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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Opening and Co-Location of New  
District HS @ K420/Lane  
9/30/13**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 [Background conversation]

3 MS. KAREN WATTS: Good evening. We're going  
4 to go ahead and get started now, so I'd like  
5 everyone to come forward, and take a seat.

6 MALE VOICE 1: [Foreign audio 00:01:28-  
7 00:01:37].

8 MS. WATTS: I don't think they can hear you.  
9 - - closer and..

10 MALE VOICE 1: Okay. [Foreign audio  
11 00:01:41-00:01:59].

12 MS. WATTS: Thank you. Good evening. This  
13 is a joint public hearing of the Department of  
14 Education, Community Education Council, and  
15 school leadership teams, concerning the proposed  
16 co-location of a new district high school, with  
17 Multicultural High School, Academy of Innovative  
18 Technology, Brooklyn Lab School, and Cypress  
19 Hills Collegiate Preparatory School, in building  
20 K420, beginning in 2014-2015. I'm  
21 Superintendent Karen Watts. We have asked the  
22 District 19 Community Education Council and the  
23 school leadership teams in building K420, to  
24 participate in this joint public hearing. I'm  
25 joined tonight by Miss Patti Eagan-Steiner

1 [phonetic], of the SLT of the Innovative  
2 Technology School Leadership Team, and Tonya  
3 Barrett, and Courtney Gonzalez from the CEC.  
4 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose of  
5 this hearing is for you to provide comments  
6 about the proposal. Before I describe the  
7 proposal, I want to make sure you're all aware  
8 of the opportunity to provide your input. All  
9 those who wish to speak must sign up in the  
10 speaker signup area located just outside the  
11 auditorium. The signup list will close in 15  
12 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
13 the order that they have signed up. All  
14 comments are limited to two minutes. There may  
15 be elected officials who arrive at different  
16 times throughout the evening. If they wish to  
17 speak, we will do our best to accommodate them  
18 at the first opportune moment. Those who are  
19 here at the start of the public comment segment  
20 will be asked to speak first. All comments will  
21 be mentioned in the analysis of public comment  
22 to be published and provided to the Panel for  
23 Education Policy the evening before the panel  
24 votes. That vote is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>,  
25 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Prospect Heights

1 campus, located at 883 Classon Ave., Brooklyn,  
2 New York, 11225. In addition, we welcome any  
3 comments and feedback you may have at any time  
4 before the panel votes on this proposal. The  
5 email address and phone number where comments  
6 may be made are [D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov),  
7 and (212) 374-0208. Here now is the proposal  
8 summary. The New York City Department of  
9 Education is proposing to co-locate a new high  
10 school at the Franklin K. Lake Campus in  
11 building K420, beginning in the 2014-2015 school  
12 year. Building K420 is located at 999 Jamaica  
13 Ave., Brooklyn, New York, 11208, in Community  
14 School District 19. If this proposal is  
15 approved, the new high school will open in the  
16 2014-2015 school year, serving ninth graders,  
17 and will be co-located with four other high  
18 schools in building K420: Multicultural High  
19 School, Academy of Innovative Technology,  
20 Brooklyn Lab School, and Cypress Hills  
21 Collegiate Preparatory School. As a district  
22 high school, the new school's admission policy  
23 will be through the citywide high school  
24 admissions process, with a limited unscreened  
25 admissions method. Limited unscreened schools

1 give admissions priority to students who  
2 demonstrate interest in the school by attending  
3 an information session, open house event, or  
4 visiting the school's exhibit at any of the high  
5 school fairs. The DOE has identified the K420  
6 building as an underutilized building.  
7 According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity  
8 Utilization Report, or the Blue Book, building  
9 K420 has the capacity to serve 3,001 students.  
10 In the current 2013-2014 school year, the four  
11 schools on the campus are serving combined  
12 approximately 1,480 students. This yields a  
13 utilization rate of approximately 49%, which  
14 indicates that the building is underutilized,  
15 and has space to accommodate additional  
16 students. If this proposal is approved, in  
17 2017-2018, once the new high school has fully  
18 phased in, the new high school is projected to  
19 serve approximately 300 to 340 students in 9<sup>th</sup>  
20 through the 12<sup>th</sup> grades. At that time,  
21 Multicultural High School is expected to serve  
22 approximately 310 to 350 students. Innovative  
23 Technology is expected to serve approximately  
24 370 to 410 students, while Brooklyn Lab and  
25 Cypress Hills Collegiate are projected to serve

