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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**New Visions Charter High School for  
Advanced Math and Science IV**

Building Q400  
156-10 Baisley Boulevard  
Queens, NY 11434

April 17, 2015

5:30pm

1 SUPERINTENDENT LASHAWN ROBINSON:

2 ...Education Council and School Leadership Team  
3 for August Martin High School and Voyages Prep  
4 South Queens Transfer High School. I am  
5 Transfer Superintendent Lashawn Robinson. We  
6 have asked Division 27 Community Education  
7 Council and the School Leadership Team for  
8 August Martin High School and Voyages Prep South  
9 Queens to participate in this joint public  
10 hearing. I am joined tonight by Principal Smith  
11 of August Martin High School, Principal Losurdo  
12 from Voyages Prep.

13 [Applause]

14 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: - - High School  
15 President's council, - - for the - - policy and  
16 Erin Solomon from the State Education  
17 Department. CEC 27 was invited and had  
18 confirmed attendance to this joint public;  
19 however, due to unforeseen circumstances, they  
20 are not - - at this time. If a member of CEC 27  
21 arrives at a later time, we will do our best to  
22 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.

23 This hearing is being audio and video  
24 recorded.

25 The purpose of this hearing is for you to

1 provide comments about the proposal. Before I  
2 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you  
3 are all aware of the opportunity to provide your  
4 input. All those who wish to speak must sign up  
5 in the speaker sign-up area located just outside  
6 the auditorium. The sign-up list will close in  
7 15 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
8 the order that they signed up. All comments are  
9 limited to two minutes.

10 There may be elected officials who arrive at  
11 different times throughout the evening. If they  
12 wish to speak, we will do our best to  
13 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
14 Those who are here at the start of the public  
15 comment segment will be asked to speak first.

16 All comments will be mentioned in the  
17 Analysis of Public Comment to be published and  
18 provided to the Panel for Education Policy the  
19 evening before the Panel votes. That vote is  
20 scheduled for April 29th.

21 In addition, we welcome any comments and  
22 feedback you may have at any time before the  
23 Panel votes on this proposal. The email address  
24 and phone number where comments may be made are  
25 D27Proposals, that's D27, P-R-O-P-O-S-A-L-S, at

1 schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-7621.

2           Proposal Summary; The New York City  
3 Department of Education is proposing to co-  
4 locate a charter high school, New Visions  
5 Charter High School for Advanced Math and  
6 Science IV, or AMS IV, that will serve students  
7 in grades nine through twelve in building Q400,  
8 with August Martin High School, an existing  
9 district high school that currently serves  
10 students in ninth through twelfth grade, Voyages  
11 Prep South Queens Transfer School, a transfer  
12 high school serving students in grades nine  
13 through twelve, and an Alternate Learning  
14 Center, which provides an educational setting  
15 for students in grades nine through twelve who  
16 are on a Superintendent's Suspension for up to  
17 one year, beginning in the 2015-2016 school  
18 year.

19           In addition, building Q400 houses the  
20 following Community-based organizations: King of  
21 Kings, Life Camp, Relationship Abuse Prevention  
22 Program, and Counseling for Mediation Services.

23           Q400 is located at 156-10 Baisley Boulevard,  
24 Queens, New York 11434 within the geographical  
25 confines of Community School District 27. A co-

1 location means that two or more school  
2 organizations are located in the same building  
3 and may share common spaces like auditoriums,  
4 gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

5 The DOE is partnering with school leaders,  
6 staff, families, and community partners of  
7 August Martin through the School Renewal  
8 Program.

9 As a part of the School Renewal Program,  
10 August Martin will adopt a Community School  
11 model beginning in the 2015-16 school year.  
12 August Martin may receive as a result of the  
13 School Renewal Program and the school's  
14 designation as a Community School, the DOE will  
15 re-evaluate the space allocations outlined in  
16 the attached Building Utilization Plan after  
17 August Martin's particular community school  
18 model has been developed.

19 New Visions for Public Schools is the  
20 charter management organization for AMS IV.

21 Pursuant to recent amendments to the  
22 Education Law which provide certain new and  
23 expanding charter schools with access to  
24 facilities, New Visions has requested co-located  
25 space for AMS IV's ninth through twelfth grades

1 within a DOE facility.

2 AMS IV will offer a rigorous academic  
3 program and prepare students for post-secondary  
4 work in math and science.

5 According to New Visions, New Visions  
6 schools provide all students, regardless of  
7 their previous academic history, the highest  
8 quality education in an atmosphere of respect,  
9 responsibility and rigor.

