Department of Education
Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
January 8, 2015

The Proposed Opening and Co-Location of The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning II (84XTBD) with J.H.S. 144 Michelangelo (11X144) and Pelham Gardens Middle School (11X566) in Building X144 Beginning in the 2015-2016 School Year

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

The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") is proposing to open and co-locate the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning II (84XTBD, "BBL II") in building X144 ("X144"), located at 2545 Gunther Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469 in District 11, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. If this proposal is approved, BBL II will be co-located in building X144 with J.H.S. 144 Michelangelo (11X144, "J.H.S. 144") and Pelham Gardens Middle School (11X566, "Pelham Gardens"), which are both existing zoned district middle schools that serve students in sixth through eighth grades. BBL II is a new public charter school that will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. 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.

Pursuant to recent amendments to the Education Law, which provide certain new and expanding charter schools with access to facilities, BBL II requested co-located space within a DOE facility. BBL II is a replication of the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning ("BBL"), an existing public charter school located in District 11 in the X111 building, located at 3740 Baychester Avenue, Bronx NY 10466. BBL serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades, and the majority of these students reside in District 11. BBL performs well in comparison to schools within the Bronx and across New York City. In the 2013-2014 school year, BBL ranked in the 81st percentile for Citywide and 96th percentile for District-wide English Language Arts ("ELA") proficiency scores. In the 2013-2014 school year, BBL ranked in the 87th percentile for Citywide and 91st percentile for District-wide math proficiency scores. Given BBL's record of success and the need for additional elementary school seats in the Bronx resulting from kindergarten and elementary school enrollment growth, the DOE supports the placement of BBL II in District 11.

BBL II has been authorized by the State University of New York Trustees ("SUNY") to serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade with the plan to grow through fifth grade following its first charter renewal. If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year,

BBL II will serve approximately 70 - 80 kindergarten students, and it will add one grade each school year thereafter until it reaches its full grade span of kindergarten through fifth grades in 2020-2021. At that time, BBL II will serve 420 - 480 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.

According to the 2013-2014 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization, Report (the "Blue Book"), building X144 has a target capacity of 1,534 students. During the 2014-2015 school year, the building serves a total of approximately 1,025 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 67%. According to the Under-utilized Space Memorandum, building X144 is "under-utilized" and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal is approved, BBL II, J.H.S 144, and Pelham Gardens will collectively serve between 1,380 and 1,500 students in the building in 2020-2021, which yields a projected utilization rate of approximately 90% - 98%. All three schools will receive their baseline space allocations pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint ("the Footprint") over the course of the proposal's implementation.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") and Building Utilization Plan ("BUP") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/February2015SchoolProposals.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Pelham Gardens and J.H.S. 144.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

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

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Ashley Davies
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearing for this proposal.

February 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
X144 Building
2545 Gunther Ave
Bronx, NY 10469

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.

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

February 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
The Michael J. Petrides School
715 Ocean Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301