



Public Comment Analysis

Date: January 17, 2012

Topic: 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

Date of Panel Vote: January 18, 2012

Summary of Proposal

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.).

The details of this proposal have been released in an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Jan2012Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 328 and Hyde Leadership.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at K328 on January 13, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 45 members of the public attended the hearing and 4 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Principal of P.S. 328, Douglas Avila; Principal of Hyde Leadership, Sandra Dupree; District 19 Community Education Council (“CEC”) representatives Kathleen Boatwright and Patricia Owens; P.S. 328’s School Leadership Team’s representative William Furse; and the Chancellor’s Designee, District 19 Community Superintendent Rose-Marie Mills.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

1. A CEC representative opposed the proposal and asked how P.S. 328 could increase its kindergarten through fifth grade enrollment so that it would not lose space in the building. The CEC representative also stated that Hyde Leadership does not serve special education or English Language Learner students.
2. The P.S. 328 School Leadership Team representative supported the proposal and stated that P.S. 328’s kindergarten through fifth grade students would be safer after P.S. 328 no longer serves sixth through eighth grade students.
3. The Principal of Hyde Leadership supported the proposal and stated that Hyde Leadership is a public school that serves special education and English Language Learner students.
4. The Principal of P.S. 328 supported the proposal and stated that the school requested the proposed truncation. By implementing the truncation, P.S. 328’s fifth grade students would be able to participate in the new District 19 Middle School Choice process.
5. Multiple commenters supported the proposal and stated that P.S. 328 and Hyde Leadership would be able to create a more cohesive environment in K328 once P.S. 328 has completed its truncation.
6. A commenter opposed the proposal and stated that the P.S. 328 community was not properly informed about the proposed truncation because P.S. 328 is listed in the 2011-2012 District 19 Middle School Directory, which could be misleading to parents.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

No written or oral comments regarding this proposal were received during the comment period.

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

- Comment 1 states in error that Hyde Leadership does not serve special education or English Language Learner students. As stated in the EIS, 6% of Hyde Leadership’s

students in 2010-2011 had Individualized Educational Programs and 1% were English Language Learner students.

- Comment 1 relates to the allocation of space to P.S. 328 and Hyde Leadership in K328 as P.S. 328 would implement its grade truncation if this proposal is approved and as Hyde Leadership continues to phase into K328. The DOE would continue to apply the Citywide Instructional Footprint to P.S. 328 and Hyde Leadership to allocate rooms in K328 and divide the remaining space equitably based on the proportion of the total students in the building enrolled by each school, the instructional and programmatic needs of the co-located schools, and the physical location of the excess space within the building.

Furthermore, P.S. 328 will continue to serve elementary students in its zone. Thus, if there is an increase in the number of families residing in P.S. 328's zone or if a greater number of students zoned to P.S. 328 choose to attend P.S. 328, P.S. 328's enrollment would increase.

- Comment 6 states that P.S. 328 should not have been listed in the 2011-2012 District 19 Middle School Directory. The EIS outlining the proposed truncation of P.S. 328 and the extension of Hyde Leadership's co-location in K328 was published on December 2, 2011 and the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") is expected to vote on this proposal at its meeting on January 18, 2012. The 2011-2012 District 19 Middle School Directory was distributed to families in October 2011. The reason that the directory was distributed in October was so that middle school choice applications could be returned by December 16, 2011, the citywide deadline for middle school choice applications. Because the PEP could not have voted on the proposal before the 2011-2012 District 19 Middle School Directory was printed and distributed, P.S. 328 was included in the directory.

If this proposal is approved by the PEP, P.S. 328 will be removed from the matching process for the 2011-2012 District 19 middle school choice application process, and no current fifth grade students would be matched to P.S. 328's sixth grade for the 2012-2013 school year. For example, if a current fifth grade student has submitted his or her application and selected P.S. 328 as a third-choice school, the matching process will automatically skip to the fourth-choice school, and so on and so forth.

All other comments received at the hearing were in support of the proposal and, therefore, do not need to be addressed.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.