10 The schools ensure that graduates have the  
11 skills and content knowledge necessary to  
12 succeed in post-secondary choices by engaging  
13 students, teachers and administrators in  
14 learning experiences that allow risk-taking,  
15 embrace multiple attempts at learning, cultivate  
16 students' imaginative and creative abilities,  
17 and celebrate achievement.

18 Students at AMS IV will gain the tools to  
19 succeed in college and careers. The school will  
20 offer core courses including math, science,  
21 English, art, and physical education for all  
22 students, as well as Advanced Placement and  
23 college-level courses.

24 AMS IV will provide students with a  
25 foundation for career paths in engineering,

1 medicine, research, and forensics.

2 AMS IV will admit students through a lottery  
3 application process, with admissions preference  
4 given to residents of District 27 and then to  
5 siblings that apply in the lottery to attend  
6 ninth grade at AMS IV.

7 If this proposal to open and co-locate AMS  
8 IV in Q400 is approved, students will have  
9 access to an additional high school option in  
10 Queens. AMS IV will open in Q400 for the 2015-  
11 16 school year and will serve approximately 115  
12 to 140 students in grade nine, adding one grade  
13 level every year until reaching its full grade  
14 span of ninth through twelfth grade in the 2018-  
15 19 school year, when it will serve approximately  
16 460 to 560 students.

17 According to the 2013-14 Enrollment,  
18 Capacity, Utilization Report, Q400 has the  
19 capacity to serve 1,931 students.

20 During the 2014-15 school year, the building  
21 is serving 906 students, yielding an estimated  
22 building utilization rate of 47%. This means  
23 that the building is underutilized and has space  
24 to accommodate additional students.

25 If this proposal is approved, in 2018-19,

1 when AMS IV is fully phased in the building,  
2 AMS IV is projected to serve approximately 460  
3 to 560 ninth through twelfth-grade students,  
4 August Martin is projected to serve a total of  
5 approximately 630 to 670 ninth through twelfth-  
6 grade students, the ALC is projected to serve a  
7 total of approximately 60 to 80 ninth through  
8 twelfth-grade students, and Voyages South is  
9 projected to serve approximately 230 to 270  
10 ninth through twelfth-grade students.

11 Voyages South is currently phasing in and  
12 will reach full scale in the 2015-16 school  
13 year. Combined, there will be approximately  
14 1,380 to 1,580 students served in Q400 in 2018-  
15 19, which yields an estimate projected  
16 utilization rate of 71% to 82%. Thus, there is  
17 sufficient space in Q400 to accommodate Voyages  
18 South, August Martin, the ALC and AMS IV.

19 AMS IV has been approved by its charter  
20 authorizer, the New York State Department of  
21 Education, or SED, to open a new public charter  
22 school in Community School District 27.

23 Although this proposal has not yet been  
24 approved by the Panel for Educational Policy,  
25 SED is required to hold a facilities hearing to

1 receive feedback on the proposed co-location of  
2 AMS IV with August Martin, Voyages South, and  
3 the ALC. As such, this joint public hearing  
4 will also serve as the facilities hearing.  
5 There is a representative from SED in  
6 attendance.

7 If you have any questions or comments on the  
8 charter itself, Erin Solomon of SED will now  
9 tell you how to submit those questions and  
10 comments.

11 MS. ERIN SOLOMON: Good evening everyone.  
12 My name is Erin Solomon and I run - - Charter  
13 School office for the New York State Education  
14 Department, or SED. - - the Board of Grievance.  
15 The Board of Grievance is responsible for the  
16 general supervision of all educational  
17 activities within the state. The Board is made  
18 of 17 members - - state legislator for five-year  
19 terms, one from each of the State's 13 initial  
20 districts and four - - . - - the grievance - -  
21 establish charter schools comes from Article 56  
22 of the New York State Education Law. The law  
23 was virtually passed in 1996. - - updated in  
24 2010 and 2014. The law requires the Board of  
25 Grievance to discuss public hearings to discuss

1 co-locating charter schools within the same  
2 public school buildings. Tonight's public  
3 hearing is to discuss the proposed co-location  
4 of New Visions Charter High School for Advanced  
5 Math and Science IV with existing schools August  
6 Martin high School, Voyages Prep, and an  
7 Alternate Learning Center. While the Board - -  
8 Education Policy and SED - - neither, the Board  
9 of Grievance nor SED has any - - over the  
10 placement of charter schools and community  
11 facilities owned by - - Department of Education.  
12 - - concerned about - - co-location - -  
13 authorized charter schools.

