



Notice  
January 7, 2016

## **The Proposed Consolidation of Peace and Diversity Academy (12X278) with The Metropolitan High School (12X248) in Building X099 Beginning in the 2016-2017 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 consolidate Peace and Diversity Academy (12X278, “PDA”), an existing high school that currently serves students in ninth through twelfth grade, with The Metropolitan High School (12X248, “Metropolitan”), another existing high school that serves students in ninth through twelfth grade, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The DOE is proposing to consolidate PDA and Metropolitan because PDA has struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges, and because consolidation would support enrollment at Metropolitan. A “consolidation” means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. Proposals for consolidation seek to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools and distributing resources to reinforce academic enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports. If this proposal is approved, PDA and Metropolitan will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of PDA will become part of Metropolitan, and PDA will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2016-2017 school year.

Metropolitan and PDA are co-located in building X099 (“X099”), located at 1180 Reverend J.A. Polite Avenue, Bronx, New York 10459, in Community School District 12 (“District 12”), along with P723X (75X723, “75X723@X099”), a District 75 (“D75”) program that serves students in kindergarten through twelfth grade at multiple locations in the Bronx. The D75 program at X099 is an inclusive education program that serves students in ninth through twelfth grade and is affiliated with PDA. If this proposal is approved, 75X723@X099 will continue to serve students in ninth through twelfth grade in X099 and will be affiliated with Metropolitan. Building X099 also houses the following community-based organizations: Phipps Neighborhoods (“Phipps”) and Astor Services for Children and Families (“Astor”), which serve students at Metropolitan and PDA. If this proposal is approved, Phipps and Astor will continue to provide services to students at the consolidated Metropolitan and maintain their space in X099.

The New York State Education Department (“SED”) assigns an accountability status to each district school—Good Standing, Local Assistance Plan, Focus, or Priority. Metropolitan has been identified as being in Good Standing, and PDA has been identified as a Focus school. If this proposal is approved, the newly consolidated school would retain Metropolitan’s “Good Standing” state accountability status.

PDA is one of a cohort of 94 schools that have been designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were assigned the state accountability status of Priority or Focus by SED, demonstrated low academic achievement (in 2012, 2013, and 2014), and scored

“Proficient” or below on their most recent Quality Review. (In four instances, schools were selected to be Renewal Schools per the Chancellor’s discretion). PDA is a Renewal School. Metropolitan is not a Renewal School.

As a Renewal School, PDA is currently being transformed into a Community School. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities congregate to share resources and address their common challenges. If this proposal is approved, the consolidated school would not be designated as a Renewal School, but it would be designated as a Community School.

Building X099 has the target capacity to serve a total of 673 students. If this proposal is approved, Metropolitan will absorb the enrollment of PDA and will serve a projected 485-525 students in ninth through twelfth grades in the 2016-2017 school year. 75X723@X099 will serve a projected 8-12 students in ninth through twelfth grades in the 2016-2017 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 493-537 students in X099, yielding a building utilization rate of 73%-80%. Accordingly, the DOE believes there is sufficient space in the X099 building to support this proposal.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the DOE’s website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/February242016SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of PDA and Metropolitan.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. Members of the public who do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as described below. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the Panel the evening before the Panel votes.

Written comments can be submitted via email to: [D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

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

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

Name: David Harrington  
Office: Division of Operations  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

February 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Building X099  
1180 Reverend J.A. Polite Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10459

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 PEP meeting at which the PEP will vote on the proposed item.**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 West 24th Street  
New York, NY 10011