

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

**TER of Q226 and Opening and
Co-Location of New District
Resolve School at Q226**

October 23, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. JENNY SOBELMAN: Good evening, everyone.
3 So we are going to go ahead and get started. My
4 name is Jenny Sobelman, and I'll be serving as
5 the facilitator for this evening's joint public
6 hearing.

7 This is a joint public hearing of the
8 department Of Education, Community Education
9 Council Number 27, and the school leadership
10 teams of JHS 226, JHS 297, and PS Q233 to
11 discuss the proposed opening and co-location of
12 a new district high school 27 Q314 with the
13 existing schools, JHS 226, JHS 297, and PS Q233
14 a District 75 school beginning in the 2014/15
15 school year.

16 I also want to make sure everyone is aware
17 that this evening's proceedings will be recorded
18 and transcribed. So it will all be recorded in
19 the public record.

20 So, quickly, before we get started, I do
21 just want to let everyone know a little bit
22 about the running show. There will be
23 presentations from the panel members here, and
24 then we'll have an opportunity for public
25 comment. You see, we've got a microphone right

1 here, and, through the door, as you were coming
2 in, they were inviting you to sign up. So if
3 you're interested in speaking during public
4 comments, please do just make your way to the
5 back and sign up.

6 Everyone who is signed up will be given two
7 minutes to speak, and we'll have someone here up
8 front who will let you know when you've gotten
9 to 30 seconds, and, then, when the two minutes
10 has elapsed. And one of my responsibilities is
11 to make sure that everybody who is speaking is
12 sort of keeping time, and we are moving through
13 the process. So, again, if you are interested
14 in speaking, just make your way to the back.
15 We'll keep it open for another 15 or 20 minutes.
16 So if you are inspired in the next 15 or 20
17 minutes, take advantage of that.

18 And we have the members of the panel. They
19 all confirmed that they would be here, and, if
20 additional people do join us, we'll give them an
21 opportunity to come up front and speak if they
22 are panel members. And then, also, if we are
23 joined by elected officials, we will create an
24 opportunity for them to speak when it's
25 appropriate in the public comment.

1 I also want to recognize a few people who
2 are in the audience this evening. We have
3 Principal Hussy [phonetic] from JHS 297. And,
4 oh, she's in the back there, and we are also
5 joined by Principal Edmonds from PS Q233, as
6 well as Audrey Dunlap from the D 75 Council, who
7 is here in the back, as well.

8 Okay. So, now, I'm going to invite--oh, let
9 me introduce the people on the panel. My
10 apologies. So starting down there, we have
11 Michael Duvalle representing the District 27
12 CEC, and we are joined by Principal White from
13 MS 226, as well as Superintendent Michelle
14 Lloyd-Bey from District 27.

15 And, now, I will invite the Superintendent
16 to read the proposal.

17 SUPERINTENDENT MICHELLE LLOYD-BEY: Good
18 evening, everyone. I'm glad that you were able
19 to make it this evening. The proposal summary
20 is as follows: The New York City Department of
21 Education is proposing to co-locate a new
22 district high school 27Q 314 that will serve
23 students in grades 9 through 12 in building
24 Q226, located at 121-10 Rockaway Boulevard,
25 Queens, New York, 11420, in Community School

1 District 27 beginning in 2014 through '15
2 school year. 27Q 314 will be co-located in Q226
3 with Junior High School 226 for Virgil I.
4 Grissom, an existing middle school serving
5 students in grades 6 through 8. Junior High
6 School 297, Hawtree Creek Middle School, a new
7 middle school that opened in September of 2013
8 will serve students in grades 6 through 8 when
9 it reaches full scale in 2015 through '16. And
10 PS Q233 at 226, one site of an existing multi-
11 site District 75 school serving students in
12 grades 6 or 8.

13 Currently, the Department of Education, DOE,
14 is planning to reduce their enrollment at Junior
15 High School 226 over a period of three years
16 beginning in September 2014. Beginning in
17 September 2014, Junior High School 226 will
18 enroll 295 through approximately 305 sixth grade
19 students, as opposed to 415 through 425 sixth
20 grade students it present enrolled in recent
21 years.

22 The enrollment reduction is intended to
23 provide an opportunity for Junior High School
24 226 to concentrate on a smaller - - of students
25 and allow for a new high school option to

1 develop in the building at Q226. The DOE does
2 not anticipate reducing Junior High School 226's
3 enrollment if this proposal to co-locate 27Q 314
4 is not approved. If this co-location proposal
5 is approved, 27Q 314 will gradually phase into
6 Q226 while Junior High 226 simultaneously scales
7 back its enrollment.

8 27Q 314 will serve students in ninth grade
9 beginning in 2014/2015 school year and will add
10 one grade level ever year until reaching its
11 full grade span of 9th through 12th grades in
12 the 2017 through 2018 school year when it will
13 serve approximately 300 through 340 students.
14 In 2017 through 2018, once Junior High School
15 226 has completed its enrollment reduction, and
16 27Q 314 and Junior High School 297 have reached
17 full-scale, it is projected that there will be
18 approximately 1,600 through 1,706 serve in Q226,
19 yielding an estimated building utilization rate
20 of approximately 79% through 84%. The DOE
21 believes that the District 27 community in
22 Queens, as a whole, will benefit from having an
23 additional option in the Q226 building.