14 This evening I will gather the comments from  
15 the school community pertaining to this co-  
16 location. These comments will be summarized and  
17 shared with the Board of Grievance. SED will  
18 continue to receive and review comments until  
19 the date of the Panel for Educational Policy  
20 meeting, which is scheduled for April 29th,  
21 2015. Written statements may be submitted to me  
22 at the conclusion of this hearing or mailed to  
23 the attention of Susan Megna--that's M-E-G-N-A,  
24 at the following address: NYSED Charter School  
25 Office at 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York

1 12234. They can also be emailed to  
2 charterschools@nysed.gov. Again, that's  
3 charterschools@nysed.gov. Thank you.

4 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you, Erin.  
5 I would also like to reiterate that we welcome  
6 any comments and feedback you may have at any  
7 time before the Panel votes on this proposal.  
8 The email address and phone number where  
9 comments may be made are  
10 D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-7621.

11 The next presenter will be Senator - - .  
12 [Applause]

13 SENATOR: Good evening everyone. I'm here  
14 this evening to protest this co-location - -  
15 August Martin High School - - . I think the  
16 issues here are very clear. This August Martin  
17 High School is just on the - - trying to  
18 reestablish - - to be a - - high school. The -  
19 - going back to - - high school program on  
20 aviation, on airport careers and business and  
21 law opportunities. We've funded the school with  
22 learning labs, we've funded the school with a  
23 culinary center, we've given the school an  
24 opportunity to reestablish their - - program and  
25 I understand that they are finally

1 reestablishing their flight program, which is  
2 a critical program and a critical opportunity  
3 for young people to excel. To put in another--  
4 with all due respect - - but to put in another  
5 technical school with math and science, math and  
6 science is a basic right that every child should  
7 be able to have when they graduate.

8 [Applause]

9 SENATOR: So, we are really not competitive  
10 against the rest of the - - because - - people,  
11 the curriculums and the failures of the  
12 curriculum - - by the entire system shouldn't  
13 fall on August Martin High School alone to  
14 correct.

15 [Applause]

16 SENATOR: The failure of the DOE - - is the  
17 way that they deliver education to students  
18 shouldn't fall on August High School alone to  
19 correct, and August Martin has been doing their  
20 level best to work with the tools that they have  
21 when they are getting students from all over  
22 Brooklyn, all over Queens, they don't want--

23 [Applause]

24 SENATOR: - - failing before they get to  
25 high school and they're continuing to get

1 children that are not interested in - - and  
2 they're doing their best to try to stimulate  
3 these young people without support from DOE.

4 [Applause]

5 SENATOR: Again, I'm not looking to - -  
6 program. The whole idea [break in audio] and  
7 the tradition of the school is to train people  
8 to move into the - - airport is expanding.  
9 LaGuardia Airport is expanding. The  
10 opportunities - - within the airport and the  
11 Board of Education should be strengthening. We  
12 only have one school aviation high school all  
13 the way at the other end of Queens, that helps  
14 the aviation industry. It makes no sense that  
15 they're limiting the opportunity that's right  
16 here for August Martin High School when that was  
17 one of the traditions that - - .

18 [Applause]

19 SENATOR: I have friends that have  
20 graduated--I'm not going to tell my age but I  
21 have friends who have graduated in the airport  
22 industry and have moved on to administrative  
23 positions because they attended the programs  
24 here at August Martin High School - - this day  
25 and age that teaching children - - information

1 when they already don't appreciate the  
2 curriculum and we've already established that  
3 common core should be thrown out and doesn't  
4 make sense. Bringing in a creative program into  
5 August Martin High School - - to make sure that  
6 their culinary program is expanded because  
7 people need chefs. We need chefs in restaurants  
8 all over the city, all over the world. We need  
9 to make sure that there's an aviation program, -  
10 - mechanical program and a flight training  
11 program and a - - program, and we need to make  
12 sure that there's communication arts academy - -  
13 . There's no need to bring in another school  
14 when we could have plenty of people and plenty -  
15 - right here with this program that August  
16 Martin High School does already have in place  
17 and - - . So, I'm here today--

18 [Applause]

19 SENATOR: And the community has a good plan  
20 for expansion and advancement of August Martin  
21 High School - - put a lot of thought in it and  
22 it should be respected. Thank you very much.

23 [Applause]

24 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you,  
25 Senator. The next presenter is - - . I

1 apologize - - , representing - - Office.

