
4 students yielding a building utilization rate of
5 approximately 40%.

6 If this proposal is approved in 2012/2013
7 the first year of the proposed co-location
8 Launch Charter School will serve 90 to 115
9 students in sixth grade. Launch Charter School
10 will then add one grade each year until--until
11 approximately 244, 312 students in sixth grade
12 through eighth grades in 2014/2015. At that
13 time K243 is projected to serve approximately
14 540 to 668 students enrolled in P.S. 243 and
15 Launch Charter School. Yielding an estimated
16 building utilization rate of 60 to 75% thus K243
17 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed
18 location. Expeditionary Learning and
19 educational service provider with approximately
20 170 schools in its network has been approved by
21 the New York State Education Department.

22 It's charter authorizer to open Launch
23 Charter School for the 2012/2013 school year.
24 Launch Charter School has been approved by the
25 New York State Education Department--did I just

1 say that? However the DoE has informed--but
2 that we need a little humor too. However the
3 DoE has informed Launch Charter School that K243
4 cannot accommodate both the schools middle and
5 high school grades based on the space available
6 in the building which is why this proposal is
7 for the siting of Launch Charter School's middle
8 school grades only.

9 The DoE will consider all long term options
10 to accommodate the anticipated growth of Launch
11 Charter School which may include siting some of
12 its grades at a different location. The
13 Department of Education believes in the
14 potential of Launch Charter School and supports
15 the placement of this charter school in District
16 16 in order to continue providing educational
17 options for students and families.

18 So thank you very much. Now we will hereby--
19 - we will have the presenters and the next
20 presenter will be Mr. Jamal Young of the State
21 Education Department.

22 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Good evening. My name is
23 Jamal Young. I'm with the New York State
24 Education Department. The New York State
25 Education Department is the administrative arm

1 of the Board of Regions. And so technically
2 the Board of Regions is the entity that
3 authorizes charters along with CUNY in the State
4 of New York. And in that role, in that capacity
5 the Board of Regions authorized Launch
6 Expeditionary Learning Charter School last year
7 and based on a prospectus and an application
8 that was submitted in 2010.

9 The purpose of the hearing this evening is
10 not to discuss that particular application but
11 rather to discuss the siting of that school in
12 this facility. And so to that end I just want
13 to clarify for you what the role of the Board of
14 Regions is. What we will be doing is listening
15 to public comments tonight about the siting of
16 the school here. We will also be gathering
17 comments that you may choose to make pertaining
18 to the siting up through March 26 which will be
19 five days after the Community Education
20 Council's discussion on this particular siting.
21 And so that's the extent of our role.

22 It's in compliance with the charter school
23 law and it's intended to give the public the
24 greatest possible scope to provide comment to
25 the Board of Regions on the schools that we

1 approve and authorize and then also on their
2 sitings. And if you have any questions I'll be
3 here for the balance of the hearing and then
4 afterwards as required or as requested if you
5 have any questions that I can answer. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you Mr. Young. Our
8 next presenter will be President Johnson of the
9 Community Education Council.

10 MS. PEGGY JOHNSON: Good evening. I really
11 didn't plan on saying anything this evening. I
12 am just here right, tonight right now I want to
13 hear first what everyone has to say and then
14 maybe before we end I might have something to
15 say but not right at the moment. Thank you.

16 MS. SANTIAGO: Our next presenter will be
17 the second Vice President Felicia Alexander.

18 MS. FELICIA ALEXANDER: Good evening. I
19 really don't have anything to say yet. I have a
20 few questions and I'm going to hold them until
21 after the presenters present so if they answer
22 it before I ask it then I'll be very happy if
23 not then I will voice my questions.

24 MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you and the next
25 presenter will be Principal Hambright-Glover of

1 the School Leadership team.

2 MS. HAMBRIGHT-GLOVER: Thank you. Just
3 wanted to say welcome and thank you all for
4 coming. And welcome to our school and I hope
5 this meeting goes very well. Thank you all the
6 visitors, thank you all the guests and the staff
7 members. Thank you very much Santiago.

8 MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you Ms. Hambright. All
9 right I just want to announce that if you want
10 to speak this evening to please sign up. Here
11 is your chance. In order to speak this evening
12 you need to sign up and register so--right. So
13 here is the opportunity to sign up anyone okay?
14 So where will those sheet be? We have one
15 speaker so if you're wanting to have any public
16 comments--okay. You'll also have an opportunity
17 to reach out at the website I had mentioned as
18 well as the website that is listed in the flyer
19 that was distributed this evening.

20 So we have now concluded the formal
21 presentations and we will now open the floor for
22 public comments. The speakers will be given the
23 floor in order that they have signed up. In
24 this case we have one person who has signed up
25 and we're going to call that individual up to

1 the microphone at this time. So will Geoffrey
2 and forgive me if I mispronounce your name.
3 Rome oh Rehm I'm sorry. And Evan Kilgore.

4 MR. GEOFFREY REHM: Hello so we just wanted
5 to introduce ourselves. We are from Launch
6 Expeditionary Learning Charter School. My name
7 is Geoffrey Rehm and I'm the executive director.
8 Evan Kilgore is our principal and we just wanted
9 to reiterate so at this particular meeting we
10 don't sit up here at the dais and give a lot of
11 information. That's not the purpose of the
12 meeting but we wanted to let anybody that's here
13 know that we'll be here after the meeting to
14 answer any questions you might have about the
15 school itself.

16 Right now this is more to give comment about
17 your own opinions about us sharing the space at
18 243 but if you want to stick around after and
19 I'm not sure after is very much long after I
20 speak. I think we're the only speakers. We'll
21 be right here. We have lots of information
22 about the school and we'd love to speak with
23 anybody who has interest.

24 And we also just wanted to say a big thank
25 you to Ms. Hambright. She's been really

1 wonderful and welcoming and I think a really
2 exemplary leader at a tough time for the school
3 and we're really excited about working with her
4 and being here. So thanks for having us and
5 please come and see us after the meeting if you
6 have any questions.

7 MS. SANTIAGO: You may send feedback you may
8 have at any time before the panel for education
9 policy votes on this proposal at its March 21st
10 meeting. The email address again and the phone
11 number where comments may be made are
12 D16proposols@schools.nyc.gov. And the telephone
13 number is 212-374-0208.

14 So at this time I want to thank you for your
15 participation, for coming out this evening and
16 this joint public hearing is now closed. And as
17 mentioned we do have Mr. Young and the gentleman
18 representing the new charter school to answer
19 any questions that you may have.

20 [END 285_704.MP3]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature *Carille Clarke*

7 Date March 13, 2012
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