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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING  
PS 124 Kindergarten Annex @ Q223  
March 29, 2012**

1 [START: 290182\_ProcessedAudio\_290\_182]

2 MS. MICHELE LLOYD-BEY: Good evening,  
3 everyone. So, I am Michele Lloyd-Bey,  
4 superintendent in Q27. And tonight this is a  
5 joint public hearing of the Department of  
6 Education, Community Education Council and the  
7 school leadership team for the proposed re-  
8 siting and co-location of one grade of the  
9 Osmond A Church, P.S./I.S. 124, 27Q124, with  
10 existing school, Lyndon B. Johnson, P.S. 223,  
11 27Q223, in the building Q223 beginning in 2012-  
12 2013 school year. And it is my pleasure to be  
13 here with you this evening.

14 We have asked the District 27 Community  
15 Education Council and the School Leadership Team  
16 of P.S. 124-I.S. 124, to participate in this  
17 joint public hearing. And so I'm joined in a  
18 moment on stage, if you don't mind, by Debbie  
19 Capuano.

20 MS. DEBBIE CAPUANO: Capuano.

21 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Capuano. And Ilene Lamana.  
22 We do not have the representative Coral Ann  
23 [phonetic], president of the CEC. I don't think  
24 she's here yet. She hasn't arrived. As well as  
25 principals Valerie Lewis, Debbie Otto and also

1 supporting us is the network leader Joseph  
2 Blaize. Is anyone else here? And UFT  
3 representatives supporter, Elizabeth Smith  
4 [phonetic]. I just want to thank everyone.

5 The purpose of this hearing is for you to  
6 hear or provide comments about the proposal.  
7 And before I describe the proposal, I want to  
8 make sure that everyone is aware of the  
9 opportunity to provide your input. All of those  
10 who wish to speak, you must sign up in the  
11 speaker sign-in area located outside of the  
12 auditorium. And the sign-in sheet-has it closed  
13 yet?

14 FEMALE VOICE: No, it's still open.

15 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Okay, it's going to close in  
16 about 15 minutes. So, any speakers, you can go  
17 out and sign in. Speakers will be given the  
18 floor in the order that they sign up and all  
19 comments are going to be limited to two minutes.  
20 There may be elected officials who arrive at  
21 different times throughout the evening and if  
22 they wish to speak we'll do our best to  
23 accommodate them. - - . Those who were here at  
24 the start of the Public Comment segment will be  
25 asked to speak first. All comments will be

1 mentioned in the "Analysis of Public Comment"  
2 to be published and provided to the panel of  
3 educational policy the evening before the panel  
4 votes. That vote is scheduled for April 26,  
5 2012. In addition, we welcome any comments, any  
6 feedback, that you may have before the panel  
7 votes on both proposals. The email address and  
8 phone number where comments may be made are  
9 d27proposals, with an "s,"—  
10 [d27propasals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d27propasals@schools.nyc.gov). And the telephone  
11 number is 212-374-7621. With that said, I'm  
12 going to move into the proposal summary.

13 The New York City Department of Education,  
14 DOE, is proposing to resite and co-locate the  
15 kindergarten cohort of Osmond A Church, 27Q124,  
16 P.S./I.S. 124, an existing K through 8 school  
17 with Lyndon B. Johnson, P.S. 223, 27Q223—thank  
18 you—an existing K-5 School in Building Q223,  
19 located at 125-20 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica,  
20 New York, 11434 in community school District 27,  
21 beginning in 2012-2013. A co-location means  
22 that two or more school organizations are  
23 located in the same building and they share  
24 common spaces, like auditoriums, gymnasiums and  
25 cafeterias.

1 P.S./I.S. 124 currently serves students in  
2 kindergarten through eighth grade in building  
3 Q124, located at 129-15 150<sup>th</sup> Street, South Ozone  
4 Park, New York, 11420. Building Q124 is  
5 approximately 1.8 miles from Building Q223. If  
6 this proposal to resite and co-locate P.S./I.S.  
7 124 kindergarten with P.S. 223 is approved,  
8 incoming P.S./I.S. 124 kindergarten students  
9 will attend school in Q223 in 2012-2013 school  
10 year. The P.S./I.S. 124 students that would be  
11 co-located in Q223 would then articulate to the  
12 first grade in Building Q124.

13 Q223 has the capacity to serve 994 students.  
14 In 2011-2012, the building serves 723 students  
15 in kindergarten through fifth grade, yielding a  
16 utilization rate of just 73%. Q124 has the  
17 capacity to serve 874 students. In 2011-2012,  
18 the building served 1,226 students, yielding a  
19 building utilization rate of 140%.

