



Notice
4/26/2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Revised Proposed Re-siting of a District 75 School, 75K053, to Building K422 Beginning in the 2012-2013 School Year

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

On March 21, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal to re-site one site of a multi-site District 75 school (75K053) that currently serves 368 students who are Emotionally Disabled (“ED”), Hearing Impaired (“HI”) or Deaf, Intellectually Disabled (“ID”), have Multiple Disabilities (“MD”), Learning Disabilities (“LD”), or are Autistic in kindergarten through twelfth grade. These students are served in 12:1:1, 12:1:4, 9:1 inclusion, 8:1 inclusion and 6:1:1 settings. The site that the PEP approved to re-site is P053K@K838 which is currently located in school building K838 (“K838”) located at 720 Livonia Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11207 in Community School District 19. Currently, P053K@K838 is not co-located with any other school organization. P053K@K838 has been approved to be re-sited to school building K422 (“K422”) located at 1065 Elton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208 in Community School District 19, which is a newly constructed facility with space designed specifically for use by a District 75 program. This re-siting was approved for implementation beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) has revised the above-described proposal. As described in the revised Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), the DOE has revised the number of classes currently enrolled at P053K@K838 that are proposed to be re-sited to K422 in 2012-2013. The DOE has prepared this revision in direct response to community feedback and the concerns raised by the P053K@K838 community about being re-located to multiple locations, rather than maintaining the cohesive school community that has been built at P053K@K838.

This notice also provides information about a joint public hearing that will take place regarding this revised proposal. The revised proposal will also be subject to a new vote by PEP, the date and location of which are set forth below.

K422 is a new building, designed to house two secondary schools serving students in grades six through twelve and a District 75 program. The building is expected to become available for use by September 2012. On January 18, 2012 the PEP approved the DOE’s proposal to re-site, expand, and co-locate Academy for Young Writers (14K404), an existing high school currently located in Community School District 14, with Spring Creek Community School (19K422), a

new secondary school, and a District 75 program in K422 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The DOE is now proposing that P053K@K838 be the District 75 program to be sited in K422, which represents the DOE's complete plan for utilizing the newly constructed K422 building.

75K053 is currently located at seven separate sites throughout Brooklyn, including P053K@K838. The other six sites are: P053K@1088K located at 544 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215; P053K@P104K located at 9115 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209; P053K@Abraham Lincoln High School located at 2800 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235; P053K@Kingsboro High School located at 1830 Shore Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11235; P053K@I296K located at 125 Covert Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207; and P053K@P384K located at 242 Cooper Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207.

P053K@K838 currently offers six ID and LD 12:1:1 classes, five MD 12:1:4 classes, and two ID and Autism 6:1:1 classes. The proposal approved by the PEP authorized the re-siting of eight of P053K@K838's classes to K422. Specifically, three ID and LD 12:1:1 classes and five MD 12:1:4 classes currently served by P053K@K838 at K838 have been approved to be re-sited to K422.

As discussed in the original EIS, 75K053 also intended to move one of the ID and LD 12:1:1 classes currently served at P053K@K838 to P053K@1088K and two ID and Autism 6:1:1 classes currently served at P053K@K838 to P053K@Kingsboro High School. The revised EIS proposes that these three sections of students currently enrolled at the P053K@K838 location also be re-sited to K422 in 2012-2013 with the eight sections that were already approved by the PEP to be re-sited.

While the eleven sections described above will be re-sited to K422 under the revised proposal, when the students in three of the sections graduate in the coming years, District 75 does not intend to replace those classes with new enrollees in K422. District 75 projects that the one ID and LD 12:1:1 class it intended to move to P053K@1088K will graduate at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. It also projects that one of the ID and LD 12:1:1 class already approved to be re-sited to K422 will graduate at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year. Finally, District 75 projects that one of the ID and Autism 6:1:1 classes it intended to move to P053K@Kingsboro High School will graduate at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. Therefore, by the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, District 75 projects that eight classes of students will be served at K422.

There is sufficient space at K422 to accommodate these additional sections in the 2012-2013 through 2015-2016 school years pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint while Spring Creek Community School and Academy for Young Writers complete their expected expansions.

As discussed in the original EIS, District 75 projects that one of the two remaining ID and LD 12:1:1 classes will graduate, and the other will articulate into the District 75 Brooklyn Transition Center, a vocational program of the District 75 school 75K373 designed for students over the age of 18. The revised EIS does not affect these projections.

