



Revised Notice
April 12, 2011

The Revised Proposed Re-siting and Co-Location of an Existing Public Charter School, Explore Charter School (84K704), with an Existing Middle School, M.S. 002 (17K002), and a District 75 School (75K141, “P141K@I002K”) in Building K002

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

On March 1, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) published an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to re-site and co-locate Explore Charter School (“Explore”), an existing public charter school currently located in Building K884 (“K884”) at 15 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226, in Community School District 17 and serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade, to Building K002 (“K002”), located at 655 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226, in Community School District 17. Explore would be co-located in K002 with M.S. 002 (17K002, “M.S. 002”), an existing DOE district middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grade, and an existing District 75 school (75K141, “P141K@I002K”) that serves students in sixth through eighth grade. A “re-siting” means a school will be located in a different building than the building in which it is currently located. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, science demonstration labs, and cafeterias. On March 4, 2011, the DOE published an amended notice providing dates for the joint public hearings and providing an updated location where the Panel for Educational Policy meeting will be held and where the vote for this proposal will take place.

The DOE has now published a revised EIS and revised Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”). The revisions made to the EIS and BUP are described in Section II below.

This notice also provides information about the joint public hearings that will take place on this revised proposal. This notice also provides a new date and location for the Panel for Educational Policy vote on this revised proposal.

In 2002, Explore was approved by its authorizer, the State University of New York (“SUNY”) to open a new public charter school in District 17. Explore’s current location at K884 is in a DOE leased building, but Explore was not intended to remain there permanently. Explore is currently at scale and serves kindergarten through eighth grade students. Explore is seeking a permanent location in District 17 in order to continue serving District 17 students as intended. Explore will continue to provide a preference to District 17 students in its charter school lottery application process.

If the proposal to re-site Explore in K002 is approved, Explore would be co-located with M.S. 002 and P141K@I002K, in K002. In 2011-2012, the first year of the proposed co-location, all of Explore’s kindergarten through eighth grade students would be re-sited to K002.

M.S. 002 is an existing middle school that admits students through the District 17 middle school choice process and currently serves 402 students in sixth through eighth grades. M.S. 002 offers a zoned program and an academic screened program open to residents and students of District 17. The DOE does not anticipate that M.S. 002's instructional programs, admissions process, or enrollment would be affected as a result of this proposal.

75K141 is a District 75 school that serves students who are Emotional Disturbed (ED), Multiple Handicapped (MH), Mentally Retarded (MR), and Autistic and offers an Inclusion program. 75K141 is sited at four locations throughout Brooklyn: P141K@I002K, located at 655 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226; P141K@P380K, located at 370 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206; and P141K@P035K, located at 272 MacDonough Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233, and P141K@I071K located at 215 Heyward Street Brooklyn NY 11206.

If this proposal is approved, 75K141 will reorganize the ED and MR services provided at three of its sites: P141K@I002K, P141K@P380K and P141K@P035K. The fourth site, P141K@I071K will not be affected as a result of this proposal. This proposal will not reduce or eliminate any seats at 75K141, rather some students who may have been served at P141K@I002K may now be served at one of the other two sites, either P141K@P035K or P141K@P380K. All current and future 75K141 students will continue to receive all mandated services. Further details regarding the reorganization of the school is provided in Section III A of the EIS.

II. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the item.

The revised EIS includes more information on the after school programs that are offered by the Beacon program at K002 building and includes additional information related to the use of shared spaces and the proposed shared space plan described in the revised Building Utilization Plan ("BUP"). Additionally, the revised BUP that is annexed to the EIS has also been revised in the following manner:

- the proposed shared space schedule on pages 10-11 has been adjusted and the DOE has clarified the rationale for the amount of time that each co-located school is allocated in the shared spaces under this proposal.

III. Summary of all public comment received to date.

A joint public hearing regarding the proposal was held at Explore on April 4, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 105 members of the public attended the hearing, and approximately 8 people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 17 Superintendent Rhonda Hurdle Taylor; Explore School Leadership Team representatives Morty Ballen, Tracy Rebe, and Asad Muhammad; and Community Education Council (CEC) 17 representative Claudette Agar.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearings:

1. An Explore SLT representative said that Explore's mission is to develop critical thinking and skills to be successful in a high school environment. In conjunction with this mission, Explore has been explicit in its intention to become a K-8 school. Serving students through grade eight is critical to the school's mission.
2. A commenter, who is a student at Explore, expressed a desire to continue in Explore through the eighth grade, saying the school has provided the skills needed for high-level achievement.

3. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal, citing positive personal experience with the school and its ability to engage parents and the community in an extraordinary way.
4. Multiple commenters asserted that Explore creates positive opportunities for students to bond with each other and with the community, which is important.
5. Multiple commenters asserted that Explore provides a high-quality education that should remain a K-8 school in the community in order to continue providing high-quality education.
6. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal, saying the collaboration among the broad range of grades at the school is important and these grades should all be in the same building.
7. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal so that Explore can continue its same programs and have access to the gym, auditorium, and science lab.

The DOE also received comments through its established written and oral mechanisms.

8. Multiple commenters expressed opposition to the proposal, without providing specific reasons why.
9. A commenter expressed opposition to the proposal, asserting that there has been no meaningful engagement on how this co-location will impact the M.S. 002 community.
10. A commenter asserted that the BUP did not mention the Beacon Program in K002, which means the BUP should be amended.

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

The revised EIS and revised BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/May182011Proposals>

Copies of the revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in the main offices of Explore, M.S. 002, and 75K141.

V. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

VI. 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: Benjamin Taylor
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers St
Email: D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

To Be Determined
Explore Charter School
15 Snyder Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226

To Be Determined
M.S. 002 / P141K@I002
655 Parkside Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Notice will be provided once these hearings have been scheduled. Questions about the proposal can 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. Interpretation services will be provided in Haitian Creole and Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Mr. Taylor at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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

May 18, at 6:00 p.m.
Long Island City High School
14-30 Broadway
Queens, NY 11106