

Public Comment Analysis

Date: October 29, 2013

Topic: The Amended Revised Proposed Co-location of a New District Elementary School (12X458) with Existing Schools P.S. 050 Clara Barton (12X050) and Fairmont Neighborhood School (12X314) in Building X050 Beginning in 2014-2015

Date of Panel Vote: October 30, 2013

Summary of Proposal

On September 13, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to co-locate a new, non-zoned district elementary school, 12X458, in building X050 (“X050”), located at 1550 Vyse Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460 in Community School District 12 (“District 12”), beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. If this proposal is approved, 12X458 will be co-located in building X050 with P.S. 050 Clara Barton (12X050, “P.S. 050”), an existing elementary school that is in the process of phasing out and is currently serving students in third through fifth grades; and Fairmont Neighborhood School (12X314, “Fairmont”), an existing elementary school that is currently serving students in kindergarten through second grades in the X050 building and is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Additionally, Fairmont offers a pre-kindergarten program. 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 11, 2013, the DOE issued a revised EIS which reflects a change in the proposed admissions policy for 12X458 and a change in the grade levels with which it will open if this proposal is approved. The revised EIS also corrects typographical errors. 12X458 is now proposed to be a zoned school, serving the same zone as Fairmont, and will open with only kindergarten, rather than kindergarten and first grades.

On October 25, 2013, the DOE issued an amended revised EIS, which clarifies that, in the 2019-2020 school year, Fairmont’s adjusted baseline allocation includes 22 full-size rooms (which was correctly reflected in the “Adjusted Baseline Footprint Allocation for Full-Size Classrooms” chart, but incorrectly described in the text), and that 12X458’s adjusted baseline allocation has been increased to 18 full-size rooms (rather than 17 full-size rooms) to accommodate an additional self-contained section and 3.0 full-size equivalent (“FSE”) rooms for administrative use (rather than 3.5 FSE rooms).

If this proposal is approved, 12X458 will serve 50-60 students in the X050 building in kindergarten, and will add one grade per year until the school has reached full scale and serves 300-360 students in kindergarten through fifth grades in 2019-2020. The DOE anticipates that 12X458 will offer a Spanish dual-language program in order to meet the needs of English Language Learner (“ELL”) students and provide an opportunity for non-ELL students to develop fluency in a second language, though ELL programming offered at a given school is always subject to demand.

On March 11, 2013, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved the proposal to gradually phase out and eventually close P.S. 050 because of its low performance and inability to improve quickly to better support student needs. As a result, P.S. 050 stopped admitting kindergarten, first, and second grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. One grade will be phased out each subsequent year. During the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 050 serves students in third, fourth, and fifth grades; in 2014-2015, it will serve students in fourth and fifth grades and in 2015-2016, P.S. 050 will serve students in fifth grade. The school will close after June 2016. The EIS describing the approved proposal to phase out and close P.S. 050 is available at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

On March 11, 2013, the PEP also approved the proposal to co-locate Fairmont in X050 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Fairmont currently serves kindergarten, first, and second grade students, and offers a pre-kindergarten program. Fairmont will add one grade per year until the school has reached full scale and serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades in 2016-2017. Fairmont admits students according to standard zoned admissions priorities as described in Chancellor's Regulation A-101. The EIS describing the approved proposal to open and co-locate Fairmont in X050 is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report ("Blue Book"), X050 has a target capacity of 709 students, but in 2013-2014, the building is serving approximately only 409 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 58%. This means that the building is "under-utilized" and has extra space to accommodate additional students.

In 2019-2020, once P.S. 050 has completed its phase-out and Fairmont and 12X458 have both reached full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 636-756 students served in X050, thereby yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 90%-107%. As discussed in Section II of the amended revised EIS, while the building utilization rate may exceed 100%, all schools will receive at least their baseline (or adjusted) footprint allocation of instructional space.

One community-based organization occupies space in the X050 building: Children's Aid Society. This proposal is not expected to impact the continued siting of this program.

The amended revised EIS can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct30SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the amended revised EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 050 and Fairmont.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building X050 on October 28, 2013. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 11 members of the public attended the hearing. No individuals spoke. Present at the meeting were: Community School District 12 Superintendent Myrna Rodriguez; Community Education Council ("CEC") 12 President Ilka Rios and Representative Catherine Baez; P.S. 050 School Leadership Team ("SLT") representative Principal Kim Nohavicka; Fairmont SLT representative Principal Francesca Weiss; Jose Vazquez from the DOE's Division of Family and Community Engagement; and Gilbert Cox, Michael Nolan, and Ashley Davies from the DOE's Division of Portfolio Planning.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on October 28, 2013:

No comments were received related to this proposal.

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

No comments were received related to this proposal.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.