



Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 22, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Temporary Re-siting and Co-location of KIPP High School Grades with Existing Schools I.S. 195 (05M195) and KIPP Infinity Charter School (84M336), and New School (05M514) in Building M195

Date of Panel Vote: March 23, 2011

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to temporarily re-site the high school grades of KIPP Infinity Charter School (84M336, “KIPP Infinity”), KIPP S.T.A.R. Charter School (84M726, “KIPP S.T.A.R.”), KIPP Academy Charter School (84X704, KIPP Academy), and KIPP A.M.P. Charter School (84K357, “KIPP A.M.P.”) (hereafter referred to collectively as “KIPP High School”) from their current location on the Mott Haven Educational Campus to building M195, located at 625 West 133rd Street, New York, NY 10027 within the geographical confines of Community School District 5. KIPP High School would be co-located in M195 with an existing DOE choice middle school, I.S.195 Roberto Clemente (05M195, “I.S. 195”), a new District middle school (05M514, “New School”) and the elementary and middle school grades of KIPP Infinity, an existing public charter school currently serving Kindergarten and grades five through eight in M195. 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. KIPP High School would be co-located in the M195 building for the 2011-2012 and the 2012-2013 school years. In 2013-2014, KIPP High School would move into private space.

In an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on December 18, 2010, the DOE proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close I.S. 195 because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved this proposal on February 1, 2011.

In another EIS, published on January 31, 2011, the DOE proposed to open New School 05M514, a new District middle school to replace I.S. 195 and provide a high quality option to middle school students in District 5. Both of these proposals noted that there would still be room in M195 to serve additional students. The EIS for New School 05M514 also reflects the proposal to temporarily co-locate KIPP High School in M195.

KIPP High School currently serves a total of 325 students in ninth and tenth grades, of which 74 are enrolled in KIPP S.T.A.R., 111 in KIPP Infinity, 86 in KIPP Academy and 54 in KIPP A.M.P. KIPP High School admits students articulating from the four above-named KIPP school eighth grades; remaining available seats are offered to students from KIPP's waitlist or by lottery, as appropriate. As stated above, this would be a temporary siting for KIPP High School. KIPP is in the process of building a new high school building, which is expected to be ready to serve students in school year 2013-2014. At that time, KIPP High School would move out of M195. KIPP High School is currently located on the Mott Haven Educational Campus in the South Bronx in Building X790, located at 730 Concourse Village West, Bronx, NY 10451, in District 7, where it is co-located with P.S. X188 (07X188), Bronx Leadership Academy II High School (07X527), New Explorers High School (07X547), and Urban Assembly School for Careers in Sports (07X548). There is not sufficient space in Building X790 for KIPP High School grades to remain until the new facility is ready for occupancy.

On March 16, 2011, the DOE published an amended EIS and Building Utilization Plan which corrected typographical errors and removes an erroneous reference to the grade levels to be served by New School in building M195 and conformed that reference to the others in the EIS, which stated that New School would serve grades six through eight. The amended EIS did not substantially revise the proposal itself.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar232011Proposals.htm>. Copies of the EIS and Building Utilization Plan are also available in the main offices of KIPP HS and all schools in Building M195.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

Two joint public hearings regarding this proposal were held, one at I.S. 195 / KIPP Infinity Charter School on March 3, 2011 and one at Mott Haven Educational Campus on March 9, 2011. At the hearings, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. On March 3, 2011, approximately 250 members of the public attended the hearing at I.S. 195 / KIPP Infinity Charter School, and 14 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 5 Superintendent Gale Reeves; I.S. 195 School Leadership Team representative Sean Licata; KIPP Co-founder and Superintendent David Levin; and Jenny Sobelman of the DOE Office of Public Affairs. Although Community Education Council 5 had confirmed the hearing date and that they would be able to attend the hearing, no CEC 5 representatives were present.

On March 9, 2011 approximately 25 members of the public attended the hearing at KIPP HS and 5 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 7 Superintendent Yolanda Torres; KIPP HS Co-Principal Stephen Ajani; and District 7 Community Education Council ("CEC 7") member Lakisha Walker.

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

1. KIPP Co-founder and Superintendent David Levin said he supports the proposal. He said KIPP has experienced significant improvement and produced excellent results in its 16

years serving students in New York. He said he appreciates how I.S. 195 has cooperated so well and accommodated KIPP Infinity as a co-located school, and he looks forward to continuing to work with the staff of I.S. 195.

2. CEC 7 member Lakisha Walker said the proposal would help KIPP HS students because there was not enough space in its current building. She praised the KIPP program and the way the school addressed the needs of all students.
3. KIPP Co-Principal Stephen Ajani said the elementary school and high school are successfully sharing space, but that there is not enough space in the building for both schools to continue to expand. He also stated that sharing is difficult, but that together they will ensure that every child in building M195 has an exceptional education.
4. Sixteen commenters stated their support for the proposal because they and their family have had numerous positive experiences with KIPP schools. Commenters cited significant academic growth in their students, the quality and dedication of the staff, the way the school addresses special needs, the positive school culture, and the emphasis on college preparedness. Multiple commenters urged the DOE to approve the proposal so that KIPP HS would have enough space and could accommodate additional students in its high school program.

The DOE received a comment at the Joint Public Hearings that did not directly relate to the proposal and therefore will not be addressed.

1. Ms. Walker expressed concern that the DOE chose to phase out I.S. 195, that not all students have a chance to go a school like KIPP, and that the DOE needs to think about where I.S. 195 students will attend school going forward.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

No written or oral comments were submitted to the DOE.

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

Comments 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all in favor of the proposal and do not require a response.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.