



Notice
December 1, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-location of Community Roots Charter School's (84K536) Middle School Grades (6-8) with Existing School P.S. 287 Bailey K. Ashford (13K287) in Building K287 Beginning in 2012-2013.

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

Community Roots is an existing public charter school that currently serves 300 students in kindergarten through fifth grade in Building K067 ("K067") located at 51 St. Edwards Street in Community School District 13. Community Roots is currently co-located in K067 with P.S. 067 Charles A. Dorsey (13K067, "P.S. 067"), an existing DOE zoned elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a pre-kindergarten program, and a District 75 school (75K369, "P369K@P067K") that serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

In December 2010, Community Roots' charter authorizer, the DOE, approved Community Roots' application to expand to serve middle school grade levels. That expansion approval is valid for five calendar years. On March 2, 2011, the DOE published an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") proposing to allow Community Roots to expand to serve additional middle school grades in K067. The DOE withdrew that proposal on April 19, 2011 after Community Roots decided not to expand during the 2011-2012 school year. While Community Roots has elected to move forward with their grade expansion, based on P.S. 67, P369K@P067K, and Community Roots' instructional needs, the DOE has determined that, at this time, K067 does not have capacity to accommodate the proposed grade expansion of Community Roots. Therefore, the DOE is proposing to co-locate Community Roots' middle school grades, grades 6-8, in K287 with P.S. 287 Bailey K. Ashford (13K287, "P.S. 287"), an existing DOE zoned elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a pre-kindergarten program.¹ Community Roots would continue to serve its kindergarten through fifth grade students at K067. A "co-location" means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

Besides P.S. 287, K287 also currently houses Khalil Gibran International Academy (13K592, "KGIA"), an existing DOE school serving students in seventh and eighth grade. During the 2010-2011 school year, the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") approved a proposal to re-site KGIA at the end of the 2011-2012 school year to another building. Thus, if this proposal is approved, Community Roots' middle school grade levels would occupy the space that will be vacated when KGIA moves out of the building. The proposed co-location of Community Roots' middle school grades with P.S. 287 in K287 is not expected to impact current or future student enrollment or instructional programming at P.S. 287.

¹ The DOE's pre-kindergarten programs are maintained based on available funding and student enrollment. The DOE does not anticipate that P.S. 287's pre-kindergarten program will be affected by this proposal.

The original proposal was made with the support of many of the school's parents and members of the broader community surrounding the school. This suggests a high level of satisfaction with the school and parent confidence that an expanded Community Roots would continue to provide a supportive environment and suit the needs of future middle school students.

The grade expansion application submitted by Community Roots demonstrated its ability to address the individual needs of students and to ensure that all students meet their potential and are held to high academic and behavioral expectations. If this proposal is approved, K287 would serve as Community Roots' permanent site for its middle school grades and would offer an additional K-8 school option for families in District 13.

The DOE acknowledges that Community Roots received an F grade on its first Progress Report grade in 2009-2010. However, the school improved and received a C grade on its 2010-2011 overall Progress Report. Additionally:

- In 2010-2011, 67% of students were on grade level in English Language Arts ("ELA"), up from 59% in 2009-2010. The 2010-2011 ELA proficiency scores place Community Roots in the top 18% of schools citywide and in the top 19% of schools district-wide.
- In 2010-2011, 71% of students were on grade level in Math, which places Community Roots in the top 33% of schools citywide.
- In 2010-2011, 100% of parent respondents on the Learning Environment Survey reported that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the school.
- Community Roots is a highly demanded school in the community, as demonstrated by the fact that the school has a significant waitlist and low student attrition. In 2011-2012, 410 students applied for 50 open seats in Kindergarten. Currently, 700 students remain on the waitlist.
- The student attrition rate for Community Roots was 2.67% in 2010-2011. In that year 8 out of 300 children left the school.

While the DOE acknowledges that there are notable differences between an elementary school and a middle school, the DOE is confident that Community Roots is well-positioned for the proposed grade expansion based on the school's strong culture and leadership, performance history, and solid connections to the community.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Jan2012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of both P.S. 287 and Community Roots.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Lily Haskins
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 287 Bailey K. Ashford
50 Navy Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

January 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Tech High School
29 Fort Green Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217