24 So, at this time, I'm going to turn the mic
25 over to the facilitator.

1 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. So the
2 next presentation is going to be by Michael
3 Duvalle representing CEC 27.

4 MR. MICHAEL DUVALLE: Good evening, Mike
5 Duvalle from CEC 227. I'm also the - -
6 president appointed to the CEC. And, last
7 Monday, two days ago, our Board met in the same
8 school, and we unanimously voted against the co-
9 location. Our school believed that there is not
10 enough for them for a co-location. They believe
11 that there has been an increase in bullying from
12 bigger kids on the small kids. They also
13 believe you're going to have problems with the -
14 - in the - - facility where all these kids have
15 to be - - to eat a certain period, and we think
16 it's not conducive to the environment, a good
17 learning environment.

18 We also believe that they should put a
19 moratorium, a stop, on everything since a new
20 administration is coming in. And since a new
21 administration is coming in, they don't believe
22 that they don't trust--we don't trust this
23 present administration to do something that's
24 good for our kids. So we are asking, and I
25 think our Councilperson will also want to do

1 something to make sure that the administration,
2 the new administration, will take this issue up
3 and leave it to the new administration.

4 Basically, it's because there is going to be a
5 new ad administration. It's not what we have
6 coming in now, in another four years. It's the
7 ending of an era. So that's one - - .

8 The other reason that we believe it should
9 be not--because year after year, they've been
10 telling us that we cannot reduce class sizes
11 because there is not enough room to create more
12 classrooms in the schools. So, then, if we
13 don't have room--and for years that was the
14 reason that we have 36, and even 40, kids to a
15 class. But how - - assuming room in the same
16 school to add three or four schools in the same
17 school, and all these years they've been lying
18 to us, telling us that there is not enough room,
19 the reason that they didn't want to hire more
20 teachers and concentrate on learning basically
21 on smaller class sizes. And that's one of the
22 other reasons we believe that the CEC decided to
23 vote no. Thank you.

24 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. So that
25 concludes our list of people who are speaking

1 from the panel. So, now, we are going to
2 invite people who have signed up for public
3 comment. And I would say, again, just one more
4 time, sort of last call. If you want to sign up
5 for public comment, just make your way out to
6 the back and sign up on the list, and we'll add
7 you. And, as I said, what I'm going to do is
8 ask people to come up, and we'll give you your
9 two minutes, and I actually don't have a
10 timekeeper, so we're going to have to fill in
11 here.

12 And so, you know, Dean will give you a sign
13 to let you know when you've hit 30 seconds, and
14 then to let you know when the time has elapsed.
15 Oh, all right, very nimble in terms of how we
16 are doing our time check. So I'm going to
17 invite the people who have signed up to speak.
18 Speaker number one is Mona-Lisa Chandler, who
19 will be followed by speaker number two, Tykia
20 Moor, and speaker number three, Juliette
21 Johnson.

22 MS. MONA-LISA CHANDLER: Good evening to the
23 panel, to the parents. Thank you for coming
24 out. I'm in opposition of the co-location of
25 the new school, many of what Mr. Duvalle has

1 stated. The building is only a certain size,
2 and we already have three schools that are in
3 the building. We do have the administration
4 that came in. 297 is new to the building. And
5 with the two schools, three schools, that are
6 already currently here, we have to allow room
7 for growth. We don't know what the influx of
8 students are going to be that are going to come
9 in.

10 My concern is, with another school coming
11 in, that it's taking away from [background
12 noise] schools that are currently here. As it
13 is, we are very tight with sharing public space,
14 meaning the auditorium, the gym, the cafeteria.
15 I know it's very--too cold at lunchtime because
16 there is a sharing schedule because of the fact
17 that we have to share the - - with another
18 school. To have a third school is just really
19 putting it over the top.

20 And I'm also concerned on how they come to
21 do the calculations of the space that's
22 available. We currently have space dedicated
23 for next year. I do not know whether or not
24 that was included with available space or
25 whether or not they [background noise]. That is

1 something that was promised to the children
2 and is still in the process of being worked on
3 to be built.

4 I don't know if they are including the
5 trailers that are outside. I don't think any
6 human being should be taught in a trailer. Our
7 children are children. They are not animals.
8 They should not be caged - - are the cage. If
9 you care, and like my mom always said, if you
10 can't offer a solution, then you're part of the
11 problem.

12 Well, a solution would be that they have--
13 Mary - - , one of the other parents, stated that
14 - - is an empty building. That must be
15 something that they could renovate and use for
16 the new high school, and, also, instead of co-
17 locating an elementary school at August Martin,
18 let the new high school, co-locate with high
19 school students.

20 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. Okay.
21 And the next speaker is Tykia Moor, speaker
22 number two, Tykia Moor.