1 about 360 to 400 students each. In all, the  
2 five schools are projected to serve a total of  
3 1,700 to 1,900 students, yielding a building  
4 utilization rate of approximately 57 to 63%.  
5 The proposed co-location is not expected to  
6 impact current or future student enrollment,  
7 admission policies, or instructional or  
8 extracurricular programming at the existing  
9 schools in K420. It should also be noted that  
10 Innovative Technology offers three career and  
11 technical education programs. These  
12 programmatic offerings are not expected to be  
13 impacted as a result of this proposal. In  
14 addition to the existing high schools, the K420  
15 building houses a Living for the Young Family  
16 through Education, or LYFE program, an Air Force  
17 Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, also  
18 known as ROTC program, a Young Adult Borough  
19 Center, or YABC, and two community-based  
20 organizations, the Student Success Center and  
21 Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation.  
22 The proposal is not anticipated to impact the  
23 space allocated to, or the services provided by  
24 these organizations. Thank you. The next  
25 presenter will be Courtney Gonzalez of the CEC.

1 MS. COURTNEY GONZALEZ: Good evening,  
2 everyone. I'm Courtney Gonzalez, the recording  
3 secretary for District 19's Community Education  
4 Council. And on behalf of the Community  
5 Education Council, we have Tonya Barrett. And -  
6 -. We are just basically here - - so we're just  
7 getting all this information. We want to know  
8 what's going on. We hear exactly where the  
9 parents are coming from, how they are feeling  
10 about this co-location. In general, this is - -  
11 children. We are here to support your children.  
12 We are here to identify the needs of the  
13 parents, so that way their needs are, and their  
14 children's needs are. I haven't gotten a  
15 chance, the board hasn't gotten a chance - - to  
16 the board. So hopefully - - we can sit and  
17 review it and be able to discuss amongst  
18 ourselves - - address the council, how we will  
19 address the board. As far as the CEC, we're  
20 just here to support each and every one of the  
21 parents as best as we know how, 'cause we don't  
22 want the parents' voices to go unheard. We see  
23 the effect of the co-locations that are going on  
24 in District 19, and how they are affecting our  
25 children, 'cause it's not just one co-location.

1 It is happening all over the borough. So as a  
2 community and as the board, we have to hear what  
3 the needs are before we can move on and decide  
4 anything, because we are here to support the  
5 parents, and we're here to voice our - - for the  
6 children. This was a proposal that was already  
7 put out before the board, before we were even -  
8 -. So as, on behalf of the board, we have to  
9 review it first - -, so we understand - -.  
10 Personally, I could tell you I'm new to this.  
11 And - - address it, and see what's going on.

12 MS. WATTS: Thank you. The next presenter  
13 will be Patti - - Steiner of the Innovative  
14 Technology School Leadership Team.

15 MS. PATTI EAGAN-STEINER: Good evening. I'm  
16 a member of the School Leadership Team at AOIT  
17 High School. I'd like to read my statement, so  
18 please. On behalf of the SLT for AOIT, we would  
19 like to express our concerns and disappointment  
20 of this proposal. The building on paper may  
21 seem viable to hold another school. But in  
22 working reality, the four already existing  
23 administrations are finding themselves stretched  
24 to share common spaces. For example,  
25 programming of gyms, cafeteria, library, locker

1 rooms. Adding another school with another  
2 administration would pose strong programming  
3 difficulties in this shared space. The proposal  
4 states that AOIT will not be affected, but our  
5 programs at AOIT are expanding. Our game design  
6 program is growing, and we will need more space  
7 to accommodate computer access and special rooms  
8 for computers. In the proposal it says that the  
9 building is underutilized by the numbers of  
10 students. We would like the committee, or the  
11 Board of Ed to consider why not add students to  
12 the existing schools already, so that will not  
13 pose problems with programming. You're just  
14 making better utilize of the programs that are  
15 already here. Rather than 381 students in one  
16 school, make it up to 450. Since AOIT is a  
17 highly rated B school, why not add more students  
18 to that school with its excellent programming?  
19 Instead of 410 children, have 500 or 600  
20 children. And then those, the money would be  
21 filtered towards that school to fund already  
22 existing good programs. So we would like to say  
23 that we would like to add students to the  
24 existing programs rather than a new school,  
25 which would pose programming difficulties.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. WATTS: Thank you. Then next presenter  
3 will be Erica Perez of the CEC.

