Notice
February 20, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Revised: The Proposed Co-location of Grades Kindergarten through Four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School (84M481), with Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469), Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II (84M341), and New District School 05M157 (05M157) in Building M501 Beginning in 2013-2014

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

On January 18, 2013, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") proposing to co-locate the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School (84M481, "Democracy Prep Harlem") in building M501 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Building M501 is located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035, within the geographical confines of Community School District 5 ("District 5").

The DOE is now substantially revising this proposal by changing the the grades to be served by Democracy Prep Harlem in M501 from grades nine through twelve to grades kindergarten through four.

Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School is an existing public charter school that is authorized by its charter authorizer, the DOE, to serve students in grades six through eight. Democracy Prep Harlem is currently serving students in grades six through eight in private, non-DOE space in District 5. Democracy Prep Harlem has applied to the DOE to expand its grade span from six through eight to kindergarten through twelve, reaching full scale in 2018-2019. In addition, Democracy Prep Harlem intends to serve students in grade five in private space, once the school begins serving fifth-grade students in 2018-2019. Should Democracy Prep Harlem's request to expand not be approved, this proposal will be revised accordingly.

The revised EIS describing this proposal changes the grades to be served in M501 by Democracy Prep Harlem from nine through twelve to kindergarten through four. This means that Democracy Prep Harlem's high school grades will not be served in M501. However, the DOE is identifying an alternate site for the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem in Manhattan beginning in 2013-2014. Thus, this revision does not impact future borough-wide high school seat capacity.

If this revised proposal is approved, grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem will be co-located with Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, "Choir"), an existing secondary school serving students in grades six through twelve, Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II (84M341, "Promise Academy II"), an existing public charter school serving students in grades kindergarten through eight, and new district high school 05M157 (05M157, "05M157") if approved by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP").

Promise Academy II's seventh and eighth grades are temporarily co-located for one year in M501. The temporary expansion of the co-location of Promise Academy II's seventh and eighth grades in M501 was proposed and approved by the PEP on March 23, 2011. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, Promise Academy II will only serve students in kindergarten through sixth grade in M501, as the seventh and eighth grades of Promise Academy II will move to private, non-DOE space. Building M501 also houses an Alternative Learning Center (88M993, "ALC").

In another EIS posted on January 18, 2013 and revised on February 20, 2013, the DOE has proposed to co-locate a new district high school, 05M157, in M501. That revised proposal can be found here: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm.

In a separate EIS also posted on January 18, 2013 and amended on February 20, 2013, the DOE has proposed to phase out and eventually close Choir after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school is unable to turn around despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. That amended EIS can be found here: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm.

If the PEP approves the proposal to phase out Choir, Choir will concurrently phase out its middle and high school grades such that in 2013-2014, the first year of phase out, Choir will no longer serve students in sixth and ninth grades; in 2014-2015 Choir will no longer serve students in seventh and tenth grades; in 2015-2016 Choir will no longer serve students in eighth and eleventh grades; and after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, Choir will close. However, current middle school students will be supported as they progress towards middle school graduation, and current high school students will be supported as they progress towards high school graduation.

In the event that the phase-out of Choir is not approved, the DOE will re-examine the availability of space in the building and may, as appropriate, revise its proposals to co-locate grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem and 05M157 in M501. Such revised proposals would be described in further revised EISs and a further revised BUP.

The proposed opening and co-location of grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem in M501 is part of the DOE's central goal to create new school options that will better serve current and future students and the community at large.

If this proposal is approved, grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem will

open in M501 during the 2013-2014 school year, when it will serve approximately 91-116 students in kindergarten. In 2014-2015, Democracy Prep Harlem will serve 154-197 students in kindergarten and first grade. In 2015-2016, Democracy Prep Harlem will serve 217-278 students in kindergarten through second grade. In 2016-2017, Democracy Prep Harlem will serve 280-359 students in kindergarten through third grade. In 2017-2018, the final year of phase-in, Democracy Prep Harlem will serve 343-440 students in grades kindergarten through four. Grades five through twelve of Democracy Prep Harlem will be sited elsewhere.

If the proposals to phase out Choir, to co-locate grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem, and to open 05M157 are approved, in 2017-2018, once Choir has completed its phase-out, 05M157 has reached full scale, and grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem have fully phased in, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,193-1,490 students served in M501, thereby yielding a utilization rate of approximately 91%-113%.

If this proposal is approved, grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem will provide a new educational option for families in District 5. As described in the revised EIS regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 in M501, 05M157 will replace the high school seats that will be lost as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure of Choir and provide another educational option for families in District 5.

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

Revised EIS and BUP describing the proposed co-location of grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School in M501 can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm.

Revised EIS describing the proposed co-location of a new district high school in M501 can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm.

Amended EIS describing the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm

Copies of the updated EISs and BUP are also available in the main offices of Choir Academy of Harlem and Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School.

III. Summary of all public comments received following the initial public notice:

To date, the DOE has not received any public comments regarding the proposed co-location of grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School with Choir Academy of Harlem, Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II and a new district school in Building M501 beginning in 2013-2014.

IV. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

V. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Meera Jain
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

VI. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

Regarding the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem

February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
2005 Madison Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10035

Regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 and grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School

March 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
2005 Madison Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10035

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section V above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VII. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

Regarding the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem

March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 and grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School

March 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217