20 Given these utilization percentages and the  
21 fact that space is a scarce resource in many New  
22 York City neighborhoods, the DOE must use this  
23 existing public school buildings in the most  
24 efficient manner possible. The DOE must also  
25 ensure that students and their families in every

1 community have access to high-quality  
2 educational options. This proposal recognizes  
3 that a building that has excess space can be  
4 utilized more efficiently. If this proposal to  
5 resite and co-locate kindergarten P.S./I.S. 124  
6 elementary school is approved in 2012-2013,  
7 there would be approximately 811 through 871  
8 students served in Building Q223, yielding an  
9 estimated building utilization rate of 82  
10 through 88%. At the same time, the utilization  
11 of Building Q124 would be reduced from 140%, to  
12 approximately 122 through 131%.

13 So, at this time, I would like to thank you  
14 for hearing that proposal statement and at this  
15 time I would like to open the panel up for  
16 comment if you wish to speak. Our CEC president  
17 has not arrived as of yet, or the  
18 representative, so I'm going to open it up to  
19 the SOT representative. Would an SOT  
20 representative like to speak or provide any  
21 comment?

22 MS. ILENE LAMANA: Good evening. My name is  
23 Ilene, PTA co-president. I have a grandson that  
24 is entering kindergarten next year, so my  
25 concerns are—I understand the parents' concerns

1 because I have the same ones. First time going  
2 to school and going to a building where they may  
3 not have siblings, it's scary, but I trust my  
4 principal - to agree with them. So, they're  
5 still going to get the same education as if they  
6 were in the building and that puts my mind at  
7 ease a little bit about letting him go. It's  
8 scary, but it's something that we need to do  
9 because we don't have the room in the building  
10 for all the students. And this is the easiest  
11 way of solving our problem. So, I just want to  
12 assure you that I do have the same concerns, I  
13 know how you feel, but I trust our principal and  
14 she will take care of our children.

15 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Thank you. So, at this  
16 time, we've concluded the - - presentation and  
17 we're going to open the floor for public  
18 comments, and speakers will be given the floor  
19 in the order that they signed up. All comments  
20 are going to be, again, limited to two minutes.  
21 And we're getting the speaker list. Do we have  
22 any elected officials present this evening? Are  
23 there any Council members here, maybe on special  
24 education? Any Council members from English  
25 Language - - .

1           So, our first speaker we have Karen Lopez  
2 [phonetic]. If Karen Lopez would please come to  
3 the podium, thank you.

4           MS. KAREN LOPEZ: Thank you very much.  
5 First I'd like to say thank you. - - I'm upset  
6 about the fact that I'm the only speaker on that  
7 list because I think that everybody should be  
8 speaking. But nevertheless one comment I need  
9 to say that I wish—I'm not sure that this was  
10 provided ahead of time for parents to read. - -  
11 statistic that you provide in a short timeframe.

12           Another thing I wanted to point out was  
13 that, you know, it's really concerning as a  
14 parent - - sending your kindergartener to a  
15 school that is yielding 73% - - . I am a  
16 resident that moved to this area because of the  
17 school. Because I wanted to send my children to  
18 a good school. Not to take anything from the  
19 other school, but it does yield that 73%.  
20 Attendance it might be or the children's  
21 capacity. I have seen that this school - - . I  
22 wanted to have other options - - regarding the  
23 children that do attend - - in this school. I  
24 think that it's unfair for our kindergarteners  
25 to be exposed to having to be transported.

1 They're assimilating into a new environment  
2 that they're not used to. That is not - - .  
3 This is their community, not the community that  
4 they're being bussed to, 1.8 miles away from  
5 here. That's not their community. So even  
6 though it's their district, that's not their  
7 community. So, with all due respect, I  
8 understand that we have to accommodate the  
9 school buildings and maximize, but I'm a parent  
10 and someone who pays taxes and school tax.  
11 That's not what I signed up for. I signed up  
12 for my child to be able to provide and go to the  
13 school that is closest to her home, and where  
14 she is used to coming, and seeing the staff and  
15 seeing her community. That is not my community.  
16 So, I do object to this proposal and I hope that  
17 it could be reconsidered and would hope that the  
18 other children that come to this school, their  
19 parents may be - - to get them into this school  
20 because this is such a good school. - - of  
21 children coming here over the years. - -

22 MS. LLOYD-BEY: At this time, there are no  
23 other speakers who have signed up for this  
24 evening and so with that I would like to remind  
25 you that we welcome comments and your feedback

1 through the email and the telephone number  
2 that I shared with you. Please feel free to  
3 provide your comments if you'd like. And so  
4 with that I'm going to conclude this meeting.  
5 This is going to be the conclusion of the joint  
6 public meeting for P.S./I.S. 124, co-located at  
7 223. Thank you.

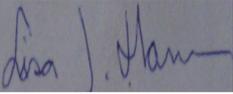
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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature: 

Date: April 2, 2012