Department of Education
Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
March 4, 2014

The Revised Proposed Co-Location of Grades Six through Eight of American Dream Charter School (84XTBD) with Existing School P.S. 30 Wilton (07X030) in Building X030 Beginning in the 2014-2015 School Year

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

On August 29, 2013, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") and Building Utilization Plan ("BUP") describing a proposal to co-locate grades six through eight of American Dream Charter School (84XTBD, "American Dream") in building X030 ("X030"), located at 510 East 141st Street, Bronx, NY 10454 in Community School District 7 ("District 7"), with P.S. 30 Wilton (07X030, "P.S. 30") beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 30 is an existing elementary school currently serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades and offers a pre-kindergarten program. American Dream is a public charter school that was authorized to serve students in sixth through eighth grades by the New York State Education Department ("SED") on December 17, 2013. The school intends to become a full secondary school, serving grades six through twelve, and will apply for this grade expansion in advance of its eighth-grade students articulating into high school. This proposal only applies to grades six through eight of American Dream. 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 October 15, 2013, the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") approved the proposal to co-locate grades six through eight of American Dream in X030 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

The DOE is now issuing a revised EIS and a revised BUP. These revisions reflect updated audited and projected enrollment figures for P.S. 30 (including projections for an additional section of pre-kindergarten), as well as updated projected enrollment figures for American Dream, which will serve fewer students in X030 than planned in the original EIS. The BUP has also been revised to include modified instructional and administrative space allocations, as well as a modified proposed shared space schedule for the schools. These revisions do not substantially change the proposal, but do result in a shift of some space from American Dream to P.S. 30, as P.S. 30 will be larger than originally projected and American Dream will be smaller. The revised EIS also includes American Dream's updated charter lottery preferences. Additionally, throughout the revised EIS and BUP, miscellaneous edits and corrections have been made and all data and calculations have been updated to reflect the DOE's most current information.

American Dream will enroll students in grades six through eight through a lottery process, giving preference to returning students, siblings of students currently enrolled at American Dream, and students residing in District 7. The school's educational program will include a dual language component designed to help students achieve academic success in both English and Spanish. American Dream will conduct community outreach to recruit and serve English Language Learner ("ELL") students and recent immigrants interested in its dual-language programming. Enrollment and admission information for American Dream are described in greater detail in the revised EIS.

If this revised proposal is approved, American Dream will begin serving approximately 70-85 sixth-grade students in the X030 building at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The school will then add one grade each year until it serves approximately 210-255 students in grades six through eight in the 2016-2017 school year. As indicated in the revised BUP, there is sufficient space in the X030 building to meet the instructional and administrative space needs of both P.S. 30 and American Dream during and after the phase-in period of American Dream.

The DOE supports American Dream's placement in X030, as this proposal is intended to increase the number of programs geared toward ELL students in District 7.

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

This revised EIS and revised BUP include the following modifications:

- Updated audited and projected enrollment figures for P.S. 30 (including projections for an additional section of pre-kindergarten);
- Updated projected enrollment figures for American Dream, which will serve fewer students in X030 than planned in the original EIS;
- Updated data and calculations based on the DOE's most current information;
- American Dream's updated charter lottery preferences;
- Modified instructional and administrative space allocations; and
- A modified proposed shared space schedule.

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

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building X030 on October 7, 2013. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 45 members of the public attended the hearing and 8 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 7 Superintendent Yolanda Torres; P.S. 30 School Leadership Team ("SLT") representatives, Carlos Diaz and Dr. Jacqueline Smith; District 7 Community Education Council ("CEC 7") representatives, Almeta Trammel, Noemi Lizardi, John Fielder, Love Andujar, and Paulette Williams; P.S. 30's network leader, Roxan Marks; and Pier Duncan, Mark David, Annabelle Eliashiv and Yael Kalban from the New York City DOE. Because the joint public hearing also served as the facilities hearing for New York State Department of Education ("SED") to gather community feedback on the proposed co-location, a representative from the SED, Jamal Young, was also in attendance.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on October 7, 2013:

1. Carlos Lopez, a member of the P.S. 30 SLT, asserted that:
    a. During the previous co-location, P.S. 30 had to give up a number of specialty classrooms such as the computer lab, occupational therapy rooms, counseling rooms and English Second Language service rooms, which negatively impacted their students. He argued that these rooms are not considered in calculating each school's Footprint.
    b. P.S. 30 is growing and will need more space in the future. He referenced that P.S. 30's current enrollment is already above the projections for the 2013-2014 school year.
    c. The EIS projects a building utilization rate above 100%. There is not enough space in the building.
    d. There are middle and high schools across the street. American Dream should be sited with another middle school, not an elementary school.
    e. There are contradictions throughout the EIS about what grades American Dream will serve.
2. Dr. Jacqueline Smith, a member of P.S. 30's SLT, argued that this co-location would create overcrowding in the building.
3. Almeta Trammel, a CEC 7 member, who spoke on behalf of the CEC 7 President, declared that:
    a. CEC 7 is in full support of the P.S. 30 parent body, which does not want a charter school in the building.
    b. She stated that P.S. 30's enrollment in current grades should be allowed to grow.
4. Violeta Guevara, a CEC 7 member, asserted that:
    a. She is strongly against a charter being introduced into the X030 building because she believes it would negatively affect the students and parents of P.S. 30.
    b. She believes the students of P.S. 30 would not have enough space.
    c. The current students are used to a system and this will disrupt that system.
5. Love Andujar, a CEC 7 member, voiced that:
    a. She supports the parents in opposition to a charter being introduced to the building.
    b. She questions the DOE's statement that there is no anticipated impact on P.S. 30.
    c. She is frustrated that the parents do not have a say about what happens in the building.
    d. P.S. 30 is growing and that there is no room for a charter in the building.
6. Several commenters opposed the co-location on the grounds that elementary school aged children should not go to school with middle school aged children.
7. One commenter, a member of P.S. 30's staff, opposed the co-location on the grounds that:
    a. She needs rooms for workshops and parent meetings.
    b. Additionally, she argued that the school is growing.
8. One commenter, a parent of three children at P.S. 30, expressed concern that American Dream students would bully P.S. 30 students.

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

No written comments were received at the joint public hearing or via email.

No oral comments were received via voicemail.

The analysis of public comments regarding the original proposal is available at: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct15SchoolProposals.

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

The revised EIS and revised BUP regarding this revised proposal can be found on the DOE's Web site: www.schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/SchoolProposalsMay62014PEP.

Copies of the revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in P.S. 30's main office.

V. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
Oral comments can be made by calling (212) 374-5159.

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: Keely Faulkner
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: (212) 374-5159

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

April 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Building X030
510 East 141st Street
Bronx, NY 10454

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 of the hearing.

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

May 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Murry Bergtraum High School
411 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10038