



## **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: February 23, 2010

Topic: Proposed Re-siting of High School for Excellence and Innovation (06M423) and Co-location with J.H.S. 52 in School Building M052

Date of Panel Vote: February 24, 2010

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### **Summary of Proposal**

In the 2010-2011 school year, High School for Excellence and Innovation (“HSEI”), an existing transfer school, will move from its current location in school building M856 at 4111 Broadway, in Manhattan’s District 6 to school building M052, located at 650 Academy Street, also in District 6.<sup>1</sup> J.H.S. 52 Inwood, a middle school serving grades 6-8, is currently housed in M052. HSEI will co-locate with J.H.S. 52 at M052.

HSEI is a new school that opened in September 2009. It currently serves ninth-grade students and is in the process of gradually phasing in grade levels until it reaches its full 9-12 grade span in 2012-2013.<sup>2</sup> HSEI is incubating in school building M856 in District 6, but that building does not have adequate space to accommodate the school’s students when it achieves full scale. The relocation of HSEI to M052 will ensure that sufficient space is available for the school to grow to full organizational capacity.

M052 will have sufficient space for both HSEI and J.H.S. 52 to operate at full organizational capacity. No J.H.S. 52 students will be displaced by this proposal.

HSEI is a transfer school specifically designed to serve over-age and under-prepared entering ninth-graders. The school enrolls students who are at least 15 years old and who have repeated eighth grade at least once. Maintaining HSEI in District 6 will ensure that the school remains accessible to high-need students in the community who depend on its specialized program model. At the same time, M052 is located approximately two miles from HSEI’s current location, minimizing transportation challenges for the school’s current students after the school moves to its new site.

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<sup>1</sup> The educational impact statement for this proposal stated that M052 is located in District 3. The building, however, is located in District 6. The educational impact statement has been updated to reflect this change.

<sup>2</sup> The educational impact statement for this proposal incorrectly stated that HSEI would serve grades 8-12 at scale. This, however, was incorrect. As a transfer high school, HSEI will serve grades 9-12 at scale. The educational impact statement has been corrected.

M052 has available space to house both HSEI and J.H.S. 52 at full organizational capacity. M052 has a target capacity of 1,442 students, but current enrollment at J.H.S. 52 is only 828 students, resulting in a target utilization of only 64 percent. HSEI currently enrolls 82 students and is projected to enroll approximately 300-350 students when it achieves full scale in 2012-2013. Combined enrollment for the two schools would still remain under target capacity for the building.

An Educational Impact Statement on this proposal was posted on the Department of Education's Web site on January 8, 2010.

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing**

A joint public hearing was held at M052 on February 11, 2010, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Forty-one people attended the hearing, and 14 people spoke. All spoke in favor of the proposal, noting that HSEI students need a cafeteria and a gymnasium, and that the current facilities in M856 are insufficient for the HSEI's students' needs.

A second joint public hearing was held at M856 on February 22, 2010, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Twenty-four people attended the hearing and 12 spoke. All comments were made in favor of the proposal noting that HSEI students have insufficient space at their current location in M856. The speakers included students, parents, teachers, and a guidance counselor and a social worker. All speakers expressed excitement about moving to M052 and having access to a gym, a cafeteria and a library.

No alternatives to the proposal were raised at the February 11<sup>th</sup> hearing or the February 22<sup>nd</sup> hearing.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Written and Oral Comments and Significant Alternatives Suggested**

No written and oral written comments regarding this proposal have been received. No significant alternatives were proposed.

### **Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal**

This proposal has received significant support from the public based on the comments made at the joint public hearings held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The DOE has made no changes to the proposal and will present the proposal to the Panel for Educational Policy as it is currently posted.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/585A6F4E-316F-45AF-A1C4-0F38AC7260E8/77818/M052\\_HSEI\\_EIS\\_Final\\_22310.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/585A6F4E-316F-45AF-A1C4-0F38AC7260E8/77818/M052_HSEI_EIS_Final_22310.pdf).

**Prepared by  
Department of Education**