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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION -  
DIVISION OF PORTFOLIO  
PLANNING**

**Partial Re-siting of 24Q199 to Q777**  
**3/18/15**  
**5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MADELEINE CHAN: Hi everyone. Good  
3 evening. My name is Madeleine Chan. I'm the  
4 superintendent of district 24 and for those of  
5 you who sat and watched me eat dinner, I'm very-  
6 -I'm sorry for that. I just--had to eat  
7 something. I was absolutely starving from  
8 today. So we do thank you for coming out this  
9 evening for the joint public hearing. This is a  
10 joint public hearing of the Department of  
11 Education Community Education Council and School  
12 Leadership Teams for the proposed re-siting of a  
13 portion of PS199, the Maurice A. Fitzgerald, to  
14 the 199 building beginning in the 2015/2016  
15 school year. We have asked the district 24  
16 community ed council and the school leadership  
17 teams from PS199 and PS343, the Children's Lab  
18 School, to participate in this joint public  
19 hearing. I'm joined this evening by Principal  
20 Anthony Inzerillo from PS199 and Principal  
21 Brooke Barr from PS343. You can cheer.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. BROOKE BARR: Thank you - - .

24 MS. CHAN: Carl Chiaramonte from the CEC.

25 MR. CARL CHIARAMONTE: Thank you.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. CHAN: And Ms. Alison Colchamiro from PS  
3 - - .

4 [Applause]

5 MS. CHAN: This hearing is being audio and  
6 videotaped and recorded. The purpose of this  
7 hearing is for you to provide comments about the  
8 proposal. Before I describe the proposal, I  
9 want to make sure you are all aware of the  
10 opportunity to provide your input. All of those  
11 who wish to speak, must sign up in the speaker  
12 sign-up area located just outside the  
13 auditorium. The sign-up list will close in 15  
14 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
15 the order that they sign up. All comments are  
16 limited to two minutes. So I currently have a  
17 list. If anyone else is interested, you are  
18 welcome to sign up. There may be elected  
19 officials who arrive at different times  
20 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,  
21 we will do our best to accommodate them at the  
22 first opportune moment. Those who are here at  
23 the start of the public comment segment will be  
24 asked to speak first. All comments will be  
25 mentioned in the analysis of public comment to

1 be published and provided to the Panel for  
2 Educational Policy the evening the panel votes.  
3 The vote is scheduled for March 25th. In  
4 addition, we welcome any comments and feedback  
5 you have at any time before the panel votes on  
6 this proposal. The email address and phone  
7 number where comments may be made are  
8 d24proposals@schools.nyc.gov, 212-374-7621. At  
9 this time I'm going to read the proposal  
10 summary. On May 29, 2014, the Panel for  
11 Educational Policy, better known as the PEP,  
12 approved the proposal to temporarily re-site and  
13 co-locate a portion of PS199 with the Children's  
14 Lab School here in building Q313 located at 4545  
15 42nd Street, Queens, New York 11104. As  
16 construction was completed in building Q777  
17 located at 50-15 44th Street, Queens, New York  
18 11377. PS199 is an existing zoned elementary  
19 school that serves students in kindergarten  
20 through 5th grade. The Children's Lab School is  
21 an existing elementary school that current  
22 serves students in kindergarten and will  
23 continue to phase-in until it reaches full  
24 scale, grade K through 5 in the 2019/2020 school  
25 year. The purpose of this proposal is to

1 partially re-site the portion of PS199 that is  
2 temporarily located here in building 2313 back  
3 to its long-term site, building Q777. A re-  
4 siting means that a school would be located in a  
5 different building than the building it is  
6 currently located in. When the original  
7 temporary re-siting was proposed, the DOE did  
8 not believe that construction on Q777 will be  
9 complete by the 2015/16 school year. However,  
10 the DOE has since confirmed that building Q77  
11 will be ready for occupancy in September 2015.  
12 PS199 currently serves students across four  
13 buildings. This building, Q313, building Q199  
14 located at 3920 48th Avenue, building Q841  
15 located at 4825 37th Street, and building Q938,  
16 which is a transportable classroom unit  
17 otherwise known as a TCU located at 39-20 48th  
18 Avenue. The added capacity of building Q777  
19 will facilitate the removal of TCUQ938. Thus,  
20 if this proposal is approved, PS199 will serve  
21 students across buildings Q199, Q841, Q777,  
22 beginning in the 2015/2016 school year.  
23 Buildings Q199, Q841, and Q777 will have a  
24 combined target capacity of 1098 students in the  
25 2015/16 school year and beyond. In the 2015/16