The revised proposal also does not affect any of the six other sites of 75K053. Rather than moving existing sections of 75K053 to P053K@1088K and P053K@Kingsboro High School, District 75 now expects to increase the enrollment at these two sites in 2012-2013 in scale approximate with the number of students it previously intended to move from P053K@K838.

II. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the original item

This revised EIS includes the following modifications:

- All eleven classes of P053K@K838 will be served in K422 beginning in 2012-2013. As students graduate out of the program, District 75 will decrease the number of sections served at K422 from 11 to 8 by the 2016-2017 school year.
- Rather than moving existing sections of 75K053 to P053K@1088K and P053K@Kingsboro High School, District 75 now expects to increase the enrollment at these two sites in 2012-2013 in scale approximate with the number of students it previously intended to move from P053K@K838.
- This revised proposal also does not affect any of the six other sites of 75K053

III. Summary of all public comment regarding the original proposal received to date.

A Joint Public Hearing regarding the original proposal was held at K838 on March 9, 2012. At the hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 90 members of the public attended the hearing and 32 attendees spoke. Present at the meeting were Barbara Joseph, District 75 Deputy Superintendent; Heather Leykam, Principal of 75K053; Pierre Labissiere, Joanna Joseph, and Cathy Hockenjos, representatives of the 75K053 School Leadership Team (“SLT”); New York City Councilman Charles Barron; New York State Assemblywoman Inez Barron; County Committeeman David Best; and Erica Perez, First Vice-President of the District 19 Community Education Council (“CEC”). Also present were Stephanie Crane, Antonio Whitaker, and Toby Shepherd of the DOE.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on March 9, 2012:

1. Councilman Charles Barron stated that:
 - a. The DOE goes through the motions of holding a Joint Public Hearing but then disregards public commentary to take whatever action the DOE has already decided to take.
 - b. It makes no sense to move some classes from K838 to K422 and to move other classes from K838 to other school buildings when K838 will be underutilized in 2012-2013.
 - c. The community needs to determine why the DOE is not proposing to re-site all sections of P053@K838 to K422. Are there structural problems with the building? Is the re-siting financially driven?
 - d. Parents of P053@K838 will fight the proposal and the community will not sit back and let the DOE do whatever it wants without respecting the opinions and concerns of the P053@K838 community.
2. Assemblywoman Inez Barron stated that:
 - a. It can be unsettling for children with special needs to be relocated to a new school facility and, even if all sections of P053@K838 are relocated to K422, the school

- community needs to be sensitive to the needs and challenges associated with relocating students with special needs.
- b. The community needs to make sure that students at P053@K838 do not experience a reduction in services as a result of this proposed re-siting.
3. First Vice-President of CEC 19 Erica Perez stated that:
 - a. Many of the children at P053@K838 are ‘travel trained,’ meaning that they have accomplished a significant feat by learning the routine of traveling to and from school.
 - b. If the DOE is proposing to re-site a school, there should be enough room to move all children to the new school site. To pick some classes that will move to a new site and other classes that will not move to a new site is segregation.
 - c. She has spoken with a P053@K838 parent who will have to spend \$40 daily transporting her child to and from P053K@Kingsboro, an existing site of the 75K053 school.
 4. Joanna Joseph, a member of the 75K053 SLT, stated that the school needs to stay unified to fight for the children in 75K053 and to show the DOE that the school refuses to be split up.
 5. Heather Leykam, Principal of 75K053, shared her pride at seeing many 75K053 students participating in the Joint Public Hearing, acknowledged that “the tremendous opportunity for a new space comes with controversy,” and affirmed that the school continues to plan to do what is in the best interest of the children.
 6. A hearing attendee stated that re-siting P053@K838 will be a struggle for her son who has Down syndrome. The parent stated that she has to bring her child lunch every day and that it will be a major problem to continue doing so if her son is in a different school facility.
 7. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. When K422 was in the design phase, the CEC was told that there would be room for 72 District 75 seats at the new facility but that, at that time, the CEC did expressed the opinion that K422 may need additional seats for a District 75 program.
 - b. CEC 19 did not ask for a school from Williamsburg to be moved into K422, and CEC 19 did not ask for P053@K838 to be split up among multiple sites.
 - c. The attendee characterized the proposal as “an insult” and observed that the DOE representatives present at the hearing “must be a bunch of morons.”
 - d. The attendee stated that students at P053@K838 need to remain with the teachers and staff that they currently know and that the students at P053@K838 should receive the resources that they need.
 8. A hearing attendee stated that P053@K838 has given her son confidence in himself and a will to live. The attendee implored the DOE to “do the right thing” and not re-site P053@K838 to K422.
 9. A hearing attendee stated that two of her children are enrolled at P053K@I296K, but the closest location to her would be the new K422 site. She further stated that commuting to Bushwick to attend P053K@I296K is a hardship, but that she opposes the proposal because it splits up the P053@K838 site.
 10. A hearing attendee observed that students at P053@K838 have severe disabilities and that parents are very concerned and united in opposition to this proposal.

11. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. It is unacceptable for the DOE to tell P053@K838 that it has to accept that it no longer will be united as a whole school and that teachers, students, and staff will be divided and sent a further distance all because there is not enough space at K422.
 - b. The DOE does not recognize the depth of needs of the children in P053@K838 who require special care on a regular basis.
 - c. The DOE is tearing apart who and what the students at P053@K838 know.
 - d. Dividing what students at P053@K838 are familiar with and not giving them a chance to transition will be the downfall of students at P053@K838.
 - e. The P053@K838 community will not be pushed around.
 - f. Students at 75K053 will have to travel longer to school and families will need to identify new doctors for their children.
 - g. The DOE should allow P053@K838 to transition into the new school together.
12. A hearing attendee stated that the teachers and staff at P053@K838 are wonderful and have been successful in encouraging her daughter to speak again. The attendee stated that she hopes the school will stay together and not be split up among multiple sites.
13. A hearing attendee stated that she is concerned for families that will be relocated, some to P053K@Kingsboro, which is over two hours away from K838. The attendee stated that she did not understand why there is not room for all 13 classes at K422 and asked the DOE to please keep the entire P053@K838 site together.
14. A hearing attendee stated that since her son has come to P053@K838 he has grown so much, but the DOE's proposal to break the school apart is not good for future students. The attendee shared her hope that the DOE will keep P053@K838 together.
15. A hearing attendee who is a student at P053@K838 said "let us stay, please."
16. A hearing attendee stated that her child has attended many schools, but has loved the teachers and staff at P053@K838 very much. The attendee stated that she would like to see the school stay together and not be split up because it would be hard on students at P053@K838 who are fragile.
17. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. Her child loves P053@K838 and that it is a school where everyone works together. The attendee stated that parents only learned about the proposed division of children and staff very recently and that parents are upset at having options taken away from them and is upset at being forced to make critical decisions under severe time constraints.
 - b. The P053@K838 community must stay together and it is not happy about the proposed re-siting, but if they must be re-sited they will all do so together.
 - c. To add additional, unnecessary burdens on parents of P053@K838 is proof that the DOE does not care about students at P053@K838. Students with special needs should not be forced to spend over two hours a day traveling to and from P053K@Kingsboro. If the DOE does care about students with special needs, then the DOE will allow P053@K838 to remain together as one site at K422.
18. A hearing attendee stated:
 - a. Her children have great difficulty adapting to change, but can do so if everybody stays together.
 - b. If her child is separated she will digress and it will be the DOE's fault.

- c. How dare the DOE disrupt her life like this? The attendee stated that the DOE wants to “tear us up” because it does not prioritize the needs of children with special needs.
19. A hearing attendee asked why the school was being punished despite its strong performance. The attendee stated that no one asked for a new school building and that P053@K838 does not want a big gymnasium or new technology, but instead wants to stay together and not be split among multiple sites.
20. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. She has heard the phrase “no child left behind” for years but that it does not apply to minority students or students with special needs.
 - b. She is concerned that students at P053@K838 will be subjected to bullying by high school students at the two secondary schools planned for K422.
21. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. The DOE has built a new school building and has now said that not all children will be allowed to be there. It makes no sense to split up P053@K838 while simultaneously giving space at K422 to students from outside of the district.
 - b. Sending children to sites of P053@K838 in far away locations will be problematic because students with special needs cannot ride to and from home by themselves.
 - c. The attendee asked why the DOE has built a brand-new building in the community, but is now planning on sending children from P053K@K838 to a building outside of the community.
22. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. The DOE is “throwing children around like guinea pigs.”
 - b. The attendee asked why the DOE has to move students from K838 and speculated that it has to be about money.
 - c. The attendee expressed concern about who would look out for her child if her child was re-sited to a different location.
23. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. The community at P053@K838 is “mad as hell,” “is not backing down,” and “is going to win this.”
 - b. The way the DOE has treated the P053@K838 community has been disrespectful and that the DOE thinks children at P053@K838 are animals.
 - c. The children at P053@K838 should be respected like the children in the DOE representatives’ communities.
 - d. Even though the commentary at the Joint Public Hearing would be brought back to the DOE, nothing will be respected and everything that has been said will be thrown out of the window.
24. A hearing attendee stated that her child has already been transferred to P053K@Kingsboro. The attendee stated that it takes her fifty minutes to drive him to school, two hours by a bus route that requires three separate buses, or even longer by a train route that requires four separate trains. The attendee stated that if her son misses the bus, he must skip school. The attendee characterized the proposal as “outrageous” and stated that parents of children with special needs need the school and the family to stay together.