2 [Applause]

3 MALE VOICE 1: Good evening. My name is - -  
4 and I'm representing - - . Today one of the  
5 reasons why we're here is that we also - - . We  
6 are not supportive of the addition of this one  
7 school in August Martin, but we - - why we are  
8 not supportive of it. Our office has - - in  
9 November of last year, talking about developing  
10 the aviation program. We have, since then, made  
11 contact with the FAA, NASA, and - - to add  
12 value to this school and to enhance this  
13 program. The DOE did not reach out to us until  
14 last week to continue this conversation. This  
15 is a conversation where - - from the parents,  
16 the PTA, and from - - . This is - - where the  
17 parents - - . Now, after that, once - - this  
18 program did the new - - , no parent was informed  
19 of the - - of this school. - - , this is not  
20 the - - . This - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE 1: And we are not going to stand  
23 up for you to come and dictate to the community  
24 without parental engagement.

25 [Applause]

1 MALE VOICE 1: Since the - - and at the  
2 same time, we find that the new school is  
3 marketing itself into the community even though  
4 the PEP was not consulted about this.

5 [Applause]

6 MALE VOICE 1: - - and I would like to ask  
7 the DOE and the SED representative to make note  
8 of this; that you cannot be marketing a program  
9 that is not approved by the Department of  
10 Education and that has not been voted on by the  
11 PEP. - - over to the PEP - - and find out that  
12 this was the first time they're hearing about  
13 it. Now, in addition to that, we have - - to -  
14 - because why? August Martin represents a - -  
15 institution, not just this community, but for  
16 all black communities and we - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MALE VOICE 1: We have - - . We have - -  
19 this school. It is not - - and why are we - -  
20 this program? The DOE needs to focus on one  
21 thing; to make sure that the education program  
22 is going to be kept alive, and because, as our  
23 senator said, - - employer at JFK airport.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE 1: We need to get our kids

1 meaningful jobs in the community right here at  
2 JFK Airport. In addition to that, August  
3 Martin, we have the ability to - - four or five  
4 - - to start - - programs here to recruit the  
5 kids to be - - . These are job opportunities  
6 that the Board of Ed is overlooking. We need to  
7 make sure that these programs are - -  
8 opportunity to survive. Now, having said that,  
9 I would like to ask respectfully, the - -  
10 program is good. We have locations for you to  
11 be within the community, but not here. We need  
12 an expansion, we need an expanded program, we  
13 need the DOE to fund the program and put strong  
14 leadership in place and support the development  
15 of this program. With that, I'd like to - - .  
16 Thank you very much.

17 [Applause]

18 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you. At  
19 this time, Mr. Emory C. Jones will come to  
20 present.

21 MR. EMORY JONES: Good evening everyone.  
22 The process - - every last one of you who have a  
23 cell phone or - - has the technology that - - .  
24 That's the technology that can be seen - - what  
25 has - - as well as - - that we have not

1 overlooked these programs to now - - . It is  
2 not going to be effective to bring other  
3 schools, bring other programs to the school that  
4 are not supported by this - - .

5 [Applause]

6 MR. JONES: That - - is not - - other than -  
7 - . This is a - - school. This is a historic  
8 school. This school is very - - . I've had the  
9 pleasure to work - - school and have programs  
10 that have a very viable and very consistent - -  
11 consistency what's important for the school.  
12 Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you. The  
15 next presenter will be Leslie Patterson  
16 representing Council - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MS. LESLIE PATTERSON: [Audio skipping].  
19 For students, once again [poor audio and too far  
20 from microphone].

21 [Applause]

22 MS. PATTERSON: Additionally - - education  
23 be consistent with [poor audio] advancement in -  
24 - .

25 [Applause]

1 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you. The  
2 next presenter will be - - .

3 MALE VOICE 2: - - had an opportunity to - -  
4 long experience with - - but - - never ever  
5 works. I've said not too long ago - -  
6 parent/teacher association and - - .

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE 2: That young man looks with his  
9 eyes and - - program in the school. That's the  
10 kind of community - - that we need, not - - .

11 [Applause]

12 MALE VOICE 2: And the way we feel is that -  
13 - having - - who cares how - - . That's how - -  
14 happening every day, and the second - - care  
15 about the school. Now, I'm going to take this -  
16 - . I don't know if you can see it. There is a  
17 tendency with - - like this, that the - - . We  
18 send a message to - - that despite the - - this  
19 happens, this education - - not go through this  
20 time in this school.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE 2: - - it is important to us - -  
23 people sitting in this room. I don't know if  
24 there's a - - sitting amongst us, but if there  
25 is one, he can stand up, have - - and the people

1 - - gets their name, their number and their  
2 email address because - - people here tonight  
3 need to stop this.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE 2: And the people who believe in  
6 the power of - - .