1 school year, PS199 will serve approximately  
2 1020 to 1080 students yielding a combined  
3 projected building utilization rate of 96 to 98  
4 percent. Additionally, on October 22nd, 2013,  
5 the district 24 CEC approved a plan to create a  
6 new elementary school zone for PS343. Since  
7 PS343 was carved out of PS199's zone, the  
8 rezoning will continue to impact PS199's  
9 enrollment. This rezoning will take full effect  
10 by the 2019/2020 school year at which point  
11 PS199 will serve 855 to 915 students in  
12 kindergarten through 5th grade. At that point,  
13 building Q199, Q841, and Q777 will have a  
14 combined projected utilization rate of 78 to 83  
15 percent. If this proposal approved the  
16 projected combined building utilization rate for  
17 Q199, Q841 and Q777 represents a decrease from  
18 Q199 and Q841's current combined building  
19 utilization and overall improvement of learning  
20 conditions for PQ199 students through the  
21 removal the TCUQ938. Building Q199 also houses  
22 two community-based organizations, CBOs,  
23 Sunnyside Community Services, which provides  
24 literacy services to the PS199 community, and  
25 Western Queens Counseling, which provides

1 counseling to the students. This proposal is  
2 not expected to impact the continued siting of  
3 these programs in Q199. So that is the end of  
4 the summary proposal. And at this time, if  
5 anyone on the panel would like to speak...

6 MR. INZERILLO: Good evening, Ms. Chan, Ms.  
7 Elijah, Ms. Chiaramonte, Mrs. Barr, Ms.  
8 Colchamiro and - - community members. My name  
9 is Anthony Inzerillo and the proud principal of  
10 PS199. On behalf of the PS199 school community,  
11 I would like to extend my appreciate for  
12 providing me with an opportunity to discuss the  
13 possible utilization of the annex at St. Teresa.  
14 I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank  
15 Ms. Barr, principal of PS343 for sharing her  
16 space with us this school year. It has been an  
17 absolute pleasure working with her and her  
18 school staff So thank you Brooke. We  
19 appreciate that. PS199 is a K to five school  
20 with a dynamic staff, super - - students,  
21 involved parents in an overall supportive  
22 community. The staff at PS199 work hard each  
23 day to ensure an excellent education is provided  
24 for our students, no excuses. - - reflects the  
25 hard work of our exceptional staff, students and

1 parents. Our school quality guide indicates we  
2 score excellent in making progress in ELA and  
3 math. And the quality review that was conducted  
4 on February 5th reflects a rating of well-  
5 developed in all five categories with an overall  
6 score of well-developed. Prior to the well-  
7 developed score, PS199 scored an A on its  
8 progress report for three consecutive years. So  
9 congratulations to our students, our staff, and  
10 our community. Great job. Very well done.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. INZERILLO: For eleven years, PS199 has  
13 maintained two - - , transportable classrooms  
14 and a main building and yet - - has never  
15 received any additional funding to support these  
16 annexes. In order to support the students and  
17 ensure the safety of an annex, we do require  
18 additional funds. I estimate these costs to be  
19 \$175,000 per annex building. In addition, to  
20 ensure the move from one building to another  
21 goes as smoothly as possible, teachers and staff  
22 need time to pack up their instructional  
23 materials and supplies and then they need time  
24 to set up their classrooms before the start of  
25 2015/2016 school year. - - has not received any