25. A hearing attendee stated that the school has told her that her child will be relocated to P053K@Kingsboro. In the past, because of her child's special needs, her child could not cope with traveling a longer distance. The attendee stated that the proposal is "ridiculous" and that staff at the DOE should live with a child with special needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to understand the hardship that families with special needs children face.
26. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. The DOE has proposed to close the school attended by one of her daughters and has proposed to co-locate a new school in the building where her other daughter attends school. The attendee stated that the DOE is destroying the foundation of children's schools and does not care.
 - b. Her son has flourished at P053@K838 and that separating students and not giving families the opportunity to decide where they want to send their children is like separating a child from its mother.
 - c. Her son is accustomed to the routine and structure of attending P053K@K838 and changing routines will make her child regress.
 - d. She lives three hours from the Kingsboro College site and it is not fair to expect her child to travel there.
 - e. The P053@K838 community knows that in K422 there is enough space to house all 13 classes.
27. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. She believes a person can judge a civilization by how it treats its most vulnerable populations and that she is now looking the DOE in the eye to say "you are wrong."
 - b. Everyone needs to come together to let the DOE know that K422 is for students in District 19, not for students from District 14.
28. A hearing attendee stated that her son is very happy at P053@K838 because of the staff at the school. The attendee stated that she does not want and cannot afford for her son to be somewhere else. The attendee stated that she currently comes home from work at 2:00 AM but wakes up to bring her son to school at 5:00 AM.
29. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. The P053@K838 school community is a family and that teachers work hard and that the DOE is "rewarding" the success of P053@K838 by splitting up the school. The attendee stated that more than a new building and new facilities, the P053@K838 community wants to stay together.
 - b. The attendee stated that P053@K838 is "fighting, fighting, fighting" in futility against "the machine," that the hearing is worthless and that attendee's words will be falling on deaf ears because a decision regarding this proposal has already been made.
30. A hearing attendee stated that "we are people," and that "we are going to stand and be respected and be treated as such and we are not going to settle for anything else." The attendee said the entire P053@K838 family should be re-sited to K422.
31. A hearing attendee stated that:
 - a. She is in agreement with other comments previously stated.
 - b. She is doing everything she can to find a way so that her child is not separated from the school.

- c. The community has a right to have its opinion respected.
32. A representative of New York City Councilman Charles Barron stated that:
- a. The decision regarding the re-siting has already been made.
 - b. When the DOE takes the most vulnerable and disrespects them it is a measure of who the DOE really is.
 - c. The P053@K838 community has to speak directly with the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) in a language the PEP will understand and tell them that just as they want what is best for their children, so do parents at P053@K838.
 - d. The P053@K838 community needs to strategize to win this struggle and there will be future organizing meetings. The P053@K838 community will continue to demonstrate and should be prepared to be unlimited in what it is willing to do to win.

In addition to collecting feedback at the Joint Public Hearing referenced above, the DOE solicited feedback on this proposal via email, telephone and an internet feedback form.

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

No issues were raised in oral or written comments submitted to the DOE.

The analysis of public comments regarding the original proposal is available at:
http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/938CCA63-7D38-4CD6-9751-537F88BCC560/121993/P053KResitePCA_vFINAL.pdf

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

The revised EIS regarding this revised proposal can be found on the DOE’s Web site:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/May2012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the revised EIS are also available in the main office of P053K@K838.

V. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208

VI. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the revised 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: D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Phone: 212-374-0208

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

May 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Building K838
720 Livonia Ave
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.

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

May 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
The William Howard Taft Educational Campus
240 East 172 Street
Bronx, NY 10457