4 MS. ERICA PEREZ: Hi, good evening. I'm  
5 president of the CEC for District 19. After  
6 careful examination of the proposal, the CEC  
7 does not think it's in the best interest of the  
8 existing high school to add in another high  
9 school. The reason that we feel this way is  
10 that for a school that was --, that they --,  
11 to oversaturate it with a fourth school would  
12 just cause overcrowding all over again, and it's  
13 not solving the problem. We feel that the space  
14 would be better utilized to be broken up amongst  
15 the three existing schools, and give more  
16 support to the three existing schools. As I  
17 looked over the proposal, I see that the school  
18 sports, it comes out as non-applicable on --  
19 here. Maybe if we can -- funding into sports  
20 and build the children's morale, we'll have a  
21 higher graduation rate. Thank you.

22 MS. WATTS: Thank you. We have now  
23 concluded the formal presentations. We will now  
24 open the floor for public comments. Speakers  
25 will be given the floor in the order that they

1 signed up. All comments are limited to two  
2 minutes. We would like to ask that if you are  
3 speaking and when your name is called for you to  
4 come up, to the silver bar over here, on the  
5 right. Okay, so the first speaker is Michelle  
6 Neugebauer?

7 MS. MICHELLE NEUGEBAUER: Neugebauer. Hi,  
8 my name is Michelle Neugebauer. I run the  
9 Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation.  
10 Our organization is a non-for-profit community  
11 development organization and settlement house.  
12 And we run the Student Success Center here on  
13 the campus of Franklin K. Lane. We were also a  
14 partner with Cypress Hills Collegiate Prep in  
15 the founding of this school. And my testimony  
16 is really about what type of school is needed on  
17 the campus if a new school is going to come to  
18 the campus, not taking a position on whether it  
19 should or not. But if a new school is coming on  
20 the campus, we feel really strongly that that  
21 new school has to prepare students in a very  
22 rigorous and intentional way for college. So we  
23 believe students, young people in this  
24 neighborhood deserve international baccalaureate  
25 programs. They deserve early college high

1 school programs. That those are really  
2 essential and in lieu of that, as many advanced  
3 placement classes as can possibly be offered,  
4 ninth grade remediation, and ramp-up  
5 instruction, so that young people coming into  
6 the school at levels one and two can really ramp  
7 up very quickly to do the four years of math,  
8 science, foreign language instruction that are  
9 needed to get them to college, and prepared for  
10 college. We're really looking for a school  
11 that's going to partner with the Student Success  
12 Center, that's going to believe that every young  
13 person in the neighborhood can and should go to  
14 college, that's going to help forge new college  
15 partnerships for students on the campus. And  
16 lastly we're looking for a school that's going  
17 to collaborate with community organizations,  
18 with parents, and most of all, with young people  
19 to hear their voices, to exemplify and practice  
20 cultural competency, youth development  
21 principles, that's going to listen to young  
22 people, their faculty, their administrators, and  
23 involve them in really the leadership and  
24 administration and vision of their high school.  
25 Thank you.

1 MS. WATTS: Thank you. The next speaker  
2 is Makade Kede [phonetic]?

3 MS. QUEEN MEKADA: No, it's - -.

4 MS. WATTS: How do you pronounce it?

5 MS. MEKADA: It's Queen Mekada [phonetic].  
6 Are you the superintendent?

7 MS. WATTS: Oh, yes. Queen Mekada. Okay.

8 MS. MEKADA: Good evening, parents. I'm  
9 very happy that you're all here. To the CEC,  
10 we're on your page. So I'm not going to use two  
11 minutes, 'cause no one's going to tell me I have  
12 two minutes to talk about saving my school.  
13 Good thing my principal was having his - -,  
14 'cause I wouldn't have even been here to know  
15 that this is happening. It is ridiculous that  
16 in the first few weeks of school, such a hearing  
17 would even be held when principals should be  
18 having - - meetings to support the schools that  
19 exist. You are correct. This campus just got  
20 over being a - - campus. Therefore, the  
21 children that are here now, they are just  
22 acclimating and acculturating themselves to this  
23 environment. To bring another set of students  
24 who have, does not know this population, nor  
25 this area, into this school, while we are not

