



Notice
August 29, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Expansion and Extension of the Co-Location of Mott Hall Charter School (84X177) with P.S. 63 Author's Academy (09X063) in Buildings X063 and X862, Beginning in 2014-2015

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

The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") is proposing to expand and extend the co-location of Mott Hall Charter School (84X177, "MHCS") in buildings X063 and X862, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

MHCS is an existing charter school currently serving students in grades six and seven in the X063 and X862 school buildings. Building X063 and annex building X862 are both located at 1260 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456, in Community School District 9 ("District 9"). MHCS is currently co-located in these buildings with P.S. 63 Author's Academy (09X063, "P.S. 63"), a zoned elementary school that serves students in grades kindergarten through five and 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, libraries, and cafeterias.

On April 26, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") approved the siting of MHCS in the X063 and X862 buildings as a temporary co-location of MHCS's sixth and seventh grades. This co-location was identified as temporary because MHCS planned to move to a permanent location in private space after the 2013-2014 school year, where it would grow to scale as a middle school serving students in grades six through eight. While the expectation was that MHCS would move to private space at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, those plans, which were underway when the first Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") was published, unfortunately fell through. MHCS has been unable to identify any other suitable space nearby to meet its needs and as such, in order for MHCS to continue serving the District 9 community, the DOE is now proposing to extend the co-location of MHCS in X063 and X862 beyond the 2013-2014 school year.

If this proposal is approved, MHCS will begin serving eighth grade students in the X063 and X862 in 2014-2015, and will continue to serve grades six through eight in these buildings indefinitely. MHCS and P.S. 63 will both continue to use shared spaces in the X063 (main) building as they currently do; however, MHCS will additionally begin using classroom and administrative space in the main building in addition to the classroom and administrative space it currently occupies in the X862 (annex) building. As indicated in the Building Utilization Plan

(“BUP”) that accompanies this proposal, there is sufficient space in the buildings to accommodate this expansion.

MHCS is a public charter school that opened in the 2012-2013 school year and is authorized to serve students in grades six through eight at scale. Its mission is to provide rigorous academics and strong supports to prepare students for success in high school, college, and their future careers. The school’s charter was approved by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) in December 2010. In accordance with this charter, MHCS admits students through a charter lottery, giving preference to middle school students whose siblings attend MHCS and students who reside in District 9. The school’s admissions process and preference criteria are explained in further detail in Section III.A of this proposal.

This proposal is not anticipated to impact P.S. 63’s admissions process, enrollment, instructional programming, partnerships, or extra-curricular offerings for its students in grades kindergarten through five, as discussed in further detail in Section III.A of the EIS. Moreover, this proposal will not impact P.S. 63’s pre-kindergarten program which will still be offered, subject to continued funding and demand.

If this proposal is approved, MHCS will begin to serve eighth grade in 2014-2015 and reach full grade span. The school will reach stable enrollment in 2016-2017, at which time MHCS is projected to serve approximately 245 – 310 students and collectively with P.S. 63, the main building and annex will serve approximately 891 – 1,016 total students, yielding a projected utilization rate of 100%-114%.

The buildings have sufficient space to provide both schools with space appropriate for their respective needs, despite the possibility of a utilization rate over 100%. Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation. In addition, charter school enrollment plans are frequently based on larger class sizes than target capacity, contributing to building utilizations above 100% while not impacting the utilization of the space allocated to the traditional public school. Therefore, the X063 and X862 buildings have the capacity to accommodate both P.S. 63 and MHCS at full scale.

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

The EIS and BUP can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct15SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in P.S. 63’s and MHCS’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Annabelle Eliashiv
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

October 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Building X063
1260 Franklin Avenue
Bronx, NY 10456

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.

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

October 15, 2013 at 6:00pm

The Prespect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 10301