1 funding to help pay for the costs of moving,  
2 and I have to say last school year, we had to  
3 make seven different moves from various  
4 buildings and because of the dedication of our  
5 staff, our parents, our children, our community,  
6 it went flawless. So congratulations to them.  
7 After careful consideration and analyzing very  
8 carefully our community needs, it was determined  
9 that we do not need to utilize St. Teresa as an  
10 annex. Utilizing the St. Teresa annex will be a  
11 financial hardship. We will be able to house  
12 our students very tightly in our main building  
13 and at St. Rafael Annex. In addition, this  
14 decision will benefit PS199 in the following  
15 ways. PS199 students will be housed in two  
16 buildings instead of three, a goal our community  
17 aspire to. There will be fewer concerns from  
18 parents regarding students being spread out  
19 across three buildings. PS199 will not have to  
20 dedicate funding from our already limited budget  
21 to support the St. Teresa Annex. School staff  
22 will not have to scurry to and from three  
23 different buildings. We will not have to  
24 stretch our guidance and related service  
25 resources over three buildings. Or we will not

1 have to--we will not have to stretch  
2 supervisor resources over three buildings and  
3 due to the rezoning of the area and with the  
4 addition of PS343Q, PS199 will lose two classes  
5 each year until the year 2019. This decision  
6 was carefully discussed and agreed upon by our  
7 school leadership team on Wednesday, March 11th.  
8 Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening  
9 and I'll be happy to respond to any questions or  
10 concerns.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. CHAN: Thank you, principal. - - we  
13 appreciate that feedback.

14 MS. ALISON COLCHARMIRO: Good evening,  
15 everyone. My name is Alison Colcharmiro, school  
16 counselor at PS199--also School Leadership Team  
17 chairperson for this year. I just wanted to add  
18 that at the meeting on March 11th, we did  
19 discuss the details, um, of the proposal. And I  
20 speak on behalf of the entire School Leadership  
21 Team. Every member shares the concerns that Mr.  
22 Inzerillo did mention, um, especially just the  
23 fact that it would be a great financial hardship  
24 for our school and, um, we are basically asking  
25 to be housed in two buildings. It would be in

1 the best interest of our entire school  
2 community. So, um, I applaud Mr. Inzerillo for  
3 working to share it. I, um, ditto what he said  
4 and I speak on behalf of our entire school  
5 community. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. CHAN: Thank you, Ms. Colchamiro for  
8 that feedback. And do we have anyone from the  
9 audience who signed up to speak?

10 FEMALE VOICE 1: - - from the SLT1 speak.  
11 There's a--the sheet I gave you had SLT members  
12 on it.

13 MS. CHAN: Anyone from the audience would  
14 like to speak? Anyone from the SLT?

15 MALE VOICE 1: - - .

16 MS. CHAN: - - what? Pernelski? You can  
17 pass. I don't want to put you on the spot. I  
18 just want to be respectful of your position.  
19 You can use the microphone. Thank you.

20 FEMALE VOICE 2: Thank you. Um, I wasn't  
21 planning on speaking tonight. First and  
22 foremost, I just want to say how much we  
23 appreciate parents and staff and, uh, the  
24 administrators at PS199 and how well everyone  
25 there does with our children. As a parent, my

1 experience--sent my child--I made sure that my  
2 child was in the separate annexes that went on.  
3 I sent him to, uh, make sure he was in - -  
4 environment - - first grade. But that was to  
5 more get him socialized because we didn't have  
6 any - - children in our family. Uh, now, I kind  
7 of regret the fact that I difficult that because  
8 the community feeling and the accessibility of  
9 everybody in the main building I find so  
10 wonderful, and I kind of feel like I cheated  
11 myself and my son by sending him to the annexes  
12 where if he could have been in the main building  
13 the whole time or even with St. Rafael's so  
14 close that it would have been a completely  
15 different experience. My son is in 4th grade  
16 now and I kind of--I was really for the 5th  
17 grade because then I got one more year at 199  
18 with him. Um, you know, if I could talk him  
19 into going into eighth I would.

20 [laughter]

21 FEMALE VOICE 2: Uh, you know, and the fact  
22 that, you know, if my son comes back and he  
23 says, you know, I didn't do too good in there.  
24 It's, like, oh, okay. If you want to repeat a  
25 grade, we'll stay at 199. But, I mean, it's

1 true. It's amazing what the staff and  
2 especially what Mr. Inzerillo and the assistant  
3 principals do with the limited funding, and the  
4 fact that they did move and, you know, they did  
5 take care of everything. And to be able to have  
6 that and actually maybe even have some money to  
7 play with. I mean, not even to say play but,  
8 you know, to actually put into something instead  
9 of trying to find every little penny here and  
10 there would be absolutely amazing. And I know  
11 that other parents that I've spoken to, uh, feel  
12 the same way that--how amazing the staff is  
13 everything and just how to concentrate it would  
14 just make life easier for everyone involved.  
15 That was it.