1 yet firmly set, each of these schools are  
2 growing. Brooklyn Lab right now is already  
3 today at 360 kids. They had the college fair.  
4 My child alone signed up 20 kids. It was  
5 packed, the college fair. And so many children  
6 were interested in this campus. As for the  
7 Rockaways, the school I come from, PS/MS 42, I  
8 was shocked to find so many of my students in  
9 the four schools in this one building. So I go  
10 in another loop. I will speaking to you, the  
11 CEC. I will be speaking to chancellor, and you  
12 will not be co-locating nobody in this building.

13 MS. WATTS: Thank you. The next speaker is  
14 Annemarie Goodman.

15 MS. ANNEMARIE GOODMAN: So I'm Annemarie  
16 Goodman, - -. I'm a - - Colleges, and we work  
17 with the North Shore Long Island Jewish school-  
18 based health center, which is on this campus.  
19 It has been on this campus since about 1990,  
20 servicing all the students that go to this  
21 school. We provide comprehensive medical,  
22 mental health, and reproductive health services  
23 to the students on this campus. Being here  
24 myself since 1997, I can attest that the  
25 building was a whole lot different back then.

1 It was violent; it was chaotic. And there was  
2 a lot of kids who were not getting their needs  
3 served at all. The mental health needs of the  
4 community of the students on this campus is  
5 huge. The psychosocial needs are huge. There  
6 are kids in foster care. There are kids in  
7 shelters. The reproductive health care needs  
8 are huge. And so if a new school was come into  
9 this building, those are things that we need to  
10 be taking into consideration, you know. And  
11 even having more of those type of providers, you  
12 know, in a building, to assist those students.  
13 Also you know, with the changes that have been  
14 happening over the last few years, like the  
15 place of the school building in a really good  
16 place, and there is a real sense of community  
17 here. And I think there is a sense of a campus,  
18 and it's not just like separate schools. And it  
19 took a while for that to happen. And it's  
20 really becoming a campus where people really  
21 work together, and kids are able to access  
22 different services.

23 FEMALE VOICE 1: And where the schools can  
24 work with each other and we as community-based  
25 organizations can work well with each other.

1 And you'll hear from our colleagues in the  
2 building as well.

3 MS. GOODMAN: Thank you.

4 MS. WATTS: Thank you. Okay, the next  
5 speaker is Elizabeth Tooley [phonetic].

6 MS. ELIZABETH TOOLEY: Hi, I am a teacher at  
7 AOIT. This is my third year on this campus. I  
8 just wanted to share feedback as a teacher here,  
9 that a few things I'll say. The first one is  
10 security is a huge issue. Already right now we  
11 have students that are roaming the halls on all  
12 floors, from all different schools. And that's  
13 - - security that we have right now. And it  
14 impedes the teachers for teaching and the  
15 students for learning. And when we have even  
16 more schools, if we don't get proper funding,  
17 it's going to be even worse. We're a small  
18 school for a reason. Everybody knows our  
19 students. They benefit from these small  
20 schools, from knowing teachers that they don't  
21 even have. And this is a humongous campus, and  
22 it is very easy to lose these students that need  
23 to be in class. So to have another school would  
24 be even more of a distraction. It would be very  
25 unhealthy for a lot of our students. In

1 addition, things like lunch lines are very  
2 long. Students are claiming that they can't get  
3 lunch in time, for our one school. The gyms are  
4 over-packed. We've already had to restructure  
5 schedules just this past week because we can't  
6 fit enough of our students into the gym at once.  
7 So if you do choose to start this school, I ask  
8 that you please give the proper amount of  
9 funding not just to them, but to us too.  
10 Because it makes a difference on the entire  
11 community as you see. It's just not them and  
12 their classrooms. This is going to change the  
13 whole entire community of Franklin K. Lake.

