Public Hearing Summary

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<th>Charter School</th>
<th>Lamad Academy Charter School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Date</td>
<td>March 9, 2020</td>
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<td>Hearing Location</td>
<td>Building K219, 1060 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY (CSD 18)</td>
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<td>Start Time</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>End Time</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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**Background:**

The New York City Department of Education (“NYCDOE”) proposes to temporarily co-locate grades 6-8 of Lamad Academy Charter School (“Lamad Academy”) in Building K219 (“K219”) beginning in the 2020-21 school year. K219 is located at 1060 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY in New York City Community School District (“CSD”) 18.

Lamad Academy would be temporarily co-located with P.S. 219 Kennedy-King (P.S. 219), an existing district middle school serving students in grades K-5 and in pre-Kindergarten. The New York City Panel for Educational Policy approved the proposal on March 30, 2020.

According to the NYCDOE’s Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report, K219 has the capacity to serve 743 students. Currently, the building serves approximately 364 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 49%. According to the NYCDOE, by 2022-23, approximately 661-774 students are projected to be served in K219, yielding a projected utilization rate of approximately 75-87%, which demonstrates sufficient space for both schools.

The NYCDOE Building Usage Plan (“BUP”) allocates Lamad Academy 21 full-size rooms, one half-size room, and zero quarter-size rooms by the 2022-2023 school year.

**Hearing Notes:**

Approximately 40 members of the public attended the hearing.

A member of Community Education Council 18 (“CEC 18”) stated that she believes parents should make whatever choices they feel are best for their families. When charter schools share space with
public schools it creates chaos and it is a drain on public school resources, she said. Charter schools should be responsible for obtaining and maintaining their own space, she stated.

The Executive Director of Lamad Academy, the Rev. Alfred Cockfield, stated that CEC 18 voted against a resolution opposing the co-location of Lamad Academy. He stated that Lamad Academy has been planning with the NYCDOE for over a year to create an environment that benefits all students. He said there are commitments from foundations to provide resources for instruction at both Lamad Academy and P.S. 219. The Brooklyn Borough President has made a commitment to additional funding for the building if this proposal is approved, he said.

A member of the School Leadership Team (SLT) at P.S. 219 stated that she was concerned for the safety of P.S. 219 students co-locating with older middle school students.

A few members of the public stated that Lamad Academy would be a great addition to the K219 building and that they believe the co-location will ultimately benefit the entire community.

**Preliminary Determination:**

The State University of New York (“SUNY”) Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”) reviewed the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) and the BUP prepared by the NYCDOE for the facility at issue. The Institute found it to be a typical NYCDOE building that appeared to be in compliance with applicable law. Based on the documentation prepared by the NYCDOE and the information in the charter school’s application and other information, the Institute also finds that the proposed use of the space by the charter school would not violate applicable law.

Based on the Institute’s review, the space proposed to be allotted to the charter school appears to be adequate with sufficient common spaces and resource spaces to be shared by the charter school and the district school. Finally, the Institute notes that the BUP, at the time of the co-location hearing, was in draft form. Pursuant to New York Education Law, school leadership teams from the co-located schools are required to agree on a plan to utilize common spaces in the building. As such, the BUP will not be finalized until the co-location is finalized.

With respect to public comments, the Institute thanks the members of the community for their candor. The Institute notes that SUNY has no authority over NYCDOE decisions regarding the physical locations of NYCDOE schools, grants, or programs. SUNY also has no positive authority to place schools into NYCDOE space.

As the charter school proposes to move to a facility in the NYC borough set forth in its charter application, the Institute only needs to determine whether the space, and the charter school’s use of the space, would be in compliance with its charter and applicable law. In such cases, SUNY does not separately approve the school’s location. Therefore, as the Institute has held the hearing on behalf of the SUNY Board of Trustees as required by the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended), the Institute approves the facility for use by the charter school subject to compliance with the terms of its charter agreement regarding facilities.