



Notice
December 2, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 328 Phyllis Wheatley (19K328) to a K-5 School and Extension of the Co-location of Hyde Leadership Charter School – Brooklyn (84K769) in School Building K328 Beginning in 2012-2013

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

P.S. 328 Phyllis Wheatley (19K328, “P.S. 328”) is an existing zoned school located in building K328 (“K328”), at 330 Alabama Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, in Community School District 19 that currently serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 328 is co-located with Hyde Leadership Charter School – Brooklyn (84K769, “Hyde Leadership”), an existing public charter school that currently serves students in kindergarten through second grade. K328 also houses a Community Based Organization (“CBO”), Groundwork. 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. This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation” of P.S. 328 and to make the co-location of Hyde Leadership in K328 permanent.

P.S. 328 currently serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade. This proposal is not expected to impact current sixth through eighth grade students enrolled at P.S. 328, with the possible exception of students who do not meet promotional requirements at the end of the proposed truncation. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 328 would gradually stop serving middle school students in sixth through eighth grades. At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, P.S. 328 would no longer enroll sixth grade students. All eighth grade students who meet promotional standards would apply to high school through the Citywide High School Admissions Process, and students in the sixth and seventh grades who meet promotional requirements would remain at the school until the completion of the eighth grade. During the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 328 would serve kindergarten through fifth grade and seventh and eighth grade students. During the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 328 would serve kindergarten through fifth grade and eighth grade students. After the last class of eighth grade students graduates in June 2014, P.S. 328 would no longer serve any middle school grades. The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) does not anticipate that the proposed truncation of P.S. 328 would affect its pre-kindergarten program.

Prior to May 2011, students in District 19 could attend their zoned middle school, or they could apply to middle schools that managed their own admissions processes on a school-by-school basis. On May 17, 2011, the District 19 Community Education Council voted to adopt “Middle

School Choice.” Under Middle School Choice, students may use a single application to rank and apply to middle schools throughout the District, including zoned middle schools outside the zone in which they reside. Although zoned students will still have priority for admission to zoned schools, other District 19 students may also be eligible to attend those schools through the choice process. Since P.S. 328 will no longer serve middle school grades, P.S. 328’s fifth grade students will apply to other middle schools through the Middle School Choice process.

The proposal to truncate P.S. 328 initially came from the school community. In May 2011, a grade reconfiguration team composed of P.S. 328 teachers and administrators submitted a formal application to truncate the grades served by the school. This grade truncation will allow P.S. 328 to more fully focus on serving its kindergarten through fifth grade students.

The DOE is also proposing to make the co-location of Hyde Leadership in K328 permanent. On February 24, 2010, The Panel for Educational Policy approved a proposal published on January 8, 2010 to temporarily co-locate Hyde Leadership in K328 starting in the 2010-2011 school year. The approved proposal stated that the DOE would reevaluate the available space in K328 before the start of the 2012-2013 school year to determine whether Hyde Leadership could remain in K328. Hyde Leadership is an existing public charter school that currently serves 188 students in kindergarten through second grade. Hyde Leadership has been authorized by its charter authorizer, the DOE, to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade at full scale and is currently in the process of phasing in to serve its full grade span of kindergarten through fifth grade in the 2014-2015 school year. The proposal published on January 8, 2010, also stated that Hyde Leadership, subject to renewals of its charter, will grow to serve kindergarten through twelfth grade in 2021-2022. The DOE recognizes that K328 would not be able to accommodate Hyde Leadership’s kindergarten through twelfth grade students in K328, and it is proposing to make only the co-location of Hyde Leadership’s kindergarten through fifth grades in K328 permanent.

The building in which P.S. 328 and Hyde Leadership are located, K328, has the capacity to serve 906 students and currently serves 676 total students combined in 2011-2012, which yields an estimated building utilization rate of 75 percent. In 2012-2013, Hyde Leadership will expand to serve approximately 236-304 students in kindergarten through third grade. If this proposal is approved and P.S. 328 no longer serves sixth grade students, P.S. 328 would serve approximately 375-455 kindergarten through fifth grade, seventh grade, and eighth grade students and 36 students in pre-kindergarten in 2012-2013, which would yield an estimated building utilization rate of 71-88 percent. P.S. 328’s truncation would reduce the school’s enrollment by approximately 147-207 students, freeing up additional space that Hyde Leadership could use to accommodate its expansion and that P.S. 328 could use to accommodate additional students in the lower-grades or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.).

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 P.S. 328's and Hyde Leadership Charter School's main offices.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D19proposals@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: Kim Wong
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D19proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

January 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 328 Phyllis Wheatley/Hyde Leadership Charter School-Brooklyn
330 Alabama Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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 Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217