

Public Comment Analysis

Date: November 18, 2015

Topic: The Proposed Consolidation of Global Neighborhood Secondary School (04M381) with P.S. 96 Joseph Lanzetta (04M096) in Building M096 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: November 19, 2015

Summary of Proposal

On October 5, 2015, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) posted an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to consolidate Global Neighborhood Secondary School (04M381, “Global Neighborhood”), an existing middle school that currently serves students in sixth through eighth grades, with P.S. 96 Joseph Lanzetta (04M096, “P.S. 96”), an existing school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grades and a pre-kindergarten program, in building M096 (“M096”), located at 216 East 120th Street, New York, NY 10035, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate Global Neighborhood with P.S. 96 because Global Neighborhood has struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. A “consolidation” means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. If this proposal is approved, Global Neighborhood and P.S. 96 will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of Global Neighborhood will become part of P.S. 96, and Global Neighborhood will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2016-2017 school year.

On November 18, 2015 the DOE posted an amended proposal to reflect accurate building accessibility information. In the previously posted proposal, M096 was incorrectly described as fully accessible, however, the building is not accessible. The amended EIS also corrects typographical errors in the footprint chart in Section III and footnote 22 regarding quality review in Section IV.

The EIS has also been amended to include M096’s updated building capacity and utilization rates per the 2014-2015 Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report (“Blue Book”) data. The enrollment data has also been updated to reflect the 2015-2016 Unaudited Register data as of November 2, 2015.

P.S. 96 and Global Neighborhood are currently co-located in building M096. 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. Building M096 also houses a community-based organization (“CBO”), Global Kids. If this proposal is approved, Global Kids will continue to provide services and maintain its space in M096.

The New York State Education Department (“SED”) assigns an accountability status to each district school—Good Standing, Local Assistance Plan, Focus, or Priority. If this proposal is approved, the newly consolidated school would not inherit the state accountability status of Global Neighborhood. Rather, the state accountability status of P.S. 96 would remain. P.S. 96 is identified as a Local Assistance Plan School (“LAP”). Schools are identified as LAP for having a subgroup of students that fail to make progress in English Language Arts, Math, Science or high school graduation rates for multiple years; having large and increasing gaps in performance between specific subgroups of students; or, for schools not located in a low-performing district, having a subgroup perform at or below the benchmark used for low-performing districts. Schools can be identified as LAP any year.

Global Neighborhood was previously identified as a Priority School and was implementing a School Innovation Fund (SIF) plan. For school year 2015-2016 the school was de-identified as a Priority School and is now a school in

“Good Standing”; however, the school continues to implement its SIF plan in 2015-2016. For school year 2016-2017, SIF funding will be lost due to the consolidation of the school with P.S. 96.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate Global Neighborhood with P.S. 96 based primarily on the benefits students would derive from the additional resources made available by consolidating the two school organizations into one. If this proposal is approved, students attending the consolidated P.S. 96 will have access to a wider variety of academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports that would not be financially feasible for either individual school to offer in the absence of a consolidation. In addition to increased resources, the consolidation will allow the schools to combine the strengths and best practices of each individual school into a single, larger organization.

This proposal has been developed by the District 4 Superintendent in conjunction with the principals of the consolidating schools and the school communities through a collaborative planning process. The need to address limited resources and low enrollment at Global Neighborhood became evident over the course of conversations between the District 4 Superintendent and the principals of P.S. 96 and Global Neighborhood as they sought to build a collaborative co-location after Global Neighborhood was re-sited to M096. The consolidation of Global Neighborhood with P.S. 96 will improve resources at the consolidated school and reduce the number of under-enrolled middle schools in the district.

Global Neighborhood and P.S. 96 are currently co-located in M096. Collaboration between the P.S. 96 principal and the Global Neighborhood interim acting principal began during the summer of 2015 when Global Neighborhood was re-sited into M096 and has been continuing into the 2015-2016 school year. Presently the schools are sharing resources such as a computer lab and a dance studio.

Building M096 has the capacity to serve a total of 775 students. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 96 will absorb the enrollment of Global Neighborhood and will serve a projected 511-601 students in kindergarten through eighth grades and two sections of pre-kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 511-601 students in M096, yielding a building utilization rate of 66%-78%. This proposal is not expected to significantly change the total building enrollment since the schools already operate in the same building.

