



Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 25, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of Beginning with Children Charter School II (84KTBD) with Existing Schools Juan Morel Campos Secondary School (14K071) and P141K@I071K (75K141) in Building K071 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 site Beginning With Children Charter School II (84KTBD, “BwCCS 2”) in Building K071 (“K071”), located at 215 Heyward Street in Brooklyn’s Community School District 14 beginning in 2012-2013. BwCCS 2 is a new public charter school that has been approved by its authorizer, the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY”) to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. BwCCS 2 would be co-located in K071 with existing secondary school Juan Morel Campos Secondary School (14K071, “Juan Morel Campos Secondary School”), which serves students in grades six through twelve, and P141K@I071K, an existing site of the District 75 school, 75K141, serving students in sixth through twelfth grade in 12:1:4, 8:1 (inclusion), and 9:1 (inclusion) settings. K071 also houses one community based organization (“CBO”), College Bound, which offers college counseling to the Juan Morel Campos Secondary School community. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like the auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K071 has the capacity to serve 1,434 students. Currently, the building serves 907 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 63%. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, the first year of the proposed co-location, BwCCS 2 will serve approximately 90-110 students in kindergarten and first grade. BwCCS 2 will then add one grade each year until it serves approximately 270-330 students in kindergarten through fifth grades in 2016-2017. At that time, K071 is projected to serve approximately 1,126-1,258 students enrolled in Juan Morel Campos Secondary School, P141K@I071K, and BwCCS 2, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 79%-88%. Thus, K071 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed co-location.

The Beginning with Children Foundation is a non-profit organization that currently operates two

charter schools, Beginning with Children Charter School (84K703) located in Community School District 14 at 11 Bartlett Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206, and Community Partnership Charter School (84K702) located in Community School District 13 at 241 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205.

The DOE believes in the potential of BwCCS 2 and supports the placement of this charter school in District 14 in order to continue providing educational options for students and families

Copies of the EIS and BUP describing this proposal are available in the main offices of Juan Morel Campos Secondary School, and P141K@I071K. They are also available on the DOE's Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/April2012Proposals.htm>

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

The DOE held a joint public hearing regarding this proposal at K071 on April 2, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 8 members of the public attended the hearing, and one of them spoke. Present at the meeting were Chancellor's Designee, Carrie Marlin, Director of Brooklyn Planning for the Office of Portfolio Management;¹ Juan Morel Campos Secondary School's School Leadership Team ("SLT") representative, Principal Howard Fineman; P141K@I071K's SLT Representative, Principal Thornton Mannix. Representatives from Community Education Council ("CEC") 14 were invited to attend, and one member confirmed his availability, but no CEC 14 representative attended.

The following comment was made at the joint public hearing at K071:

1. One commenter expressed his opposition to the proposal, and asked that both Principal Fineman and Principal Thornton Mannix communicate with the community should BwCCS 2 begin encroaching upon either existing school's space in K071.

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

2. The DOE received a written comment in opposition to the proposed co-location of BwCCS 2 which contended that:
 - a. Charter schools take public money away from the public schools that could be used for resources and to enhance programs
 - b. Charter schools take space away from public schools
 - c. BwCCS 2 has its own private space and does not need public space
 - d. The underutilized space in K071 identified by the DOE is, in fact, needed by students at Juan Morel Campos Secondary School and P141K@I071K
3. The DOE received another written comment in opposition to the proposed co-location of BwCCS 2 which stated that:

¹ Superintendent Rubino's sad passing on April 2 rendered him unable to serve as the Chancellor's Designee, as previously planned.

- a. District 14 does not need another elementary school, or another charter school, because there is an elementary school which received an A on its Progress Report two blocks away from K071, and several other public elementary schools in the surrounding neighborhood.
- b. This co-location will take space away from Juan Morel Campos Secondary School
- c. The DOE has eliminated budgets at Juan Morel Campos Secondary School.

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

Comments 1, 2(b), 2(d) and 3(b) relate to the proposed allocation of space and the use of shared space in K071 amongst BwCCS 2, Juan Morel Campos Secondary School and P141K@I071K.