7 [Applause]

8 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you - - .  
9 At this time we'd like to - - next presenter  
10 will be - - . I - - come forward. We will have  
11 our next presenter from the school leadership  
12 team from August Martin High School, Ms. Testa  
13 Beth Louis.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. TESTA BETH LOUIS: Good evening. [Audio  
16 skipping]. This school year the PTA - -  
17 representatives from - - programs in our  
18 schools. We've had workshops conducted - - .  
19 Students awards and recognitions were used - -  
20 professional development - - discussed - -  
21 technology - - program. In addition, we are  
22 planning - - various academy - - . The PTA in  
23 August Martin - - school in New York City and is  
24 - - on February 12th, 2014 - - president of the  
25 national - - with our students and showing their

1 support in helping to transform our school.  
2 Our students - - . The PTA students are  
3 concerned that this proposed co-location would  
4 interfere with plans to - - technology,  
5 culinary, business and law - - programs. The -  
6 - cannot have - - that offer these programs - -  
7 .

8 [Applause]

9 MS. LOUIS: Based on the - - March 10th - -  
10 public schools such as - - High School and - - .  
11 The students and - - August Martin High School  
12 deserve the opportunity to receive - - to  
13 develop - - programs with the benefits - - .

14 [Applause]

15 MS. LOUIS: On behalf of the PTA, your - -  
16 support our - - . Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you. And if  
19 anyone - - is available at this time - - . We  
20 have now concluded the formal presentation. We  
21 will now open the floor for public comments.  
22 Speakers will be given the floor in the order  
23 that they signed up. All comments are limited  
24 to two minutes. Our first speaker is Tamisha  
25 Freeman [phonetic].

1 [Applause]

2 MS. TAMISHA FREEMAN: [Poor audio] High  
3 School - - students are being - - . This is - -  
4 very much a - - . We have - - in the last five  
5 days and our - - .

6 [Applause]

7 MS. FREEMAN: We - - where students - - and  
8 one of our students was - - . They also want -  
9 - . We have a culinary academy where - - . We  
10 don't need another school - - . We do not need  
11 - - . We don't need another school in this  
12 building. Why? Because would you like somebody  
13 to just come to your house - - just because you  
14 have space? Nobody - - their house, their  
15 space, just because you've got additional space  
16 in the room. - - space. Those spaces are for  
17 us to grow better and stronger and for us to - -  
18 .

19 [Applause]

20 MS. FREEMAN: I - - . This school is my  
21 home. I'm tired of - - trying to take over my  
22 home. I'm tired. This is my school. We are  
23 the only high school in Queens that has its own  
24 - - . I don't - - . I'm - - . Why - - coming  
25 in here and taking away - - ? Why - - coming

1 here to take up my space? I - - . I know - -  
2 and give this school another program - - .

3 [Applause]

4 MS. FREEMAN: Obviously I am really tired.  
5 I - - school - - . I thought - - .

6 [Yelling]

7 MS. FREEMAN: - - that nothing - - .

8 [Applause]

9 MS. FREEMAN: So, - - . We want - - but we  
10 don't need somebody - - space just because - - .  
11 Give - - opportunities. They have - - . So, -  
12 - .

13 [Applause]

14 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Thank you. I  
15 would like to - - .

16 [Applause]

17 FEMALE VOICE 2: [Poor audio]. I am a - -.  
18 I am also part - - . I've been at this school  
19 for three years and being here has [audio skips]  
20 being a part of - - tremendously. [Audio skips]  
21 at August Martin High School - - . You would  
22 think - - in order to get our students - - . I  
23 also want to add that being a part of the - -  
24 academy has helped me to - - allowing me - -  
25 every day and not - - . August Martin High

1 School - - . Being a part of this - - has - -  
2 so many different opportunities. At the - -  
3 financially and also - - Microsoft - - and also  
4 skills and - - and opportunities for - - . How  
5 would you feel if - - ?

6 [Applause]

7 FEMALE VOICE 2: So, - - . We - - and we  
8 need them - - students. At this stage, who will  
9 - - at 16 years old - - of the students here.

