



Date: December 17, 2009

Topic: Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 126 (09X126)

Date of Panel Vote: December 17, 2009

Summary of Proposal

This is a proposal to reconfigure P.S. 126, an existing school currently serving grades PreK-6. In 2010-2011, the school will truncate to serve grades PreK-5. P.S. 126 is housed in school building X126, located at 175 West 166 Street, Bronx in Community School District 9. This proposal will create grade alignment and will increase access to middle school choice by standardizing the grades students will apply to and enroll in middle school. An Educational Impact Statement on this proposal was posted on the Department of Education's website on November 2, 2009.

Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at P.S. 126 on December 8, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Twenty one members of the public signed up to make comments. All opposed the proposal to truncate P.S. 126. They opposed the proposal for two reasons. The first reason stated was that the community does not have a middle school nearby and parents do not want their children having to travel far to get to the middle schools. The second reason given by speakers was that P.S. 126 is performing well whereas many other middle schools are low-performing. The speakers were concerned that students at P.S. 126 will end up at low-performing schools.

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

The DOE received nineteen comments regarding this proposal. All commenters stated opposition to the proposal to truncate the grades at P.S. 126. The commenters proposed a grade expansion to PreK-8 as an alternative to the truncation.

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

The DOE chose not to accept the proposed alternative expansion of P.S. 126 for several reasons. First, the greatest demographic need in District 9 is for additional elementary seats. In conjunction with the approved rezoning and proposed expansion of P.S. 11 and P.S. 114, the truncation of P.S. 126 will help to address this need. Secondly, because there are currently a sufficient number of available middle school seats in District 9, additional middle school seats at P.S. 126 would have a negative impact on the enrollment at other middle schools in the area. Finally, given that the recently approved zoning change will result in larger numbers of incoming kindergarten students at P.S. 126, there will not be sufficient space in the building to continue serving grade 6 or to add grades 7 and 8. The DOE has therefore made no changes to the proposal for a grade reconfiguration at P.S. 126. The proposal will be presented to the PEP as it is posted.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at:
http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/58B16C3D-B443-46DD-9F35-8716877EDF37/70594/09X126_EIS_Final_112095.pdf