



Amended Notice  
June 13, 2011

**The Revised Proposed Co-location of the New Visions High School for the Humanities (84X553) and the New Visions High School for Advanced Math & Science (84X539) with John F. Kennedy High School (10X475), Bronx Engineering and Technology Academy (10X213), Bronx School for Law and Finance (10X284), E.L.L.I.S. Preparatory Academy (10X397), Marble Hill High School for International Studies (10X477), and Bronx Theatre High School (10X546) in School Building X475**

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

On January 15, 2011, 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 the New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities (84X553, “High School for the Humanities”) and the New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math & Science (84X539, “High School for Advanced Math & Science”), two new charter high schools, in school building X475 (“X475” or the “John F. Kennedy Campus”). Building X475 is located at 99 Terrace View Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463, within the geographical confines of Community School District 10 (“District 10”). 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. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved this proposal on March 1, 2011.

In a separate EIS published on December 20, 2010, the DOE proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close Kennedy after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school is unable to turn around despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. On January 27, 2011, that EIS was amended to correct typographical and formatting errors and a building utilization rate, explain the methodology for calculating such rates, clarify the “over-the-counter” enrollment process, and include certain room allocation totals. The Panel for Educational Policy approved that proposal on February 3, 2011. As a result, Kennedy will no longer admit new ninth grade students after the conclusion of

the current school year. Kennedy's enrollment will decrease gradually over the next three years and the school will complete phasing out in June 2014.

Upon further consideration of the BUP, among other things, the DOE has substantially revised this proposal.

On June 1, 2011, the DOE published a revised EIS, a revised BUP, and a revised notice. The revisions to the EIS and BUP are described in detail in Section II below. The revised notice provided information about a new Joint Public Hearing that will take place on this revised proposal. That hearing will take place on June 17, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at the John F. Kennedy Campus, which is located at 99 Terrace View Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463.

**This amended notice is to advise you that the location where the Panel for Educational Policy meeting will be held and where the vote for this proposal will take place has changed as indicated in Section VIII below.**

If this revised co-location proposal is approved, High School for the Humanities and High School for Advanced Math & Science will be co-located with the following six existing schools: John F. Kennedy High School (10X475, "Kennedy"), Bronx Engineering and Technology Academy (10X213, "BETA"), Bronx School for Law and Finance (10X284, "BSLF"), E.L.L.I.S. Preparatory Academy (10X397, "E.L.L.I.S. Academy"), Marble Hill High School for International Studies (10X477, "Marble Hill"), and Bronx Theatre High School (10X546, "Bronx Theatre"). E.L.L.I.S. Academy is currently in its third year of phase-in and is expected to serve its full grade span of 9-12 in 2011-2012. The other schools in the building have already reached full scale and currently enroll students in grades 9-12.

In addition, building X475 also houses two evening programs: a GED Plus ("GED Plus") program and a Young Adult Borough Center ("YABC"). Both the GED Plus program and the YABC offer Learning to Work ("LTW"), a program that assists students in overcoming obstacles that impede their progress toward a high school or GED diploma by offering additional academic and student support, skills development, and career exploration and internship opportunities. Building X475 also provides space to two community-based organizations ("CBOs"): F.E.G.S. Health & Human Services and Henkel & McCoy TechBridge. F.E.G.S. Health & Human Services is the CBO partner for the YABC and the GED Plus program under the Learning to Work initiative. Henkel & McCoy TechBridge is a program that provides students with work-based learning, work readiness and occupational skills training. There is no anticipated impact on the GED Plus program, the YABC, the LTW programs, and the CBOs in building X475 as a result of this proposal. These programs and CBOs are not expected to lose any space or reduce the services offered as a result of this proposal.

In 2009-2010, building X475 enrolled 3,111 students and the building had a target capacity to serve 3,992 students, yielding a target building utilization rate of 78%. In 2010-2011, building X475 serves 3,041 students, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 76% of target capacity. This means that the building is "under-utilized" and has extra space to accommodate additional students. If this revised co-location proposal is approved, High School for the Humanities and High School for Advanced Math & Science will gradually phase in to X475 by adding one grade level every year until both schools reach their full grade span of 9-12 in the

2014-2015 school year, serving approximately 400-600 students each. High School for the Humanities and High School for Advanced Math & Science will be co-located with Kennedy as that school phases out. Long term, High School for the Humanities and High School for Advanced Math & Science will share space with BETA, BSLF, E.L.L.I.S. Academy, Marble Hill, Bronx Theatre, the GED Plus program, the YABC, and two CBOs in building X475. E.L.L.I.S. Academy will also continue to expand as planned. Once E.L.L.I.S. Academy, High School for the Humanities, and High School for Advanced Math & Science complete their expansions, and Kennedy completes its phase-out, the building will serve approximately 2,750-3,400 students in 2014-2015, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 85% of target capacity.