10 [Applause]

11 FEMALE VOICE 2: - - competition and  
12 represent August Martin High School - - is going  
13 to look at this and - - and - - .

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE 2: - - more than the 50  
16 students - - . It puts me - - and make - - .  
17 If we get a young age from August Martin High  
18 School.

19 [Applause]

20 FEMALE VOICE 2: [Audio skips].

21 [Applause]

22 FEMALE VOICE 2: I get - -need other schools  
23 here. We - - space. We might have - - a lot of  
24 space - - so many students here - - and by - -  
25 that doesn't allow - - . Do you think that we -

1 - ? That's why we're systematically - - every  
2 single day. We need - - . We need more  
3 students like myself attending.

4 [Applause]

5 FEMALE VOICE 2: We don't - - school - - .  
6 So, if you - - . We need funding. We need more  
7 educational activities. Everybody wants to go -  
8 - . We only have - - opportunity for - - . If  
9 we had - - we wouldn't be - - . We don't need  
10 any more schools - - .

11 [Applause]

12 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: Our next speaker  
13 is Adrian Mathers [phonetic].

14 [Applause]

15 SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON: - - .

16 MS. ADRIAN MATHERS: - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MS. MATHERS: Good evening, ladies and  
19 gentleman, and the Panel - - Chairperson - - of  
20 Queens and I'm here to - - the districts of - -  
21 part of the detrimental co-location plan that -  
22 - was determined - - in 2013. We were hopeful  
23 then that the new administration would have a  
24 fresh new way to handle our schools, especially  
25 because of the fact that when we campaigned for

1 mayor of New York City - - extensive  
2 popularity for what seemed to be - - against co-  
3 location, specifically charter school co-  
4 locations where charter schools that rightfully  
5 need space are placed into traditional public  
6 school buildings with one or more schools. The  
7 mayor won with more than 73% of the votes and  
8 was then sworn into office - - . Tonight we ask  
9 Mr. Mayor where is your leadership.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. MATHERS: Where is your - - when it  
12 comes to your campaign promises regarding co-  
13 locations? We want to know what's happened to  
14 that - - promise, because some people in this  
15 community and the students actually believed  
16 him. So, Mr. Mayor, the children need your  
17 help, for you to keep your campaign promise to  
18 them and - - for one school. We are tired of  
19 this fighting year after year, knowing that the  
20 deck is always stacked against us because of - -  
21 and dishonest - - .

22 [Applause]

23 MS. MATHERS: Had we gotten the resources  
24 and - - that we were promised in the past, I - -  
25 public trust - - would not have taken place. We

1 need smaller classes, not - - .

2 [Applause]

3 MS. MATHERS: We - - set to take place in -  
4 - traditional, private, or charter. We want our  
5 parents to have the choice of where - - educate  
6 their children; however, - - continue to oppose  
7 all co-locations in - - because children deserve  
8 the very best learning experience possible, but  
9 separate and - - education is not the - - .

10 [Applause]

11 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Ms. Mathers. Our  
12 next speaker is Dawn Flowers. Dawn - - .

13 [Applause]

14 MS. DAWN FLOWERS: Good evening. My name is  
15 Dawn Flowers. I am an attorney for - - chair of  
16 - - . Having - - do not apply to - - would like  
17 - - in this process and they - - . The problem  
18 - - sounds like - - . Our objection is not to  
19 the school or to charter schools overall; our  
20 objection is the co-location of said schools  
21 within existing schools to the detriment of the  
22 current students and the - - programs within the  
23 existing school.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. FLOWERS: Whenever proposed co-location

1 - - schools to be determined, the proponents  
 2 of that application must state - - . No amount  
 3 of - - that - - have been taking place - - of  
 4 the school, to the point - - charter school that  
 5 they - - on April 22nd, 2015. This - - . This  
 6 is an attempt to bypass the rules and - - for  
 7 the decisions that - - . Again, the - - is the  
 8 same and - - community. The same goes - - April  
 9 15th, 2015 and - - for the school, yet to our  
 10 knowledge, this is the first public hearing  
 11 being held on that proposal. Again, this is a  
 12 direct attempt to - - of the law since the  
 13 application was submitted - - must state that -  
 14 - . This shows that the - - and the process,  
 15 and that the other - - application. Since the  
 16 State Education Department - - , they have to -  
 17 - more carefully - - community with - - . This  
 18 application should - - process put in place and  
 19 - - . Here we have a high school--August  
 20 Martin--that - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MS. FLOWERS: Thank you. Here we have a  
 23 high school--August Martin--that offers  
 24 practical education and - - . We have - - and  
 25 your college ready to - - . We have - - ready

1 to - - program. We have two attorneys - -  
2 that program. We have chefs and - - program,  
3 yet once again, we have the - - , folks in  
4 Albany, telling us what programs should be in  
5 our buildings. August Martin has been a failing  
6 school and class has been in place - - but they  
7 are not funded, nor have they been funded by - -  
8 .

