



Notice
August 30, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Re-siting and Co-location of Success Academy Charter Elementary School – Crown Heights (84K741) with Existing School P.S. 161 The Crown (17K161) in Building K161 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 re-site and co-locate Success Academy Charter School – Crown Heights (84K741, “SA – Crown Heights”), an existing public charter school, to school building K161, located at 330 Crown Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225, in Community School District 17 (“District 17”), beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. SA – Crown Heights is a charter school that opened in the 2013-2014 school year and is currently serving kindergarten and first grade students in building K167 at 1025 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213 in District 17.

SA – Crown Heights is co-located in K167 with two schools: P.S. 167 The Parkway (17K167, “P.S. 167”), an existing zoned elementary school that is in the process of phasing out and is scheduled to close in June 2016, currently serving students in third through fifth grades, and P.S. 532 New Bridges Elementary School (17K532), an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through second grade and is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Success Academy Charter Schools (“SACS”) is a charter management organization (“CMO”) that currently operates 18 public charter elementary schools in New York City, including six new public elementary schools serving students for the first time in 2013-2014. The four SACS elementary schools that received a Progress Report for the 2011-2012 school year received an overall grade of A. Thus, the DOE supports the re-siting of this SACS operated public charter school in District 17 in order to continue providing educational opportunities for students and families. Success Academy strives to provide rigorous and well-rounded instruction in communities throughout New York City.

The State University of New York Trustees (“SUNY”) approved the opening of SA – Crown Heights in the 2013-2014 school year and authorized it to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades. SA – Crown Heights currently serves students in kindergarten through first grade in K167. In an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on March 1, 2013, the DOE noted that

it would consider long-term options to accommodate the future siting of SA – Crown Heights, including split-siting the school over two sites or siting the school’s full offering of grades kindergarten through five in one building. That EIS can be accessed on the DOE’s Website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/April2013Proposals.htm>.

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), SA – Crown Heights will be re-sited from K167 to K161 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. SA – Crown Heights will be co-located in building K161 with P.S. 161 The Crown (17K161, “P.S. 161”), an existing zoned district elementary school currently serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade as well as eighth grade. In February 2012, the PEP approved a “grade truncation” of P.S. 161, which means the school will no longer serve sixth through eighth grade students and will only serve kindergarten through fifth grade students in the long term. After the last class of eighth grade students graduates in June 2014, P.S. 161 will no longer offer any middle school grades. Thus, once SA – Crown Heights begins to phase into K161 in the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 161 will no longer be serving middle school students. P.S. 161 admits students through its District 17 zone.

P.S. 161 also currently offers a Gifted and Talented program in first through fifth grades. Due to low demand, beginning in 2013-2014, P.S. 161 will no longer accept new incoming kindergarten students in its Gifted and Talented Program. Existing students in P.S. 161’s Gifted and Talented program will continue to participate in the program until their graduation from the program in fifth grade. The DOE has identified another District 17 school, P.S. 316 Elijah Stroud (17K316, “P.S. 316”) that will enroll new incoming kindergarten students in its Gifted and Talented program beginning in 2013-2014.

Building K161 has the capacity to serve 941 students. Currently, the building serves approximately 533 students, yielding a utilization rate of 57%. As noted above, P.S. 161 will no longer serve middle school grades in the future which may further increase the space available in the building. The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a diverse range of high-quality schools at every stage of their education. To this end, each year, the DOE evaluates public school buildings throughout the City that are “underutilized” or have extra space to accommodate additional students. Building K161 is currently “underutilized.” Therefore, the DOE is proposing to co-locate SA – Crown Heights with P.S. 161 in K161. The re-siting and co-location of SA – Crown Heights in K161 is intended to support the long-term siting of an additional educational option for families in District 17.

If this proposal is approved, SA – Crown Heights will be re-sited and co-located with P.S. 161 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. SA – Crown Heights will add one grade per year until it reaches full-scale in K161 serving kindergarten through fifth grades in 2017-2018. In 2017-2018, when SA – Crown Heights is at full-scale, there will be approximately 780-930 students served in the building by P.S. 161 and SA – Crown Heights, yielding a projected utilization rate of 83%-99%, which demonstrates that there is sufficient space for both schools.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) for this proposal may be found on the Department of Education’s Web site at:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct15SchoolProposals>

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of P.S. 161, SA – Crown Heights, P.S. 167 The Parkway, and P.S. 532 New Bridges Elementary.

III. Submission of public comment.

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

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

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: Estelle Acquah
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

October 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
K161
330 Crown Street
Brooklyn, NY 11225

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.

VI. 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 6:00 PM
The Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225