



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

**Notice**

November 2, 2015

## **Revised: The Proposed Opening and Co-Location of Success Academy Charter School – New York 4 (84QTBD) with Existing Schools M.S. 53 Brian Piccolo (27Q053) and Village Academy Middle School (27Q319) in Building Q053 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year**

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

On October 2, 2015, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate Success Academy Charter School - New York 4 (84QTBD, “SA-Far Rockaway”) with existing district middle schools M.S. 53 Brian Piccolo (27Q053, “M.S. 53”) and Village Academy Middle School (27Q319, “Village Academy”) in building Q053 (“Q053”), located at 10-45 Nameoke Street, Queens, NY 11691, in Community School District 27 (“District 27”), beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

The DOE is now issuing a revised EIS and a revised BUP. The EIS and BUP have been revised to include modified instructional and administrative space allocations based on updated enrollment numbers and updated information regarding Village Academy’s programming. This proposal includes updated building capacity numbers from the 2014-2015 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”) as well as updated enrollment numbers from the unaudited Register. These revisions do not substantially change the proposal, but do result in a shift of some space to accommodate Village Academy’s revised adjusted footprint allocation. The BUP and EIS have also been revised to acknowledge plans to re-site Alternate Learning Center - M.S. 53 (88Q996, “ALC-M.S. 53”) prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year. ALC-M.S. 53 will be re-sited to enable each organization to have the baseline footprint allocation to support their programming.

If this proposal is approved, SA-Far Rockaway will be co-located in Q053 with M.S. 53 and Village Academy, two existing district middle schools that currently serve students in sixth through eighth grade. ALC-M.S. 53, which provides an educational setting for students in sixth through eighth grade who are on a Superintendent’s Suspension for up to 90 days is also currently located in building Q053. The DOE anticipates re-siting ALC-M.S. 53 prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Q053 also provides space to two community-based organizations (“CBOs”): Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation and Cross Island YMCA. If this proposal is approved, SA-Far Rockaway will open in the 2016-2017 school year, serving approximately 150-180 students in kindergarten and first grade, and will add one grade level each year until it

reaches full scale, serving approximately 500-600 students in kindergarten through fourth grade in the 2019-2020 school year.

M.S. 53 is one of a cohort of 94 schools that have been designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were identified as Priority or Focus schools by the State Department of Education (“SED”), demonstrated low academic achievement (in 2012, 2013, and 2014), and scored “Proficient” or below on their most recent quality review (at the time of selection); or in four instances were selected per the Chancellor’s discretion. As a result of the School Renewal Program, M.S. 53 is being transformed into a Community School. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities congregate to share resources and address their common challenges.

This proposal will not impact M.S. 53’s participation in the School Renewal Program. As a part of the School Renewal Program, M.S. 53 adopted a Community School model beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, with deepened support from CBO partnership, expanded learning time, mental health services, more robust family engagement, additional resources for school leadership and instruction, and increased accountability for improvement. The DOE does not expect this proposal to impact any tailored ancillary services, extended instruction time, or other additional resources that M.S. 53 may receive as a result of the School Renewal Program and the school’s designation as a Community School. If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy, the DOE will continue to work closely with the school community to ensure all students receive the individualized support they need.

Pursuant to recent amendments to the Education Law, which provide certain new and expanding charter schools with access to facilities, SA-Far Rockaway made a request to the DOE for co-located space in District 27 to open a new elementary school.

Success Academy Charter School’s (“SACS”) is a charter management organization (“CMO”) that currently operates elementary, middle, and high schools in New York City. If this proposal is approved, SA-Far Rockaway would open in the 2016-2017 school year and would serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade at scale in the 2019-2020 school year. SA-Far Rockaway’s charter was authorized in October 2014 by the State University of New York Trustees (“SUNY”).

SACS has informed the DOE of its intention to apply to serve Pre-Kindergarten (“Pre-K”) at SA-Far Rockaway beginning in the 2016-2017 school year; however, the DOE has not yet released a Request for Proposals for charter schools interested in partnering with the DOE to offer Pre-K for the 2016-2017 school year.

According to the 2014-2015 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report Blue Book, building Q053 has the capacity to serve 1,459 students. Currently, the building serves approximately 654 students, yielding a utilization rate of 45%. 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, the DOE evaluates public school buildings throughout the City that are “under-utilized,” meaning they have space to accommodate additional students. Building Q053

is currently “under-utilized.” If this revised proposal is approved by the PEP, in 2019-2020, when SA-Far Rockaway is at scale serving kindergarten through fourth grade students at Q053, there will be approximately 1,055-1,215 total students served in the building, yielding a projected utilization rate of approximately 72%-83%, which demonstrates that there is sufficient space for all school organizations. The revised BUP that accompanies this proposal also demonstrates that there is sufficient space in the building to accommodate this co-location.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and BUP can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/November2015SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of M.S. 53 and Village Academy.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the joint public hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. Members of the public who do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as described below. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the PEP meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the Panel the evening before the Panel votes.

Written comments can be sent to [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621

## **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: Albery Melo  
Office: Division of Operations  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
Building Q053  
10-45 Nameoke Street  
Queens, NY 11691

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.**

November 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

M.S. 131

100 Hester Street

New York, NY 10002