



Public Comment Analysis

Date: January 17, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of District 75 Program P169M@M155 (75M169) and Co-location with P.S. 59 Beekman Hill International (02M059) and Art and Design High School (02M630) in Building M488 Beginning in the 2012-2013 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: January 18, 2012

Summary of Proposal

On December 1, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to re-site one site of a multi-site District 75 school, P169M@M155 (75M169, “P169M@M155”), and co-locate it with P.S. 59 Beekman Hill International (02M059, “P.S. 59”) and Art and Design High School (02M630, “Art and Design”) in building M488 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Building M488 is a brand new building designed to accommodate P.S. 59, Art and Design, and a District 75 program, and it is expected to be completed for the 2012-2013 school year. P169M@M155 is currently located in building M155 (“M155”) at 319 East 117th Street, New York, NY 10035 in Manhattan’s Community School District 4, where it is co-located with P.S. 155 William Paca (04M155, “P.S. 155”). If this proposal is approved, P169M@M155 will be re-sited to school building M488 located at 233 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022, in Manhattan’s Community School District 2, and it will be co-located with P.S. 59 and Art and Design beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. 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. On December 13, 2011 the DOE issued an amended EIS correcting the address for building M155.

75M169 is an existing District 75 school that serves a combined total of 279 students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2011-2012 school year. 75M169 currently has five sites in Manhattan, including P169M@M155.¹ P169M@M155 serves 58 elementary-aged students classified as Emotionally Disturbed or autistic under an Individualized Education Program in Self-Contained sections in 12:1:1, 8:1:1, and 6:1:1 classroom settings (ratio of students: teacher: paraprofessional). Students are placed in District 75 programs based on their individual needs and recommended special education services. Building M488 will provide P169M@M155 with a brand new facility with space that has been designed specifically for District 75 programming. The designed capacity of the D75 space in M488 is 72 students.

P.S. 59 is a zoned district elementary school that serves 520 students in kindergarten through fifth grade during the 2011-2012 school year. Currently, P.S. 59 is temporarily sited in building M267, which is located at 213 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10065, also in Manhattan’s Community School District 2,

¹ The main site for 75M169 is P169M@Robert F. Kennedy, which serves elementary and middle school-aged students at 110 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128, in Manhattan’s Community School District 2, and the three other sites are: (1) P169M@P102M in building M102, which serves elementary-aged students at 315 East 113th Street, New York, NY 10029; (2) P169M@P146M, which serves elementary-aged students at 421 East 106th Street, New York, NY 10029; (3) P169M@Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, a District 75 inclusion program that serves high school-aged students at 260 Pleasant Avenue, New York, NY 10029.

while the construction on building M488 is completed. P.S. 59 is also expected to move to building M488 in September 2012.

Art and Design is a high school that serves 1,351 students in grades 9-12 during the 2011-2012 school year. Art and Design is currently located in building M630, which is located at 1075 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10022, within the geographical confines of Manhattan's Community School District 2. Art and Design is also expected to move to building M488 in September 2012.

P169M@M155 and P.S. 59 would share an entrance and other large common spaces, while Art and Design will have its own entrance at 245 East 56th Street and would only share the auditorium with the other two schools. In all other respects, Art and Design's space will be separate from the space used by P169M@M155 and P.S. 59.

The proposal to re-site P169M@M155 from its current location will not impact the space allocation or programs at P.S. 155. Any significant changes in utilization of the space vacated by P169M@M155 would be outlined in a separate proposal and would be subject to approval by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP").

I. Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building M155 on January 11, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 75 members of the public attended the hearing, and 2 people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 75 Superintendent Gary Hecht; Citywide District 75 Council President Joe Williams; District 4 Community Education Council ("CEC 4") President Hector Nazario; CEC 4 Representative Ronald Prattis; Citywide District 2 Community Education Council President Shino Tanikawa; P169M Principal Susan Finn; P.S. 155 Principal Lillian Raimundi Ortiz; P.S. 155 Parent Association ("PA") President Giles Smith; DOE Office of Portfolio Management ("OPM") Director of Manhattan Planning Elizabeth Rose; and OPM Associate Planner for Manhattan Benjamin Taylor.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on January 11, 2012:

1. *Giles Smith, P.S. 155 PA president, asserted that:*
 - a. Though this is an open hearing, when notification went out about the hearing, the DOE did not notify families that there would not be answers provided at the hearing regarding what will happen at P.S. 155's building in the space vacated by P169M@M155.
 - b. P.S. 155 families want to know about what is going on with their school building, what is going to happen to the space vacated by P169M@M155, and what kind of school might be brought into the building. They have a right to ask these questions.
 - c. When the DOE scheduled this hearing, the DOE did not go through the principal of P.S. 155 or ask the principal for any help.
 - d. M155 is a District 4 space, so P.S. 155 parents should have notification about what will happen to the space. Mr. Smith stated that he just found out about the hearing today, by asking the principal about it before the meeting started, and asserted that he was there to represent the school.
 - e. Mr. Smith also asked when there will be a hearing to address the future use of M155.
2. A commenter asserted that the proposal does not explain the impact on P.S. 155, except for one sentence saying the re-siting won't impact P.S. 155, and asked why not. The commenter asserted that the proposal impacts four schools, not three, and further asserted that this is a community board decision as well as the DOE's, so that impact needs to be addressed. The commenter expressed the

opinion that it is disrespectful to people in this community not to address the future use of the M155 building.

II. Summary of Issues Raised in Written and Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE regarding the proposal

The DOE did not receive any written or oral comments regarding the proposal.

III. Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

Future Use of M155

With respect to comments 1a, 1b, 1d1e, and 2, the EIS states that the proposal to move P169M@M155 out of the M155 building will not impact the space allocations of P.S. 155 and that any significant change in utilization of the space vacated by P169M@M155 would be addressed in a separate proposal subject to approval by the PEP. The joint public hearing on January 11, 2012 was held to gather feedback regarding the proposal to re-site P169M@M155 and co-locate it in building M488 beginning in 2012-2013.

Moreover, if the DOE issues a proposal for a significant change to the space vacated by P169M@M155, in addition to publishing an EIS and Panel for Educational Policy Notice, the DOE would schedule a joint public hearing to receive public comments from the P.S. 155 community regarding that proposal and would publish a Notice of Joint Public Hearing (“JPH Notice”) publicizing the hearing to the P.S. 155 community. Any such significant change must be proposed at least six months prior to the beginning of the school year in which the proposal is to be implemented.

Communication Regarding the Proposal

With respect to comments 1c, 1d and 2, on December 1, 2011, the DOE issued a Joint Public Hearing (“JPH”) Notice, which informed the community that there would be a hearing on January 11, 2011 for the community to provide public comment regarding the current proposal. An amended JPH notice was issued on December 13, 2011, in conjunction with the amended EIS. This notice included details about the joint public hearing, in addition to details regarding the amendment to the EIS. Both JPH notices, the EIS, and the amended EIS were provided to the P.S. 155 principal for distribution to the P.S. 155 community when they were published.

Additionally, the P.S. 155 principal and SLT were invited to join in the joint public hearing in the same manner as all other hearing attendees, though their presence was not mandated in the same way as P169M@M155, which was directly impacted by the proposal.

IV. Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to the proposal in response to public feedback.