There are currently hundreds of schools sharing space in schools across the City; some of these co-locations host multiple DOE schools while others host DOE and public charter schools. In all cases, the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) is applied to both DOE and public charter schools to ensure equitable allocation of classroom, resource and administrative space. The Footprint is the guide used to allocate space to all schools based on the number of class sections they program and the grade levels of the school. The number of class sections at each school is determined by the Principal based on enrollment, budget, and student needs; there is a standard guideline of target class size (i.e., number of students in a class section) for each grade level. At the middle school and high school levels, the Footprint assumes every classroom is programmed during every period of the school day except one lunch period. The full text of the Instructional Footprint is available at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011_FINAL.pdf.

The DOE seeks to fully utilize all its building capacity to serve students. The DOE does not distinguish between students attending public charter schools and students attending DOE schools. In all cases, the DOE seeks to provide a high quality education and offer parents/students a wide variety of school choices.

As stated in the Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”), the DOE has applied the Footprint to the proposed co-location in K071, and allocated rooms in an unbiased manner. The excess space in K071 has been allocated among Juan Morel Campos Secondary School, P141K@I071K, and BwCCS 2 based upon the following factors: the number of students enrolled by each organization relative to the total number of students in the building, the instructional and programmatic needs of the co-located schools, and the physical location of the excess space within the building.

Juan Morel Campos Secondary School is currently using 25 full-size equivalent spaces in excess of its baseline Footprint. Although Juan Morel Campos Secondary School will be allocated fewer rooms if this proposal is approved, throughout the course of the phase in of BwCCS 2, both Juan Morel Campos Secondary School and P141K@I071K will receive space in excess of their respective baseline Footprint allocations.

As stated in the EIS, the proposed co-location is not expected to impact future student enrollment, instructional programming, or the admissions process to the schools currently co-located in K071.

Furthermore, as indicated in the EIS and BUP, if this proposal is approved, when BwCCS 2 has completed its phase-in in the 2016-2017 school year, K071 is projected to serve approximately 1,126-1,258 students, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 79%-88%. Thus, K071 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed co-location.

For more information, please refer to the BUP:

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

Comment 2(a) concerns funding for charter schools.

Charter schools receive public funding pursuant to a formula created by the state legislature and overseen by the New York State Education Department. The DOE does not control this formula, nor is the formula affected by the approval or rejection of this proposal. Charter management organizations, just like any other school citywide, may also choose to raise additional funds to purchase various resources they feel would benefit their students (e.g., Smartboards, fieldtrips, etc).

Comment 2(c) contends that BwCCS 2 has private space that it could use.

As one way to offer parents high quality educational options, the DOE supports the opening of charter schools. The DOE encourages public charter schools to explore leasing or purchasing their own facilities, but the DOE also offers space in underutilized DOE school buildings where it is feasible to do so. The DOE is proposing to open and co-locate BwCC2 in K071 because the building is currently underutilized. This means that the space in the building is not being used as efficiently as possible and could be used to create new educational opportunities for families. The DOE supports parent choice and strives to ensure that all families have access to high-quality schools that meet their children's needs.

Comment 3(a) concerns the placement of BwCCS 2 in District 14.

The DOE has proposed placing BwCCS 2 in District 14 because of the positive response the community has indicated in support of Beginning with Children Charter School (84K703, "BwCCS 1"), the other charter school operated by Beginning with Children Foundation in Community School District 14. For the 2011-2012 school year, BwCCS 1 received 291 applications for 50 seats, demonstrating the high demand for charter school options in District 14. The DOE believes in the potential of BwCCS 2 and supports the placement of this charter school in District 14 in order to continue providing educational options for students and families.

Comment 3(c) concerns Juan Morel Campos Secondary School’s budget cuts.

Though Juan Morel Campos Secondary School experienced a budget reduction during the most recent fiscal year, it actually received small increases in its budget during the in 2009 and 2010 fiscal years. –The 2011 fiscal year budget reduction resulted from the 4.16% reduction experienced citywide, and a small drop in the school’s enrollment. As explained in the EIS, the basic operating budget for DOE schools is determined by the same Fair Student Funding (“FSF”) formula used at all other New York City District public schools. FSF covers basic instructional expenses and FSF funds may, at the school’s discretion, be used to hire staff, purchase supplies and materials, or implement instructional programs. As the total number of students enrolled grows, the overall budget will increase accordingly, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its larger student population. Similarly, if the total number of students enrolled falls, the budget shrinks accordingly, as the school will need fewer supplies and potentially a smaller staff.

Regardless, as stated in the EIS, this co-location proposal should not impact the operating budget or costs of instruction at Juan Morel Campos Secondary School or at P141K@I071K.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes were made to this proposal as a result of feedback received.