9 [Applause]

10 MS. FLOWERS: - - have had funding in the  
11 past - - . - - High School was also failing  
12 students some years back. They got the support  
13 they needed because - - as one of the best  
14 schools in the city. The - - in which we have  
15 been dissuaded from being able to improve our  
16 schools must stop. Money matters - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MS. FLOWERS: Time and time again we - -  
19 provided excellent - - by taking away those  
20 surfaces which we have paid for with our tax  
21 dollars. Our children - - cooperation - - .

22 [Applause]

23 MS. FLOWERS: - - are doing so at the  
24 expense - - of the children, in that they're  
25 only too happy to see the - - of those of our

1 children that may have special needs. - -  
2 some folks that are supposed to be - - that they  
3 know what's best for us - - . We must - - that  
4 we will not stand for - - . Our opinions  
5 matter. Our caring for our children is without  
6 question. No one knows what's best for our  
7 children - - .

8 [Applause]

9 MS. FLOWERS: There are - - schools. There  
10 is no need for co-location in an existing school  
11 building. Should this charter school be  
12 identified - - space - - , it would accomplish  
13 two things. It would quickly - - and it will  
14 alleviate some of the fights within the  
15 neighborhood. Since - - it's important to New  
16 Visions Charter Schools, this is their great  
17 beginning to prove that point, to make - - . We  
18 are not - - . We are against co-locations - -  
19 school units. I can only recommend that this  
20 co-location not - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you very much, Ms.  
23 Flowers. I would like to note that Ms. Flowers  
24 - - thank you and - - . But - - that all  
25 comments are made in two minutes [audio skips].

1 Thank you. At this time, our next presenter  
2 is Jacqueline Smart.

3 MS. JACQUELINE SMART: Good evening  
4 everyone. My name's Jacqueline Smart [audio  
5 skips and muffled speaking].

6 [Applause]

7 MS. SMART: Our students [audio  
8 skips/muffled speaking]. Every time - - it  
9 seems as though there's certain efforts - - .  
10 We - - space that this - - every time a new  
11 school - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MS. SMART: [Muffled speaking] current  
14 programs - - much smaller in size than - - .  
15 The co-location of another school - - .

16 [Applause]

17 MS. SMART: [Muffled speaking] parents who -  
18 - .

19 [Applause]

20 MS. SMART: [Muffled speaking]

21 [Applause]

22 MS. SMART: You can - - to make the school a  
23 success - - . Give us what we need - - programs  
24 so that the students can once again say that  
25 they're proud - - .

1 [Applause]

2 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you. Our next  
3 presenter is Ronald Capasian [phonetic].

4 [Applause]

5 MR. RONALD CAPASIAN: Good evening ladies  
6 and gentlemen. [Audio skips and muffled]. - -  
7 forms a partnership with communities - -  
8 Department of Education - - programs and - -  
9 district public high schools across the city.  
10 The - - . These primarily - - students from the  
11 district - - . The vast majority of - - public  
12 schools - - . Our - - in order to [audio skips  
13 and muffled] opportunities and - - support  
14 initiative for all schools - - . If we - - we  
15 would seek to - - schools - - work together to  
16 figure out how - - , and - - program also - - as  
17 much as you want to have - - questions you might  
18 have about - - process and our outreach process  
19 for those students - - . Thank you.

20 FEMALE VOICE 3: - - for all.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ROBINSON: - - McGill - - .

23 MS. MCGILL: [Audio skips].

24 [Applause]

25 MS. MCGILL: I feel [audio skips] my

1 children, our children [audio skips].

2 [Applause]

3 MS. MCGILL: [Audio skips]

4 [Applause]

5 MS. ROBINSON: Our next speaker is Ms. Marie  
6 Bridges.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. MARIE BRIDGES: Good evening everyone.  
9 You've had an opportunity to hear [audio skips].

