



Date: December 16, 2009

Topic: Proposed Co-location of a New School with Existing Schools in M470

Date of Panel Vote: December 17, 2009

---

### **Summary of Proposal**

This is a proposal to house the Frank McCourt School, a new school that will serve grades 9-12 when fully phased-in, in school building M470. The building currently houses four schools: Louis D. Brandeis High School (03M470), The Global Learning Collaborative (03M403), Innovation Diploma Plus (03M404), and The Urban Assembly School for Green Careers (03M402).

### **Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings**

A joint public hearing was held at M470 on December 8, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Eleven members of the public gave public comments. No one spoke in opposition of the proposal to locate the school in M470; however, several commenters gave differing opinions on the admissions criteria to be used. Alternatives suggested included a District 3 catchment preference, priority admissions for students residing in Districts 3, 4, 5, and 6, and open citywide admissions.

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

One oral and five written comments regarding this proposal were submitted. In the four comments in favor of the proposal, commenters noted a need for a diverse range of schools and programs for students and expressed belief that the proposed themes of the school would provide students an outlet for their creativity. The two comments submitted in opposition to the proposal suggested that the admissions criteria should be changed to give admissions priority to neighborhood students; one suggestion was to include a District 3 catchment preference and the other suggestion was for priority admissions for students residing in Districts 3, 4, 5, and 6. In addition, it was suggested that the DOE increase the planned enrollment of the school and limit the number of schools in M470 to four schools following the closure of Brandeis.

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

The DOE has chosen not to accept the suggestion that the planned enrollment of Frank McCourt be expanded considerably. Any future proposal for the siting of an additional school in M470 will be addressed in a separate educational impact statement. With regards to the suggestions that priority be given to students in the District 3 catchment area or to students in Districts 3-6, the DOE is considering a Manhattan priority; however, all selective schools opened during the current administration have had citywide admissions and there is widespread interest in making the school accessible to all students in the City. 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/ronlyres/58B16C3D-B443-46DD-9F35-8716877EDF37/70588/EISFrankMcCourt3.pdf>