



Notice
February 18, 2011

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

The Proposed Expansion of the Co-location of Democracy Prep Charter School (84M350) with Existing School P.S. 197 (05M197) John B. Russwurm in Building M197¹

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to extend and expand the co-location of Democracy Prep Charter School (84M350, “Democracy Prep”), an existing public charter school that serves 495 students in grades six through ten and which is currently split-sited between Building M197, located at 2230 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10037 in Community School District 5 (“M197”), and private space located at 207 West 133rd Street, New York, NY, 10030, also in Community School District 5. In M197, Democracy Prep is co-located with P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm (“P.S. 197”), an existing DOE zoned elementary school serving grades kindergarten through five, which also offers a pre-kindergarten program. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

When Democracy Prep began its co-location in M197 in 2009-2010 with sixth grade, the DOE committed to re-evaluate the space available in M197 annually to determine if there was sufficient space to enable Democracy Prep to continue co-locating in M197. Democracy Prep currently serves sixth and seventh grades in M197. Under this proposal Democracy Prep would also serve eighth grade in M197 and its grades 6-8 would remain permanently in M197.

P.S. 197 is a zoned district elementary school that serves 357 students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and also offers a pre-kindergarten program that enrolls 18 students.

Democracy Prep is an existing public charter school that currently serves students in the sixth through tenth grades. Democracy Prep will add one grade each year until it serves sixth through twelfth grades. If this proposal is approved, Democracy Prep’s current seventh grade students would remain in M197 as eighth graders in 2011-2012, and in the future all Democracy Prep students in grades six through eight would be co-located in M197. Democracy Prep’s grades nine through twelve would be located in the private space on West 133rd Street. Democracy Prep admits students at all grade levels through a lottery and gives preference to students residing in District 5. In 2009-2010, Democracy Prep was the highest rated middle school in New York City on the annual Progress Report.

¹ While the DOE is not legally required to issue an EIS in connection with Democracy Prep serving grades 6-8 at M197, the DOE is issuing this EIS in an effort to better notify and inform the M197 community about the use of the M197 building.

The M197 building has the capacity to serve 875 students. In 2010-2011, the building only served 594 students, yielding a utilization rate of 68%. Once Democracy Prep has completed its expansion to eighth grade in M197, there would be approximately 645-735 students served in the building by both P.S. 197 and Democracy Prep, yielding a building utilization rate of 74-84%.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of both Democracy Prep Charter School and P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

IV. 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: Yoo Jin Cheong
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearing for this proposal.

March 30, 2011
6:00 p.m.
P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm
2230 5th Avenue,
New York, NY 10037

Questions about the proposal should 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 Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Cheong at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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

April 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 128 Juniper Valley
69-10 65th Drive,
Middle Village, NY 11379