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

The revised EIS has been modified to include adjusted projected enrollment ranges for next year, updated estimated building utilization rates and clarified footnotes related to the same, enrollment data related to the 2010-2011 Audited Register, a further description of the impact of the co-location proposal on the community-based organizations, the Young Adult Borough Center, the GED Plus program, and the Learning to Work programs, updated admissions information for the new charter high schools, the DBNs for the new charter high schools, updated information about the High School Admissions Process, clarified information about the proposed shared space schedule, and additional information on the other new high schools opening in the Bronx in September 2011.

The BUP has been modified to include additional information related to the use of shared spaces in X475, clarify the rationale for the Shared Space Plan and correct the Shared Space Plan accordingly. Specifically, the BUP has been revised in the following manner:

- The DOE has clarified the rationale for the amount of time that each school is allocated in each of the shared spaces during the 2011-2012 school year;
- the shared space schedule has been adjusted;
- additional tables have been inserted to clarify the total number of rooms in excess of each school's baseline allocation;
- additional tables have been inserted to clarify the net change in rooms for each school from year to year;
- enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is consistent with the 2010-2011 Audited Register;
- projected enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year is consistent with final enrollment projections for the same year;
- the number of sections/classes that each school is projected to serve in 2011-2012 and beyond has been included;
- the total number of indoor physical education spaces in X475 has been adjusted to include four gymnasiums, a weight room, an exercise/cardio room, and a dance room;
- the total number of student cafeterias in X475 has been adjusted to include the 4<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria;
- the total number of half-size spaces occupied by community-based organizations in X475 has been adjusted to include F.E.G.S. Health & Human Services, which currently occupies 1 half-size space in the building;

- a typo, which incorrectly referenced the total number of half-size spaces in X475 as 28 instead of 31, has been corrected; and
- room allocations for each school have been adjusted in order to more accurately reflect the total full-size and half-size rooms in X475.

### **III. Summary of all public comment received to date.**

A Joint Public Hearing regarding the original proposal set forth in the January 15, 2011 EIS was held at X475 on February 15, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately ten members of the public attended the hearing, one person spoke, and four questions were submitted. Present at the meeting were: Deputy Chancellor Santiago Taveras; High Schools Superintendent Elena Papaliberios; District 10 Community Education Council (“CEC 10”) President Marvin Shelton; Kennedy Principal and School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representative Lisa Luft; BETA SLT representatives Catherine Scott and Pee Wee Kirkland; BSLF SLT representative Zoraida Torres; E.L.L.I.S. Academy Principal Norma Vega; Marble Hill SLT representative Mary Hughes-Hernández; Bronx Theatre Principal Deborah Effinger; Bronx Theatre SLT representative Chris Lewis; Citywide Council on High Schools (“CCHS”) representative Denise Sullivan; and Jenny Sobelman from the DOE’s Office of Public Affairs. A representative from the office of New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera was also in attendance.

The following comments and remarks were made at the Joint Public Hearing on the original proposal:

1. E.L.L.I.S. Academy Principal Norma Vega expressed concern about whether the proposed new charter high schools will serve English Language Learners (“ELLs”) to meet the needs of the community. She commented that her school has taken the majority of the ELLs who newly start on the Kennedy campus. She said that she had hoped that one of the schools coming to the campus would be an ELL/International-students focused school.
2. Four questions were submitted on behalf of State Senator Rivera:
  - a. A question was submitted inquiring how parents were informed about the Joint Public Hearing regarding the co-location proposal.
  - b. A question was submitted inquiring whether the proposed new charter high schools will have to accommodate ELLs and students with special needs, or whether they will receive a waiver so that they do not have to. The question also asked what the DOE planned to do to support ELL students and students with special needs if the new schools did not have to accommodate them.
  - c. A question was submitted inquiring how the new schools’ lottery processes will work to give priority to District 10 students and how parents will be notified about the lottery processes.
  - d. A question was submitted regarding the support that Kennedy would get as the school phases out.
3. A commenter inquired whether students would be required to take an entrance test to be admitted to the new charter high schools, and whether there would be students in District 10 who would meet the new schools’ admissions requirements.