23 MS. TYKIA MOOR: Okay. I'm new to District
24 226 - - . My daughter is a sixth-grader here,
25 and I have a fifth grader who is currently

1 graduating from 223. I am concerned about
2 safety. My fifth grader is going to be 10, so
3 she would be, hopefully, coming to 226 at the
4 age of 10 in a school with 14 and 15-year-olds.
5 She's not - - age is very impressionable. You
6 know, you cannot have a child mixed with
7 adolescents. It creates chaos and problems.
8 And I understand. I was at the last meeting
9 when I [background noise] something about
10 children safe. They say we will police it. Our
11 children don't need more policing. They need
12 more education. They need dance. They need the
13 arts. They need, you know, a greater
14 curriculum, a stronger curriculum, more teachers
15 to help them, reduce class sizes, not a high
16 school to take away from the common space that
17 they have. My daughter has lunch at 10:30 in
18 the morning, and, then, she is here. They do
19 have some programs here, but sometimes she
20 doesn't home until five o'clock. 10:30 to five
21 o'clock, an adult cannot go that long without
22 eating. So what's going to happen if they put a
23 high school here? The kids are going to have
24 lunch at 9:30, nine o'clock? That's breakfast.
25 Then, you want to know why these children can't

1 function in their 7:30 class or 8:30 class. I
2 mean, this is really a problem, and it's not
3 just in Queens. It's in Brooklyn. It's in the
4 Bronx. This administration, Bloomberg
5 administration, has, you know, created basically
6 a death of the education system, and if we don't
7 do something now, years from now, we are going
8 to be paying for it. You are going to be paying
9 for it, because you're going to have to take
10 care of these children who are now adults and
11 don't have an education. They can't afford to
12 take care of themselves. So we need a
13 moratorium like this man said. We have a new
14 administration coming in, and people need to get
15 out and vote. We have to stop this
16 privatization of the education system because
17 that's what's really happening. It's not--they
18 don't care about our children. They just want
19 the funding. Come on.

20 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. Thank
21 you. Speaker number three is Juliette Johnson.
22 Juliette Johnson, and you will be followed by
23 speaker number four, Tricia Howard.

24 MS. JULIETTE JOHNSON: Yes, and good evening
25 to everybody. I am just here to talk about the

1 - - . I'm totally against the high school
2 because when - - take over 226, my daughter just
3 went to this school, and, now, she's doing such
4 a wonderful job. And, now, I have another child
5 going to 297. And - - she's doing such a
6 wonderful job. This school is going to the
7 right direction. So why something going so
8 good, how are we going to - - stir it up now.
9 Ms. White doing an awesome job. - - my
10 daughter, she's doing so great. Total
11 organization, they are doing everything right,
12 and, now, we are going to talk now about the
13 high school with these kids. I don't think we
14 should put a high school in this school. It's
15 the building itself going to move in the right
16 direction. So why should we - - something we
17 are going so good, and now, put a high school
18 into our middle school, and everything is just
19 going so right. So, to me, I am totally against
20 it. I don't have much to say, but that's all I
21 can say now. There is something going good,
22 just leave it alone. Thank you.

23 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. Our next
24 speaker is speaker number four, Tricia Howard.

25 MS. TRICIA HOWARD: Hi. My son is a - -

1 sixth grade. When I really heard about the
2 school, I was extremely excited about coming
3 here, and, then, I hear that you guys are
4 putting a high school in here when there is a
5 high school down the street. I don't think I
6 understand it. My son is in the sixth grade, so
7 it doesn't really make sense to have them with
8 12th graders, 11th graders. It's taking away
9 from the facilities that you guys offered for
10 him, and I just think it's unfair. You know,
11 I'm just grateful that you guys had this event
12 that we be able to speak on it. And I don't
13 want my child, or any other children, have to go
14 through that. You know, it's plenty of schools
15 here. Why would you close a school to pack in
16 more in a smaller school. I just think it's
17 unfair.

18 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. Thank
19 you. Now, we have exhausted the speaker sign-up
20 list, and I want to thank everyone for coming
21 and to sort of let you know the next steps.

22 So after the end of this joint public
23 hearing, all the comments that have been raised
24 will be included in a document called the
25 Analysis of Public Comment, which will be

1 published online and shared with the Panel for
2 Educational Policy. And their vote will take
3 place at a meeting on October 30th, which is
4 scheduled at 6:00 p.m. at the Prospect Heights
5 campus located at 883 Classen Avenue in
6 Brooklyn, New York. And, if you have additional
7 comments, or questions, that come up between now
8 and the 30th, I want to give you an e-mail and
9 telephone number so you can put those comments
10 in, and they would also be included in this
11 Analysis of Public Comment and be included in
12 the public record. So the e-mail is
13 g27d27proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the
14 telephone number is 212-374-7621.

15 So thank you, again, for joining us this
16 evening and have a safe trip home. This meeting
17 is officially adjourned.

18 [END RECORDING]

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela S. Hart". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Date: October 28, 2013