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**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-
DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING
Icahn Charter School 7 (84XTBD) with
Existing School P.S. 093 Albert G.
Oliver in Buildings
X093 and X893**

1 MR. RICHARD LARIOS: All right, good
2 evening everyone, we're going to get started.
3 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
4 of Education, Community Education Counsel 8, and
5 the School Leadership Team of PS93. I am Rick
6 Larios, I'm filling in for Tim Bear [phonetic]
7 of District 8, a community superintendent who
8 could not be here this evening. And so I'm the
9 chancellor's designee twice removed. I hope
10 that's the words of my resume but we'll see. We
11 have asked District 8 Community Education
12 Counsel and the PS93 School Leadership Team to
13 participate in this joint public hearing. I am
14 joined tonight by Don Mattson who is the
15 principal of PS93, but not by Bob Franklin from
16 CEC8, though he did tell us that he would be
17 able to attend but has been unable to make it
18 for some reason. This hearing is being
19 recorded. And I'd also like to remind you that
20 translation services are available for those who
21 need interpretation. There are a few gentlemen
22 over there who can help with that with
23 translation services. The purpose of this
24 hearing is for you to provide comments about the
25 proposal. Before I describe the proposal I want

1 to make sure you are all aware of the
2 opportunity to provide your input. All those
3 who wish to speak must sign up at the speaker
4 sign-up area located just over there. The sign-
5 up list will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will
6 be given the floor in the order that they sign
7 up. All comments are limited to two minutes.
8 There may be elected officials who arrive at
9 different times throughout the evening. If they
10 wish to speak we will do our best to accommodate
11 them at the first opportune moment, which
12 essentially means if they show up they get to
13 bump the list. Those who are here at the start
14 of the public comment segment will be asked to
15 speak first, otherwise we go to the speakers'
16 list. All comments will be addressed in the
17 analysis of public comment to be published and
18 provided to the Panel for Educational Policy on
19 the evening before the panel votes. That vote
20 is scheduled for June 26, 2012 at 6 p.m. The
21 Panel for Education Policy meeting will take
22 place at the Prospect Heights Campus located at
23 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225.
24 In addition we welcome any comments and any
25 feedback you may have at anytime before the

1 panel votes on this proposal. The email
2 address and phone number where comments may be
3 made are do8proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the
4 phone number where you may leave comments is
5 212-374-5159. Also with us today is Tom Franta
6 from the State University of New York Charter
7 School Institute who will now speak to you. He
8 has a similar skill since this is also a public
9 hearing for SUNY CSI as well.

10 MR. TOM FRANTA: Good evening, the school
11 we're discussing today, Icahn Charter School 7
12 is authorized by the SUNY Board of Trustees.
13 The education law requires SUNY to hold a
14 separate hearing whenever one of the schools it
15 authorizes is proposed to be co-located in an
16 existing public school facility. The purpose of
17 this hearing from SUNY's perspective is to
18 receive comments related to the proposed co-
19 location of the charter school. SUNY is
20 conducting its hearing now at the same as the
21 DOE as we rely on the DOE to help us notify the
22 school community of the pending hearing and to
23 arrange the hearing location. However SUNY has
24 to make its own determination regarding the
25 school using the facility. SUNY will not make

1 its final determination until after the
2 decision of the PEP is final. Icahn Charter
3 School 7 is a new school proposed to service 90
4 to 120 students in Grades K through 12. I'm
5 sorry, K through 2 in the 2013-14 school year.
6 It is slated to continue adding one grade each
7 year throughout its initial charter period of
8 five years, although only Grades K through 4
9 would be co-located in this facility if
10 approved. I'll be taking notes on all - -
11 comments made tonight. In addition, anyone who
12 would like to give me written comments if you
13 have them, or you can email, mail, or fax them
14 to the Charter School's Institute, and I'm going
15 to read off the addresses, but they're also
16 posted on the door as well if you want to get
17 them on your way out. The Charter School's
18 Institute address is 41 State Street, Suite 700,
19 Albany, New York 12207, via fax to 518-427-6510,
20 or via email to charters@suny.edu. Written
21 testimony or statements must be received no
22 later than noon on June 30th, 2012. Thank you.

