



### **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: October 10, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Temporary Siting and Co-location of New School 24Q110 with Existing School P.S. 199 Maurice A. Fitzgerald (24Q199) in Building Q841 Beginning in the 2012-2013 School Year and Continuing No Later Than the 2014-2015 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: October 11, 2012

### **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to site and co-locate New School 24Q110 (“24Q110”) with P.S. 199 Maurice A. Fitzgerald (24Q199, “P.S. 199”), an existing K-4 school, in the newly leased portion of the St. Raphael’s Building Q841 (“Q841”), located at 48-25 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, in Community School District 24 (“District 24”), beginning in 2012-2013. 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.

On August 27, 2012, the DOE issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to site and co-locate 24Q110 with P.S. 199 in the newly leased portion of Q841. On October 5, 2012, the DOE issued an amended EIS that corrects the address of Q841.

24Q110 is a new unzoned elementary school that will open in September 2012 in Q841, where it will be co-located with an annex of P.S. 199 in District 24. 24Q110 will serve kindergarten students who are overflowed from their zoned schools in the Corona/Elmhurst neighborhoods in 2012-2013. The Q841 building will be used to incubate 24Q110 until the school can be re-sited to a long term location where it will grow to scale as a K-5.

P.S. 199 is a zoned district elementary school that will use four full-size rooms and one administrative space in building Q841 in 2012-2013 as an annex to serve four sections of first grade. P.S. 199 serves most of its students in building Q199, located at 39-20 48th Ave, but utilizes some space in building Q841, which is

located nearby, to accommodate students who cannot be served in building Q199.<sup>1</sup> P.S. 199 is currently unable to accommodate all of its zoned students in main building Q199, and the DOE anticipates that P.S. 199 will continue to serve approximately four class sections in building Q841 in the coming years to accommodate its zoned students.

Due to overcrowding in District 24, many zoned schools have found it necessary to divert incoming kindergarten students and offer them an alternative placement at other schools within the district. As a result of this overcrowding, in June 2012 there were 383 waitlisted kindergarten students in District 24. When it became evident that it would not be possible to identify enough seats to accommodate all of the 383 waitlisted children in existing district schools and public school buildings, the DOE determined that it was necessary to find a suitable school-ready private space to lease in order to open a new school to alleviate overcrowding in District 24 and serve as an overflow site for the district for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. The School Construction Authority (“SCA”) was able to locate newly available school-ready private space in District 24 in the Q841 building to site a new school to accommodate a large number of waitlisted students. The Q841 building was most recently occupied by the St. Raphael School, which shared the Q841 building with the annex of P.S. 199 during the 2011-2012 school year. The St. Raphael School ceased operations at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

To immediately site a new school in the Q841 building for the start of the 2012-2013 school year, the Chancellor issued an Emergency Declaration on June 15, 2012 that provides for the siting and co-location of 24Q110 with P.S. 199 in Q841 to be in effect for a six-month period and to continue thereafter if approved by the PEP.<sup>2</sup> 24Q110 will enroll general education and special education kindergarten students who are overflowed from their zoned schools due to severe overcrowding for the 2012-2013 school year.

If this proposal to site and co-locate 24Q110 with P.S. 199 is approved, 24Q110 will expand to include first grade during the 2013-2014 school year in building Q841, and second grade during the 2014-2015 school year in building Q841. The DOE intends to re-site 24Q110 to a long term location within District 24 when new construction becomes available after the 2014-2015 school year. If re-siting 24Q110 to new construction is not feasible at that time for any reason, the DOE will re-assess the space at the Q841 building and if appropriate may extend the co-location, or propose an alternative siting plan. The DOE would issue a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing any alternate plan for 24Q110.

Q841 has the capacity to serve 355 students. In 2012-2013, the building will serve 270 students in kindergarten through first grade, yielding an estimated utilization

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<sup>1</sup> Additionally, P.S. 199 houses some students in Q938 transportable classroom units and in building Q777.

<sup>2</sup> The Emergency Declaration is available at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/documents/CPED/default.htm>

rate of 76%. If this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space to accommodate 24Q110 and four sections of P.S. 199 first grade students. In the 2014-2015 school year, when 24Q110 is in its third year of incubation, the Q841 building will serve approximately 360-400 students, yielding an estimated utilization rate of 101%-113%.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS, which can be accessed here: [www.schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Oct2012Proposals](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Oct2012Proposals)

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S.110.

### **Summary of Comments Received**

A joint public hearing regarding the proposal was held at P.S. 110 on October 2, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing and 2 people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 24 Community Superintendent Madelene Chan; District 24 Community Education Council (“CEC 24”) President Nick Comaianni; CEC 24 Members Connie Partinico, Maria D’Amico and John D’Amico; Karyna Tejada, Principal of P.S. 110; Anthony Inzerillo, Principal of P.S. 199; Ms. Oliveras and Mr. Brincat representing the P.S. 199 School Leadership Team; Mr. Cornejo representing the P.S. 110 School Leadership Team; Katie Jedilinic, representative of Assemblywoman Nolan; Matt Wallace, representative of Councilmember VanBramer; and Emily Ades and Jillian Roland from the Office of Portfolio Management.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on October 2, 2012 on the proposal:

**Comment 1:** Nick Comaianni, President of CEC 24, expressed approval of the proposal. He stated that the CEC is in favor of incubations of new schools to create more capacity prior to the completion of the construction of the new school buildings in the district in order to help alleviate overcrowding. He noted that the CEC suggests incubating P.S. 110 at I.S. 125 so that the space at the St. Raphael building where P.S. 110 is currently located can be used to expand P.S. 199 from a K-4 school to a K-5 school.

**Comment 2:** A commenter inquired if his child could remain at P.S. 110 until third grade.

The DOE received 1 written comment through its dedicated e-mail and no oral comments through its dedicated phone line for this proposal.

**Comment 3:** A commenter emailed to inquire if the St. Raphael building would be a potential site for a District 30 middle school Gifted and Talented Program.

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

**Comment 1** addressed the idea of incubating P.S. 110 at an alternate site. I.S. 125 does not have the space to accommodate the incubation of P.S. 110. In terms of the expansion of P.S. 199 to serve grades K-5, the DOE is further exploring options to align P.S. 199 with district elementary schools in future years once P.S. 110 is re-sited.

**Comment 2** was addressed by the District Community Superintendent directly. In accordance with Chancellors Regulation A-101, students who have been reassigned to a school other than their zoned school on the basis of an approved capping plan may remain on the waitlist for their zoned school until a deadline as established by the Office of Student Enrollment. In cases when kindergarten students are reassigned, any available first grade seats for the following year will first be offered to the reassigned kindergarten students in waitlist order. Students who have been reassigned may decline a return to the zoned school and remain at the overflow school. By declining their return, such students will no longer have an automatic right of transfer to the zoned school based on place of residence.

**Comment 3** was an inquiry about utilizing the St. Raphael site to accommodate a District 30 Gifted and Talented Middle School. The St. Raphael building is located within the geographical confines of District 24 and is being utilized to address the overcrowding in elementary schools in that district.

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

No changes have been made to this proposal.