10 [Applause]

11 MS. BRIDGES: And I am also the president of  
12 Queens Community PTSA. We are the only [audio  
13 skips]. We have been - - because basically you  
14 have known that we have been there since the - -  
15 our community - - and a lot of public schools.  
16 We have been to the schools. So, I don't know  
17 who you're talking to, but it - - . We need - -  
18 because when I was head of - - and graduate from  
19 a - - school.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. BRIDGES: We have - - to make sure that  
22 the next generation of our students do the same.  
23 We have - - . August Martin is the last school  
24 that we have left.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. BRIDGES: We have a group of programs  
2 that we have here and then some and - - we can  
3 do it.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. BRIDGES: - - , I have no - - against  
6 you but you need to find your own space. This  
7 is my home, our school's home, this is our - -  
8 home, this is our community home. Please find  
9 your own space. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. BRIDGES: Oh, wait. They do not engage  
12 with us. The - - is incorrect and the way the  
13 CIS statement reads is if you read through that  
14 statement, there's no - - . So, that is, in  
15 fact, in our school. Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Ms. Bridges. Our  
18 next speaker is - - Roberts. Our next speaker  
19 is - - I guess that's Robinson Sanchez.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. ROBINSON SANCHEZ: So, I've been here a  
22 couple of times already in similar circumstances  
23 [audio skips]. So, I want to applaud you all -  
24 - .

25 [Applause]

1 MR. SANCHEZ: [Audio skips] didn't have  
2 any problems. [Audio skips] because what we  
3 would like to see is - - and make sure that - -  
4 and that - - within the school, meaning that - -  
5 suspensions within a year for students not  
6 achieving and within the same school, the - - .  
7 I would also like to see that - - and that - -  
8 at the school, because - - by simply - - another  
9 school.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. SANCHEZ: - - . That was - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MR. SANCHEZ: And we - - . So, I want to  
14 celebrate the fact that you're here. I want you  
15 to be here every day because we need - - so that  
16 we can - - nothing to help us - - I'm going to -  
17 - we have hope. The last thing we need is for  
18 anyone, any schools to come in - - . Thank you  
19 very much.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. Sanchez. Our  
22 next speaker - - Patty Power. [Audio skips].

23 MS. PATTY POWER: Hi. Good evening  
24 everyone. My name is Patty Power and I'm a - -  
25 and I'm here to speak to you about - - and about

1 how I'm not supporting [audio skips] and each  
2 and every one of them [audio skips].

3 [Applause]

4 MS. POWER: Because you see our kids [audio  
5 skips] in this school - - already some very  
6 innovative programs, the - - the aviation  
7 program, the culinary arts school, the  
8 technology, the legal services - - , and as an  
9 attorney living in this community, we are ready  
10 and we are willing to work with these children,  
11 these students here at August Martin to make  
12 sure they have the best - - . Do you know why -  
13 - ? Because we don't have funding. They have  
14 teachers - - . The Board of Education took away  
15 the funding for - - to the program. Now they do  
16 have money to create a new school within August  
17 Martin but they refuse to give us the money to  
18 expand the programs here so our children can be  
19 better - - , so that our children can be the  
20 role models of the future - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MS. POWER: And we are not going to stand  
23 here any longer and watch the Board of Education  
24 take money from a high school that is already  
25 deserving to give it to - - new school within

1 this location. Give us the money.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. POWER: Invest in - - . Ms. - - we are  
4 going back to Board of Education to tell them we  
5 are no longer standing for separate and unequal.  
6 We are now demanding no separate - - in this  
7 school and we will not - - August Martin. We  
8 want to expand the programs that are working.  
9 We want to create new programs - - this one.  
10 It's a new administration downtown and yet we  
11 have to - - ourselves to say we cannot - - any  
12 longer. Not here, not - - and not - - .

13 [Applause]

14 MS. POWER: I know people have said this  
15 before because I have experienced that - - that  
16 sometimes it's a done deal, but this [audio  
17 skips]. So, we are going to stand firm that we  
18 want - - resources in this school, we want to  
19 expand the programs, and we want - - in August  
20 Martin. Stand up and fight.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ROBINSON: The speaker list is - - .  
23 Again, we welcome any further comments and  
24 feedback you may have at any time before the  
25 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this

1 proposal at its April 29th meeting. Again,  
2 the email address and phone number where  
3 comments may be made are  
4 D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov and 212-374-7621.  
5 Thank you very much for your participation and  
6 feedback this evening. The joint public hearing  
7 is now closed.

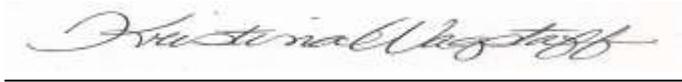
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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature 

Date April 21, 2015