

### **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: March 20, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School (84KTBD) with Existing School P.S. 243 The Weeksville School (16K243) in Building K243 Beginning in 2012-2013

Date of Panel Vote: March 21, 2012

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### **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to site Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School (84KTBD, “Launch Charter School”) in Building K243 (“K243”), located at 1580 Dean Street in Brooklyn’s Community School District 16 beginning in 2012-2013. Launch Charter School is a new public charter school that has been approved by its authorizer, the New York State Education Department (“NYSED”) to serve up to 461 students in sixth through tenth grade. Only Launch Charter School’s sixth through eighth grades will be co-located in K243. Launch Charter School would be co-located in K243 with existing elementary school P.S. 243 The Weeksville School (16K243, “P.S. 243”), which serves students in grades kindergarten through five and offers a pre-kindergarten program. K243 also houses four community based organizations (“CBOs”) that offer varied programming to the P.S. 243 school community. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share large, common spaces like the auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K243 has the capacity to serve 895 students. Currently, the building serves 357 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 40%. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, the first year of the proposed co-location, Launch Charter School will serve approximately 90-115 students in sixth grade. Launch Charter School will then add one grade each year until serves approximately 244-312 students in sixth through eighth grades in 2014-2015. At that time, K243 is projected to serve approximately 540-668 students enrolled in P.S. 243 and Launch Charter School, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 60%-75%. Thus, K243 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed co-location.

Expeditionary Learning, an educational service provider with approximately 170 schools in its network, has been approved by NYSED, its charter authorizer, to open Launch Charter School for the 2012-2013 school year. Launch Charter School has been approved by NYSED to serve up to 461 students in sixth through tenth grade. However, the DOE has informed Launch Charter School that K243 cannot accommodate both the school’s middle and high school grades based on the space available in the building, which is why this proposal is for the siting of Launch Charter School’s middle school grades only. The DOE will consider all long-term options to accommodate the anticipated growth of Launch Charter School, which may include siting some of its grades at a different location.

The DOE believes in the potential of Launch Charter School and supports the placement of this charter school in District 16 in order to continue providing educational options for students and families.

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) describing this proposal is available in the main office of P.S. 243 and on the DOE’s website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012PEP.htm>.

Copies are also available in the main office of P.S. 243.

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing**

A Joint Public Hearing regarding this proposal was held at K243 on March 8, 2012. At the hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 25 members of the public attended the hearing and one person spoke. Present at the meeting were Evelyn Santiago, District 16 Community Superintendent; Karen Hambright-Glover, Principal of P.S. 243; Pegye Johnson, President of the District 16 Community Education Council (“CEC”); Felicia Alexander, second Vice President of the District 16 CEC; and Jamal Young of the New York State Education Department (“NYSED”). Also present were Carrie Marlin, Debra Schwartzman, Antonio Whitaker and Toby Shepherd of the DOE.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on March 8, 2012:

1. Geoffrey Roehm, the Executive Director of Launch Charter School, shared his enthusiasm for the proposed co-location.

In addition to collecting feedback at the Joint Public Hearing referenced above, the DOE solicited feedback on this proposal via email, telephone and an internet feedback form.

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

No issues were raised in oral or written comments submitted to the DOE.

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

Comment 1 is in favor of the proposal and does not require a response.

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

In response to public feedback, the following changes to the proposal were made:

- No changes have been made.