16 MS. CHAN: Thank you.

17 FEMALE VOICE 2: Thank you.

18 MS. CHAN: Okay. Last call for speakers.

19 FEMALE VOICE 3: I have a question. My  
20 question is about only two buildings. It's  
21 going to impact the number of the students.

22 MS. CHAN: We're proposing three buildings.

23 FEMALE VOICE 3: Okay. But they are saying  
24 about...

25 MS. CHAN: But the proposal is for three

1 buildings. We're just gathering feedback.

2 FEMALE VOICE 3: Okay. My concern is about  
3 how many students there will be each class if  
4 the school has only two buildings. - - .

5 MR. INZERILLO: Right now, I'm proud to say  
6 that PS199 has some of the lowest class sizes.  
7 I know even in my own children's schools, uh,  
8 it's very low. Uh, I don't anticipate our class  
9 size increasing as a result of us utilizing the  
10 two buildings.

11 MS. CHAN: Okay. If--we are going close.  
12 Thank you. PT president. Thank you. Good  
13 evening.

14 MALE VOICE 2: Great to see you all again.  
15 Um, thank you so much for everything you've done  
16 for our school. We do appreciate that you are  
17 working with us and at our last SLT meeting, we  
18 did have a really good discussion with grounds  
19 to merging the two--the three locations. As a  
20 parent, I've noticed during the, the last school  
21 year, transporting the children for the  
22 afterschool program from 848 to PS199 was  
23 somewhat of a stretch because of the location.  
24 Even though they are fairly close, it's still  
25 further away when you're only--we have minimal

1 supervision in bringing the children to the  
2 main school. Um, especially as a working parent  
3 - - one of our main concerns, was their safety.  
4 They've done a great job. When they're at  
5 school, they do a great job. The teachers, the  
6 faculty--everybody has been working  
7 unbelievably. It's incredible how much work  
8 they do with the limited resources they have,  
9 but we're considering--we're asking for the  
10 board to at least consider our proposal to take  
11 into effect that it does make more sense. I  
12 understand that you see it from one side of the  
13 point, but when you're in the community and for  
14 parents like us that are working and trying to  
15 figure this out to better out community, it does  
16 make a lot more sense. In regards to the money,  
17 yes, there is - - I think we had that at a  
18 conversation before that we had for more and  
19 this is really - - make more sense especially we  
20 added on the fifth grade. Um, if we're adding  
21 on any other grades, it shouldn't a battle.  
22 There really shouldn't be a battle. We should  
23 be open - - for us to at least ask for what we  
24 need and get it. Um, we shouldn't be going back  
25 and forth. But we do ask that--at this time--

1 please consider our proposal - - .

2 MS. CHAN: I want you to stay there for a  
3 second. So we have members of portfolio here  
4 this evening and I just want to be very  
5 transparent to parents that on March 25th, the  
6 PEP is going to vote on this.

7 MALE VOICE 2: Great.

8 MS. CHAN: So that's the Panel for  
9 Educational Policy.

10 MALE VOICE 2: Okay.

11 MS. CHAN: And they will receive all of this  
12 feedback that the school would like to move from  
13 three to two.

14 MALE VOICE 2: Okay.

15 MS. CHAN: And then they will make the  
16 decision on the proposals. So that is going to  
17 take place on March 25th.

18 MALE VOICE 2: Thank you again.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. CHAN: Do we have any other speaks  
21 before we close? Okay. Again, we welcome any  
22 comments and feedback you may have at any time  
23 before the Panel for Educational Policy--the  
24 PEP--votes on this proposal at its March 25th  
25 meeting. The email address and phone number

1 where comments may be made are  
2 D24proposals@schools.nyc.gov, 212-374-7621. It  
3 is important for feedback to be sent to that  
4 website--that email rather and the phone number.  
5 So I'd like to thank everyone for joining us  
6 this evening and this joint public hearing is  
7 now closed.

8 [END RECORDING]

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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 March 22, 2015