14 MS. WATTS: Thank you. - -.

15 FEMALE VOICE 2: Yes, I'm good.

16 MS. WATTS: Our next speaker is Elizabeth  
17 Kahn.

18 MS. ELIZABETH KAHN: My name is Liz Kahn.  
19 I'm the director of College Success Programs at  
20 Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, the  
21 non-profit Michelle spoke about. For five  
22 years, I was the director of the Student Success  
23 Center - - campus. And I still oversee all of  
24 those programs. I want to talk a little bit  
25 about the idea that a new school won't impact

1 the programming and things that we have going  
2 on here. - - on what Annemarie was saying,  
3 which is that the school is really different  
4 from where we were five years ago. The campus  
5 feels different when you walk through the halls.  
6 The principals work together. We have a really  
7 strong collaborative culture here with the CEOs  
8 and the school. We work incredibly hard to  
9 create a stronger college-going culture from  
10 ninth grade up. And like she mentioned, we're  
11 really just getting the hang of things. We're  
12 only in really the second year of the schools  
13 being on this campus without a phase out of  
14 school. And schools are really just getting  
15 their footing. Every school in this building  
16 has new programming, new rigorous coursework  
17 happening this year. Expanded programming like  
18 she was mentioning at AIOT. And that's  
19 happening at every level. And it's not  
20 realistic to say that a new school won't impact  
21 space, won't impact lunch times, won't impact  
22 security, won't impact afterschool. It's just  
23 not real. And also just where we're heading as  
24 a really strong campus will be disrupted by a  
25 new school, if it is that a new school must here

1 despite the fact that with many voices in this  
2 audience who feel very strongly against that.  
3 We really ask that we're looking for a partner  
4 who wants to be part of that culture,  
5 collaborative, college-going, and really wants  
6 to be involved in that type of healthy, safe  
7 community, college-going. And - - to meet those  
8 needs, as everyone that you've heard mention.  
9 There's a lot of mental health needs, security  
10 needs, space needs, and that requires money.  
11 And a new school isn't necessarily going to be  
12 enough to compensate for that. It needs to be  
13 outside - - to meet those needs.

14 MS. WATTS: Thank you. Our last speaker  
15 this evening is Anita Stevenson [phonetic].

16 MS. ANITA STEVENSON: Hello. I'm a parent,  
17 incoming parent. My child is a freshman here at  
18 this school. And I know the impact, my mother  
19 attended Franklin K. Lane. So I know the impact  
20 in seeing the schools in the areas that - -  
21 overcrowded can cause a lot of problems, and I  
22 am totally against adding another school. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. WATTS: Okay, the speaker list is now  
25 exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments and

1 feedback you may have at any time before the  
2 Panel for Education Policy votes on this  
3 proposal at its October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting. The  
4 email address and phone numbers where comments  
5 can be made are [D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov),  
6 and the phone number is (212) 374-0208. Thank  
7 you for your participation. This joint public  
8 hearing is now closed.

9 FEMALE VOICE 3: Wow, that's the shortest  
10 public hearing I've ever been to.

11 [Crosstalk]

12 MALE VOICE 2: Say hi, Karen. How are you?  
13 I made it through my first one.

14 MS. WATTS: Okay, good.

15 MALE VOICE 2: Didn't hurt a bit.

16 MS. WATTS: So I thought you were going to  
17 come up and - -.

18 MALE VOICE 2: Oh, no.

19 MS. WATTS: So now - -.

20 MALE VOICE 2: Now I know.

21 MS. WATTS: Yes.

22 MALE VOICE 2: - - know what I'm talking  
23 about. But--

24 MS. WATTS: [Interposing] Oh, okay.

25 MALE VOICE 2: - -.

1 MS. WATTS: All right.

2 MALE VOICE 2: - - see people are  
3 passionate, so.

4 MS. WATTS: Oh, okay. Take care. Take  
5 care.

6 [Crosstalk]

7 MALE VOICE 3: That was about the smoothest  
8 one I've ever seen. I didn't think there was  
9 going to be much issue. - -.

10 MS. WATTS: All right.

11 MALE VOICE 3: Take care of yourself. See  
12 you - -.

13 MS. WATTS: Okay, you too.

14 [Crosstalk]

15 [END RECORDING]

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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.

Signature



Date October 9, 2013

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