23 MR. LARIOS: Thank you Tom. I will now
24 proceed to read the proposal summary which is
25 somewhat long so I ask your patience. The New

1 York City Department of Education or DOE is
2 proposing to co-locate grades kindergarten
3 through four of a new public charter school,
4 Icahn Charter School 7, or Icahn 7, in School
5 Building X093 and Mini-school Building X893
6 located at 1535 Story Avenue, Bronx, New York
7 10473 in Community School District 8 beginning
8 in the 2013-2014 school year. If this proposal
9 is approved, Icahn 7 will be co-located with
10 PS93, an existing zoned elementary school which
11 currently serves students in kindergarten
12 through fifth grades, and offers four sections
13 of full-day prekindergarten. A co-location
14 means that two or more school organizations are
15 located in the same building and may share
16 common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums,
17 libraries, and cafeterias. In the current 2011-
18 12 school year Building X093 also houses the
19 kindergarten through third grades of
20 Metropolitan Lighthouse Charter School or Met
21 LCS, an existing elementary charter school. Met
22 LCS began phasing into X093 during the 2010-11
23 school year adding one grade level each year.
24 In the 2012-13 school year Met LCS will serve
25 kindergarten through fourth grades in building

1 X093. As described in the revised educational
2 impact statement or EIS approved by the PEP on
3 May 18th, 2011, at the conclusion of the 2012-13
4 school year Met LCS will move into a private
5 facility where it will continue expanding.
6 Under Icahn 7's charter which was authorized by
7 the State University of New York Charter Schools
8 Institute in June 2011, the school is approved
9 to serve kindergarten through sixth grades.
10 However this proposal deals only with the
11 kindergarten through fourth grades of Icahn 7.
12 If this proposal is approved Icahn 7 will be co-
13 located with PS93 in Buildings X093 and X893
14 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year after Met
15 LCS moves into it's private facility. Icahn 7
16 will begin serving a total of 90 to 120
17 kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students
18 in 2013-2014. In the 2014-2015 school year
19 Icahn 7 will expand to serve third grade and
20 will serve a total of approximately 120 to 160
21 students. In the 2015-16 school year Icahn 7
22 will add fourth grade and serve a total of
23 approximately 150 to 200 students. In its first
24 year Icahn 7 will enroll kindergarten, first-,
25 and second-grade students through a lottery

1 giving preference to students who reside in
2 District 8. Students who are not admitted will
3 be placed on a wait list through the same
4 lottery process. In the event that a vacancy
5 occurs during the school year, students will be
6 admitted in the order in which they were placed
7 on the wait list. Beginning the school's second
8 year of operation Icahn 7 will only have a
9 lottery for kindergarten admission. Building
10 X093 has the capacity to serve 551 students, and
11 X893 has the capacity to serve 153 students. In
12 the current 2011-12 school year Building X093
13 and X893 are collectively serving a total of 585
14 students in both PS93 and Met LCS, resulting in
15 a projected utilization rate across both
16 buildings of 83 percent. In 2012-2013 Met LCS
17 will expand into fourth grade in Buildings X093
18 and X893 will serve a total of 567 to 677
19 students resulting in a projected utilization
20 rate across both buildings of 81 percent to 96
21 percent. In 2013-14 when Met LCS has moved and
22 Icahn 7 begins it's phase-in, and X093 and X893
23 will serve 457 to 547 students, yielding a total
24 utilization rate of 65 to 78 percent. When
25 Icahn 7 is fully phased in and serving

1 kindergarten through fourth grade in the 2015-
2 16 school year, the building utilization rate
3 across both buildings will be 74 to 90 percent.
4 That's the proposal as it was approved or is
5 being considered I guess, rather than that. So
6 thank you. I don't know if you'd like to say
7 something, Donald.

8 MR. DONALD P. MATTSON: I have a question
9 actually. You made mention of the fact that the
10 Icahn 7 would be in this building and in the
11 mini-school building. Cause I thought the plan
12 was that they would be just be housed in this
13 building.

14 MS. STEPHANIE CRANE: So I think - -
15 building utilization that we don't have in the
16 mini-school building. Then again this is
17 something that's determined by the Building
18 Council. But because they're - - basis, legally
19 we have to say both buildings given that we'll
20 be sharing spaces in here, even though you may
21 be located at the mini-building.

