



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 25, 2012
Topic: The Proposed Re-Siting of Eagle Academy for Young Men III (29Q327) to a Newly Leased Building (Q633)
Date of Panel Vote: April 26, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site Eagle Academy for Young Men III (29Q327, “Eagle Academy”), which is currently located in building Q059 (“Q059”) at 132-55 Ridgedale Street, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413 in Community School District 29, to a new building located at 110-31 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11433 in Community School District 29. Eagle Academy opened in September 2010 and currently serves 164 male students in grades six and seven, and will serve grades six through twelve when it reaches full-scale in the 2016-2017 school year. A “re-siting” means a school will be located in a different building than the building it is located in currently.

This Eagle Academy is the third Eagle Academy in a network of schools located in various locations throughout New York City.¹ It is currently co-located in Q059 with I.S. 59 Springfield Gardens (29Q059, “I.S. 59”), an existing zoned middle school that serves sixth through eighth grades. 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. In a separate EIS, the DOE is proposing to co-locate Cambria Heights Academy (Q326) with I.S. 59 in building Q059 beginning in September 2012 once Eagle Academy is re-sited.²

The opening of Eagle Academy to serve grades six through twelve, and the co-location with I.S. 59, were proposed in an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on January 8, 2010 and approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) on March 23, 2010.³

Building Q633 was most recently occupied by The Allen Christian School, which will cease operations at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. The DOE is currently negotiating the terms of the lease for this site.

Eagle Academy is expected to serve sixth through eighth grades in 2012-2013, and then add an additional grade each year until it reaches full scale in the 2016-2017 school year, when it would serve students in sixth through twelfth grades. If this proposal is approved, Eagle Academy’s current sixth and seventh grade students will be re-sited to building Q633 for the 2012-2013 school year, where they would become Eagle Academy’s seventh and eighth grade classes, respectively. Eagle Academy would also expand to serve approximately 75-85 new sixth grade students. In 2016-2017, when Eagle Academy completes its

¹ Eagle Academy For Young Men is located at 4143 Third Avenue Bronx, NY 10547 and Eagle Academy for Young Men II is located at 1137 Herkimer Street Brooklyn, NY 11233. More information can be found at: <http://eagleacademyfoundation.com/schools.htm>.

² <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/April2012Proposals.htm>

³ The EIS is available at: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/Proposals_March_Vote.htm.

expansion and achieves full scale, it will serve approximately 530-600⁴ students in sixth through twelfth grades.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS which can be accessed here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/April2012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of I.S. 59 and Eagle Academy for Young Men III.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

A joint public hearing was held at Eagle Academy for Young Men III in building Q059 on April 3, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 60 members of the public attended the hearing, and four people spoke. Present at the meeting were Community School District 29 Superintendent Lenon Murray; District 29 Community Education Council President Alicia Hyndman; I.S. 59 Principal Carlton Gordon; Eagle Academy for Young Men III Principal Kenyatte Reid; I.S. 59 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Members Tamika Nater, Gina Josephs, Teandra Lane, Leonna Austin, Burgess Wilson, and Easter Graddy; and Eagle Academy for Young Men III SLT members Marie Adam-Ovide, Tracy Campbell, Linda Hearn, Kathay Gayle, and Janice Sherwood; and Emily Ades from the Department of Portfolio Management.

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

Comment 1 The CEC President, Alicia Hyndman commented that CEC 29 fully supports the proposal to re-site Eagle Academy to the former Allen Christian school building. She expressed that every school should have its own space.

Comment 2 The PTA President of Eagle Academy, Marie Olvede spoke on behalf of the parents and students at Eagle Academy and expressed full support for the move. She commented that since Eagle Academy is a single-sex school, the parents are pleased that they will no longer share space with a co-ed school. Ms. Olvide expressed that the new location is a perfect match for the school since it is close to transportation, is located in District 29, and the Eagle students will have their own facilities such as a gymnasium.

Comment 3 A commenter noted that she is pleased that the DOE offers choice and access to single gender schools.

Comment 4 A commenter complimented the good work of Eagle Academy students and wished them well with the new location.

The DOE received no comments at the joint public hearings which did not directly relate to the proposal.

The DOE received no written and/or oral comments through its dedicated phone line and e-mail for this proposal.

⁴ All projections referenced for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond reflect the forward promotion of cohorts by grade using the audited October 31, 2011 register for the base year.

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

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

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal