



Notice
December 22, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-Location of a New Charter High School, the New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math & Science II (84XTBD), with Existing School Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655) and a New Transfer High School (07X557) in Building X655 Beginning in 2012-2013

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II (84XTBD, “AMS II”) in building X655 beginning in 2012-2013. AMS II is a new public charter school that would serve students in grades nine through twelve at scale. Building X655 is located at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455, within the geographical confines of Community School District 7 (“District 7”). If this and the corresponding proposals (described below) are approved, AMS II would be co-located in building X655 with Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655, “Samuel Gompers”) and 07X557, a new transfer high school, in 2012-2013. 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.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on December 22, 2011, the DOE is proposing to phase out Samuel Gompers, an existing Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) high school currently located in building X655.

The DOE proposed to phase out Samuel Gompers after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If the phase-out of Samuel Gompers is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) in February 2012, Samuel Gompers would no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The school’s enrollment would decrease gradually over the next three years, and the school would complete its phase-out in June 2015. The details of the phase-out proposal can be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

In the event that the phase-out of Samuel Gompers is not approved, the DOE would re-examine the availability of space in building X655 and may, if appropriate, revise this co-location proposal.

In a separate EIS, the DOE is also proposing to open and co-locate 07X557, a new transfer high school, in building X655 beginning in 2012-2013. If the co-location proposal of 07X557 is approved, 07X655 would begin to enroll over-age, under-credited students in grades nine through twelve in September 2012. The details of that proposal can be found on the DOE's Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

The proposed opening and co-location of AMS II in building X655 is part of the DOE's central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community. AMS II would offer CTE programs, which would train students with workforce skills in specific careers—and would thus help meet the DOE's goal of providing new CTE options for the community in light of the phase-out of Samuel Gompers.

The mission of AMS II is to ensure that its graduates have the skills and content knowledge necessary to succeed in their post-secondary choices by engaging them in coherent learning experiences that cultivate critical thinking and creativity. The school's charter was approved by the New York State Education Department ("SED") on September 12, 2011. Under this charter, AMS II would admit students through a charter lottery, giving preference to students who reside in District 7.

If all three proposals are approved, AMS II would be co-located in building X655 with Samuel Gompers (as it phases out) and with 07X557 (as it phases in). AMS II would open in September 2012 serving approximately 135-165 students in the ninth grade. AMS II would gradually phase into the building by adding one grade at a time in each subsequent year. The school is expected to reach full scale in 2015-2016, when it would serve approximately 540-660 students in grades nine through twelve.

Building X655 has a target capacity of 1,348 students. In 2010-2011—the most recent year for which audited enrollment data is available—the building served a total of 788 students, yielding a utilization rate of 58%. In the current 2011-2012 school year, the building is serving a total of 676 students, yielding a utilization rate of 50%.

In 2015-2016, once Samuel Gompers has completed its phase-out and both AMS II and 07X557 have reached full scale, there would be approximately 770-930 students served in the building. This yields a projected target building utilization rate of approximately 57-69%.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to high-quality

schools at every stage of their education. Additionally, the DOE is committed to providing high-quality CTE programs to students in New York City.

As detailed in a separate EIS posted on December 22, 2011, the DOE is proposing to phase out Samuel Gompers due to the school's history of poor performance. The DOE believes that continuing to allocate space and resources to schools that are unable to significantly improve student performance is neither efficient nor equitable. As part of the replacement strategy for Samuel Gompers, the DOE is proposing to recover the seats lost as a result of the phase-out of Samuel Gompers by opening two new high schools in building X655: AMS II and 07X557.

AMS II would offer a rigorous, college-preparatory program with CTE programming designed to equip students with the skills necessary to achieve success in college and careers. AMS II is planning to offer CTE programming in the following two career clusters: Health Sciences; and Science, Research, and Engineering.

AMS II would be managed by New Visions for Public Schools ("New Visions"), an organization committed to preparing students for high school graduation as well as for successful futures in college and careers. New Visions would provide academic, programmatic, and operational supports to the school.

New Visions has an extensive record of effectively providing support and start-up services to new small schools in historically underserved communities in New York City and nationwide. Since 2002 New Visions has created several new small high schools in New York City, including two new charter high schools, both of which opened in September 2011 on the John F. Kennedy Educational Campus in District 10 of the Bronx. Therefore, the DOE believes that AMS II would provide a better educational option for students and families in the Bronx.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

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

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

V. Date, time, and place of Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.

February 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School
455 Southern Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10455

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 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217