22 MR. MATTSON: Or vice versa.

23 MS. CRANE: Right exactly.

24 MR. MATTSON: Well I guess I can answer
25 that. As you know we had an Icahn Charter

1 School here a couple of years ago. They've
2 been gone actually two years. And it was a very
3 good working relationship that we had with Icahn
4 at that time. They left and we acquired the
5 Lighthouse Charter School which is now going
6 into its third year. Realistically we know that
7 it's an underutilized building, so we can't
8 pretend that we don't have the space and say, oh
9 gee we can't do it. But based upon the
10 experiences that we had with Icahn the first
11 time I don't think we have any major concerns
12 about having another Icahn school coming into
13 the building. And I think by our lack of parent
14 concern tonight, that basically kind of says
15 something about the fact that it's not a major
16 issue, cause if it was they would be lined up
17 outside the doors. So it's not an issue to our
18 parent body.

19 MR. LARIOS: That concludes sort of the
20 table talk here. We are now ready to open the
21 floor for public comments. Speakers will be
22 given the floor in the order that they signed
23 up. All comments are limited to two minutes
24 which might be a challenge for Jeff. Our first
25 speaker is Jeff who is our only speaker, but

1 you're on the clock. Go ahead Jeff.

2 MR. JEFF CITT: Good evening, hi everybody.
3 Thank you for the opportunity. Let me first
4 thank Mr. Mattson for hosting us. Until a few
5 years ago when our building was completed on
6 Bronxdale Avenue, as he said we had a wonderful,
7 wonderful relationship here. And we hope that
8 we will be able to replicate that relationship.
9 We're opening up Icahn 6 this coming September
10 in District 9 in a co-located building thanks to
11 DOE and the support of the community and the
12 Community Education Counsel and the DOE staff.
13 And we've been co-located in the past also in
14 this district in P146. We are recognized as a
15 pretty effective charter school organization.
16 We go back to September 2001 when I served as
17 the founding principal of Icahn 1, and this will
18 be our seventh school. Our test scores are
19 quite high, we're very involved in the
20 community, and our program runs 8:30 to 4
21 o'clock with a very comprehensive after-school
22 program which ends at 6 o'clock. Our school
23 year goes through mid July. And what I've told
24 the board and I've told the parents for 11 years
25 is that it is virtually impossible to fail at an

1 Icahn school, and I would ask that you quote
2 me on that. And the reason for that is very
3 simple. We have extremely dedicated
4 professionals, and also we have countless
5 programs to support the children who need that
6 little bit of extra help, whether it be after
7 school, before school, during school, or in 18
8 weeks out at the academy program. We have a
9 very rigorous curriculum known as core knowledge
10 which you'll learn more about if we are to be
11 invited to be here. And what our kids learn in
12 kindergarten traditionally children learn in
13 second and third grade, and they do rise to the
14 occasion. Our graduates of eighth grade, which
15 currently only come from Icahn 1 because it's
16 our senior school, our oldest school, are
17 admitted to private schools on scholarship,
18 parochial schools on scholarship, some very
19 proud DOE programs. Bronx Center for Science
20 and Mathematics has an extremely talented
21 principal who begs for our kids, and he also has
22 a very rigorous program. We are a college prep
23 program from the minute the children enter
24 kindergarten. And we have ongoing workshops for
25 parents, and we truly want to work with the

1 community and our record I believe has shown
2 that. And I thank you for your support in our
3 other organizations, our other schools, and I
4 hope we have the support again tonight. And I
5 thank SUNY for blessing us with an additional
6 charter.

7 MR. LARIOS: Thank you. That exhausts the
8 speaker list, so again we welcome any comments
9 and feedback you may have at anytime before the
10 Panel for Education Policy votes on this
11 proposal at its June 26, 2012 meeting. This
12 Panel for Education Policy meeting will take
13 place at 6 p.m. at the Prospect Heights campus
14 located at 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, New
15 York. The email address and phone number where
16 comments may be made again are
17 do8proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the phone
18 number is 212-374-5159. Thank you all for your
19 participation on this rainy day. And for those
20 of you who were here for the parent events
21 earlier, the family events, for staying around,
22 I appreciate that as well. This joint public
23 hearing is now closed. Thank you all.

24 MR. MATTSON: Can I just introduce my
25 network leader?

1 MR. LARIOS: Sure.

2 MR. MATTSON: I'd like to take a minute to
3 introduce the network leader for PS93, Roxanne
4 Marx with Children First Network 401, part of
5 the - - network. And Ms. Marx agreed to be here
6 tonight for this meeting. As you can see it was
7 very eventful.

8 MR. LARIOS: Thank you for adding to the
9 audience.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature: *Walter Baker*

7 Date: June 14, 2012
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