The details of this proposal have been released in an amended EIS which can be accessed here:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/November2015SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the amended EIS are also available in the main offices of the following schools: Global Neighborhood and P.S. 96.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A Joint Public Hearing regarding the proposal was held at M096 on November 10, 2015. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. 10 members of the public attended the hearing. There were four (4) speakers. Also present at the meeting were: Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Rose; District 4 Superintendent Alexandra Estrella; David Pretto, Principal of P.S. 96 and representative of the School Leadership Team (“SLT”); Florin Purice, Interim Acting Principal of Global Neighborhood and representative of the SLT; Kim Mazalatis, a representative of the Global Neighborhood SLT; Yvonne Figueroa, a representative of the Global Neighborhood SLT; Dee Lynch, a representative of the Global Neighborhood SLT; Berquis Arias, a representative of the Global Neighborhood SLT; Frankie Quinnie, a representative of the P.S. 96 SLT; and Eric Herman, Sarah Turchin, Meg Barboza, and Jamie Dollinger from the DOE were also present.

The DOE invited Community Education Council 4 (“CEC 4”) to attend this meeting, and CEC 4 confirmed that a representative would be in attendance. However, CEC 4 did not attend this meeting or inform the DOE that they would not be in attendance.

Below is a summary of the comments received at the Joint Public Hearing:

1. David Pretto, Principal of P.S. 96 expressed gratitude toward the SLTs of both schools for working together thus far to explore how the consolidation will look in the forthcoming school year. He also conveyed that he is looking forward to working with the parents, teachers, and the community-based organization to serve the students at P.S. 96.
2. Florin Purice, Interim Acting Principal of Global Neighborhood, stated that the school communities have already been working together to make the consolidation a success and he looks forward to working together moving forward.
3. Yvonne Figueroa, PTA President at Global Neighborhood, stated:
 - a. She is against the proposal.
 - b. Global Neighborhood is a very good school with a better curriculum than P.S. 96.
4. A teacher from Global Neighborhood spoke about the following:
 - a. The hard work the Global Neighborhood staff have put into lifting test scores at the school and disappointment that Global Neighborhood will lose their scores and/or rating as a result of the consolidation.
 - b. That she did not think the consolidation would have a negative impact.

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

The DOE received zero (0) voicemails through the dedicated phone number for this proposal.

The DOE received zero (0) emails through the dedicated email address for this proposal.

Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comments 1, 2, and 4b expressed support for the proposal and do not require a response.

Comment 3a expressed general opposition to the proposal.

This proposal is driven by the DOE's desire to address the budgetary and programmatic challenges that arise because of low enrollment. Because Global Neighborhood has an enrollment of 108 students, they are unable to provide a full range of supports and academic enrichment opportunities. The consolidation of P.S. 96 and Global Neighborhood will result in healthier school enrollment at the consolidated school, with a projected enrollment of 511-601 students. This in effect will provide the consolidated school with the budget necessary to operate effectively. While Global Neighborhood will no longer exist as distinct school option, many of the programs, teachers, and defining characteristics will continue on at the consolidated P.S. 96.

Comment 3b expressed that Global Neighborhood is a very good school with a better curriculum than P.S. 96.

This consolidation will result in increased resources, which will allow the schools to combine the strengths and best practices of each individual school into a single, larger organization. The principals of P.S. 96 and Global Neighborhood will work together in conjunction with the District 4 superintendent to determine the curriculum of the consolidated school. Some of the programs and services provided by Global Neighborhood may be offered by P.S. 96 going forward.

Comment 4a illustrates the work Global Neighborhood staff have put into lifting test scores and disappointment that Global Neighborhood will lose their scores and/or rating as a result of the consolidation.



The DOE commends the work and dedication of Global Neighborhood’s teachers and staff members. While Global Neighborhood will no longer be a distinct school option, the work of the Global Neighborhood teachers and staff members will be reflected in the scores of the students now at P.S. 96. After the consolidation it is expected that all current Global Neighborhood students, with the exception of those continuing on to high school, will attend P.S. 96. However, any students who prefer a different school option may seek a transfer through the Office of Student Enrollment, which will work to match students based on their preferences, needs, and seat availability. The Global Neighborhood community will bring their strengths and best practices to P.S. 96, resulting in a stronger and more robust consolidated school.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.