



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 25, 2012
Topic: The Proposed Re-siting and Co-location of International High School at LaGuardia Community College (24Q530) with Existing School Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College (24Q520) in Building Q520 Beginning in 2012-2013
Date of Panel Vote: April 26, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site International High School at LaGuardia Community College (24Q530, “International High School”), an existing high school that currently serves 492 students in grades nine through twelve.¹ International High School is currently located in building Q530, a leased site on the campus of LaGuardia Community College at 31-10 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101 within the geographical confines of Community School District 30 (“District 30”).² If this proposal is approved, International High School will be re-sited to school building Q520 located at 45-35 Van Dam Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, within the geographical confines of District 24 (“District 24”), beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

International High School opened in the 1999-2000 school year in a building on the campus of LaGuardia Community College under an informal agreement that was later formalized via a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with CUNY. Due to the construction of additional seats in building Q520 as a result of a new DOE building extension built by the School Construction Authority (“SCA”), the DOE has identified a long-term site for International High School. Building Q520 is approximately 0.3 mile from the campus of LaGuardia Community College.³ If this proposal is approved, International High School will be “co-located” with the school organization currently housed in building Q520: Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College (24Q520, “Middle College High School”), an existing high school that serves students in grades nine through twelve. 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.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the first year of the proposed co-location, International High School will serve students in grades nine through twelve, with a total enrollment of approximately 460-500 students.⁴ According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), prior to the new construction, building Q520 had a target capacity of 516 students

¹ 2011 Audited Register.

² Building Q530 is geographically located in District 30; however, the administrative district is District 24.

³ www.mapquest.com.

⁴ All high school projections referenced for the 2012-13 school year and beyond assume that enrollment figures at each grade level, based on the audited October 31, 2011 register will be sustained.

and enrolled 497 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 96%.⁵ According to The Program of Requirements (“POR”) for the newly constructed extension, building Q520 will have a target capacity of 820 students beginning in 2012-2013.⁶ If this proposal to re-site and co-locate International High School is approved, building Q520 will have a projected utilization rate of approximately 111-121% in 2012-2013.⁷

Both International High School and Middle College High School have educational models that provide students with the opportunity to enroll in college classes as part of their high school instructional program. International High School and Middle College High School are five-year Early College Program schools, meaning that students in the twelfth grade who have finished their High School graduation requirements have the option of staying a “5th year” in which they can take a full college schedule and work towards their Associate’s Degree at LaGuardia Community College. These students remain on each school’s register, thus increasing the size of the twelfth grade cohort each year. However, students who participate in the 5th year program do not typically follow a standard high school schedule and often attend classes at LaGuardia Community College for a large portion of the day. This year, there are 45 students at International High School and 62 students at Middle College High School who are participating in the 5th year program, respectively. This represents approximately 11% of the total combined enrollment at both schools this year. Taking this educational model into consideration, the projected utilization rate of building Q520 in 2012-2013 would decrease to approximately 98-107%.⁸

The details of this proposal have been released in an Educational Impact Statement (“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 International High School at LaGuardia Community College and Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

A joint public hearing was held at Middle College High School at LaGuardia College in building Q530 on April 16, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. 10 members of the public attended the hearing, and two people spoke. Present at the

⁵ All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Blue Book. Utilization rates referenced for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years are based on audited enrollment, and do not include Long Term Absences (“LTAs”), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2010 and October 31, 2011 respectively. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

⁶ The source of target building capacity information is the 2010-2011 Blue Book and the SCA for the newly constructed extension.

⁷ All references to building Q520 (prior to the newly constructed extension) utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Blue Book. Utilization rates referenced for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years are based on audited enrollment, and do not include Long Term Absences (“LTAs”), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2010 and October 31, 2011 respectively. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building. All references to the newly constructed extension utilization are based on the POR provided by the SCA to assess the amount of space available in the building.

⁸ The source of the enrollment in the Early College Program is from school based data from ATS –RGDC.

meeting were High School Superintendent Juan Mendez; District 24 Community Education Council Member William Kregler; International High School Principal John Starkey; Middle College High School Principal Linda Siegmund; International High School School Leadership Team (“SLT”) member Gonzalez Hidalgo and Middle College High School SLT Members Cathy Gifford, Michael Cooper, Socrates Ortiz, and Ronia Reid; and Emily Ades from the Department of Portfolio Management.

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

Comment 1: Parent Teacher Association (“PTA”) President Gonzalez Hidalgo expressed the PTA’s approval of the proposal. He said that this co-location is welcome and will benefit the students of both high schools.

Comment 2: A parent asked if more security will be provided now that there will be more students and two high schools in the building.

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.

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

Comment 1 expressed support for the proposal and does not require a response.

Comment 2 inquired about additional school safety agents for building Q520. With respect to safety agents, pursuant to Chancellor’s Regulation A-414, every school/campus must have a School Safety Committee (“the Committee”). The Committee is responsible for addressing safety matters on an on-going basis and making appropriate recommendations to the principal when it identifies the need for additional security measures, intervention, training, etc. The Committee is also responsible for developing a comprehensive School Safety Plan that defines the normal operations of the site and what procedures are in place in the event of an emergency. School Safety Plans are updated annually to meet the changing security needs, changes in organization and building conditions, and any other factors. These updates could also be made at any other time when necessary to address security concerns. The Office of School and Youth Development works collaboratively with the New York Police Department on the deployment of extra safety agents. Principals are encouraged to contact their Borough Safety Director to adjust the deployment needs of a school. Additionally, all principals of the co-located schools in Q520 will work together to re-write the Campus Safety Plan in an effort to accommodate arrival times, dismissal times, and any other operational issues that may arise.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to the proposal.