



Public Comment Analysis

Date: February 28, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of New School 07X522 with Alfred E. Smith Career and Technical Education High School (07X600) and Bronx Haven High School (07X381) in School Building X600

Date of Panel Vote: March 1, 2011

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate a new school, 07X522 (“07X522”) in school building X600 (“X600”) located at 333 East 151st Street, Bronx, NY 10451, within the geographical confines of Community School District 7 (“District 7”). 07X522, a new high school with an inter-disciplinary and project-based curriculum, plans to offer five Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) programs aligned to two distinct career pathways: Construction and Design/Pre-Construction. If this proposal is approved, 07X522 would be co-located with Alfred E. Smith Career and Technical Education High School (07X600, “Alfred E. Smith”) and Bronx Haven High School (07X381, “Bronx Haven”). Alfred E. Smith, an existing 9-12 school, would offer two CTE programs in the Facility Mobile Equipment Maintenance career pathway. Bronx Haven is an existing Transfer School with a Learning to Work program (“LTW”), which serves students in grades 9-12. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Students would apply to 07X522 through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. 07X522 would have a Limited Unscreened admissions method. Limited Unscreened schools give admissions priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending an Information Session, Open House events, or visiting the school's exhibit at any one of the High School Fairs.

The proposed new school would open in September 2011 with a ninth grade cohort. 07X522 would gradually phase in to X600 by adding one grade level every year until reaching its full grade span of 9-12 in 2014-2015. Alfred E. Smith is in the process of phasing down (i.e., reducing the number of incoming ninth grade students it admits in comparison with the number of students it admitted prior to 2010-2011). Bronx Haven was re-located to building X600 in September 2010 is currently increasing its student enrollment. Bronx Haven is expected to complete its enrollment expansion in the 2013-2014 school year.

Alfred E. Smith will continue to reduce its enrollment and Bronx Haven will continue to increase its enrollment as planned. The X600 building has adequate capacity to accommodate the proposed new high school and the existing schools in the building in 2014-2015 at full operational capacity.

The details of this proposal are available in an Educational Impact Statement which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar12011Proposals.htm>. Hard copies of the EIS are also available in main office of Alfred E. Smith and Bronx Haven.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at X600 on February 15, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing and four people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Community Education Council (“CEC”) 7 First Vice President Almeta Trammel; Alfred E. Smith Principal Rene Cassanova and School Leadership Team (“SLT”) members Christine Gross and Karen Bowers; Bronx Haven SLT member Steve Jarrett; Manhattan and Bronx High School Superintendent Geraldine Taylor Brown; Bronx High School Federation Co-President John Fielder; NAACP Bronx Chairperson for Education Gwen Primus; President and CEO of Transportation Diversity Council Dwayne Sampson; and President of Smalls Electrical Construction Jeffery Smalls – the latter two individuals are both founding partners of the new school, 07X522.

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

1. Bronx High School Federation Co-President John Fielder said he was not in support of the proposal because he believes it is just another attempt to push a charter school into a building where it is not needed. He said Alfred E. Smith already offers the programs planned for the new school, and the only difference would be that the teachers of the school would not be part of the union. He said he wants to know what the community really wants for their schools, and people in the Bronx need to stand together to get what they want for their schools.
2. President and CEO of Transportation Diversity Council Dwayne Sampson stated he is a partner in the effort to open the new school in the building, which is not a charter school. He spoke about his organization’s mission to equip young people for transportation infrastructure and construction opportunities in order to transform the community.
3. NAACP Bronx Chairperson for Education Gwen Primus said the community desperately needs the school because it will offer trade and vocational training for free, so students do not have to pay schools like Apex for such training.
4. President of Smalls Electrical Construction Jeffery Smalls said he is lead partner in the proposed new school. His goals are that the plumbing, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, building and pre-engineering programs remain at this campus in the same capacity as before, and that they continue to be offered by a public school, though the programs may not be run by Alfred E. Smith anymore. The school would not be a

charter school. Additionally, he stated that his motivation is to provide training for people in the neighborhood to be successful and employable.

5. A commenter spoke about his experience at Alfred E. Smith, having graduated in 2003. He said the vocational and technical instruction and other academic support he received there have had a lasting effect by motivating him to stay in college. Based on this experience, he said, he wants to see the practical programming continue at Alfred E. Smith because it equips students who are not meant for college to be successful.

The DOE received a few comments and a question at the Joint Public Hearing that did not directly relate to the proposal and therefore will not be addressed.

6. CEC 7 First Vice President Almeta Trammel thanked those who came to the hearing and told attendees she and the council want to work to do whatever they can to keep Alfred E. Smith an active learning environment.
7. Alfred E. Smith SLT member Christine Gross read a statement for the record though she acknowledged that it did not relate to the proposal. She expressed the opinion that she does not support Bloomberg's policies. His policies, including those regarding small schools, charter schools, social promotion, testing, high school credit recovery, and focus on data are, in her opinion, unfeasible and reflective of a system run by the privileged who are disconnected from the needs of those in poverty.
8. Bronx Haven SLT member Steve Jarrett described his school as a place with a caring staff that serves the needs of undercredited and overage at-risk students. He said it offers several helpful programs and enables students to develop life-skills, learn to work, and achieve success.

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

No written or oral comments were submitted to the DOE.

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

In regard to comment #1: The proposal under discussion is for the co-location of 07X522, a traditional DOE high school, not a charter school, in Building X600. 07X522 will offer five CTE programs aligned to the career pathways that Alfred E. Smith is currently phasing out. Consistent with all traditional DOE schools, the teachers at 07X522 will be union members.

Comments #2 and #4 are in support of the proposal.

In regard to comment #3: The proposed co-location is intended to assure that X600 will continue to make available CTE offerings to students at no cost. Both Smith and the proposed new school, 07X522 will offer curriculum aligned to CTE pathways.

In regard to comment #5: Alfred E. Smith will continue to offer the Automotive Technology and Automotive Maintenance CTE programs. 07X522 will offer the following 5 CTE programs: Building Maintenance, Construction Technology—Electrical, Construction Technology—Plumbing, Construction Technology—Carpentry, and Architectural Engineering. Thus, all CTE

programs historically offered by Alfred E. Smith will continue to be offered to students in the South Bronx at the X600 building. Along with Bronx Haven and Alfred E. Smith, the proposed co-location of 07X522 will contribute to our efforts to make sure high performing schools are available for students in this community.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.