The DOE also received comments at the Joint Public Hearing held on January 28, 2011 at X475 regarding the proposal to phase out Kennedy. Certain comments related to the co-location proposal are included below:

4. Senator Adriano Espaillat of the 31st Senatorial District for New York State commented:
  - a. The priority is to improve the quality of education for students. If alternative options to Kennedy can provide education, Kennedy can be closed.
  - b. However, we need to limit disruption to students and ensure viable placement for “over-the-counter” students including ELLs and students with disabilities.
  - c. The DOE needs to give information to parents in a timely manner. The DOE took a long time to respond to requests for community meetings. The DOE should improve its communication with families.
5. Senator Gustavo Rivera of the 33rd Senatorial District of New York State commented:
  - a. If the DOE phases out Kennedy, the incoming school needs to be higher quality than Kennedy. The transition must be smooth. The needs of ELLs must be attended to. The new school must meet or exceed the resources that Kennedy offered to students.
6. City Councilman Oliver Koppell commented:
  - a. The DOE should have a community meeting to discuss what schools should replace Kennedy.
  - b. The DOE seems to have decided that Kennedy should be replaced by two charter schools. However, the student body is largely comprised of ELLs and students with disabilities who will not be served by those charter schools. This will have an impact on other schools in the Bronx. These students are going to go to Clinton High School, which is already serving many struggling students. Clinton High School will be overwhelmed. E.L.L.I.S. Academy is already overflowing; the DOE should give more seats to E.L.L.I.S. Academy.
7. City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez commented:
  - a. The DOE needs to listen to families and communities. Elected officials met with the DOE and developed a plan to meet with the community regarding the phase out and replacement options for Kennedy. Before the meeting took place, someone leaked a document to the New York Times that indicated that the DOE was looking at bringing a charter school in to replace Kennedy. The decision has already been made and this is wrong; the DOE needs to listen to students, parents, and elected officials.
  - b. Charter schools can be a model, but not the only model. Privatization is not the answer.
8. City Council Member Robert Jackson, Chair of the Education Committee, stated:
  - a. Kennedy has been overcrowded for many years. This has had negative effects on students. Students in overcrowded buildings get into more fights. This drives down demand.
  - b. Parents need to be engaged and the DOE needs to listen to their feedback.
  - c. The DOE held a meeting with elected officials in December regarding the school. At that point, DOE officials said they didn’t know what the replacement plan for Kennedy would be. Then, the New York Times leaked a document indicating that

the DOE planned to replace Kennedy with a charter school. There needs to be greater transparency.

9. A commenter stated that small charter schools do not have enough classrooms for teaching.
10. A commenter stated that charter school lotteries lead to fewer seats.
11. A commenter stated that charter schools have resources that Kennedy doesn't.
12. A commenter asked what the DOE will do to deal with overcrowding if Kennedy is phased out.
13. A commenter asked what the difference is between public schools and charter schools.
14. A commenter asked why Educational Impact Statements regarding the proposed phase out and replacement of Kennedy were not released simultaneously.

The DOE also received comments through the dedicated e-mail address and voicemail phone number on the original proposal:

15. CEC 10 President Marvin Shelton stated his opposition to the phase-out and co-location proposals because placing two new schools in the building will be difficult to manage, expensive and will reduce capacity to accommodate "over-the-counter" enrollment.

The analysis of these public comments is available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar12011Proposals.htm>.

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

The revised EIS and revised BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/June2011Proposals>. Copies of the revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in the main offices of Kennedy, BETA, BSLF, E.L.L.I.S. Academy, Marble Hill, and Bronx Theatre.

#### **V. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

Oral comments can be left at (212) 374-5159.

#### **VI. The name, office, address, e-mail and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.**

Name: Rosa Fernández  
Office: Office of Portfolio Management  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
E-mail: [HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: (212) 374-5159

**VII. Date, time and place of Joint Public Hearings for this proposal.**

A Joint Public Hearing regarding the original proposal was held at X475 on February 15, 2011.

A full transcript of this hearing can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/Kennedy#co-location>.

A new Joint Public Hearing will be held to gather public comment on this revised proposal:

Date: June 17, 2011

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: John F. Kennedy Campus  
99 Terrace View Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463

Questions about the proposal can be directed as indicated in section VI above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. To request interpretation services, please contact Ms. Fernández at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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

June 27, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.  
Prospect Heights Campus  
883 Classon Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11225