



Public Comment Analysis

Date: December 13, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of Uncommon Charter High School 2 with Existing Schools Brooklyn Academy High School (13K553), Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory High School (13K575), and a District 75 School, (75K373@79K575), in School Building K458 Beginning in 2012-2013

Date of Panel Vote: December 14, 2011

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate a new public charter high school, Uncommon Charter High School 2 (“Uncommon Charter High 2”) in building K458 (“K458”), located at 832 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216, within the geographical confines of Community School District 13. Uncommon Charter High 2 would be co-located in K458 with two existing transfer high schools: Brooklyn Academy High School (13K553, “Brooklyn Academy”) and Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory High School (13K575, “Bedford Stuyvesant Prep”), which both serve students between the ages of 16 and 21, who have fallen behind academically, and who are more than two years away from graduation. Brooklyn Academy serves students in tenth through twelfth grades and Bedford Stuyvesant Prep serves students in ninth through twelfth grades. Uncommon Charter High 2 would also be co-located in K458 with a District 75 school (“75K373@79K575”) that serves students with a range of learning and emotional disabilities. 75K373@79K575 is an inclusion program and its students are enrolled in Bedford Stuyvesant Prep’s general education classes, and, depending on their individual needs, receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”). K458 also houses a full-time General Education Development (“GED”) Diploma Plus program (79Q950) and a Referral Center for High School Alternatives (“Referral Center”), and a Living for the Young Family through Education (“LYFE”) program (79K2952). Building K458 also provides space to two Community Based Organizations (“CBOs”), specifically Teen Choice and CAMBA. 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 the 2010-2011 school year, building K458 had a target capacity to serve 1,191 students but served only 510 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 43%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students.

If this co-location proposal is approved, Uncommon Charter High 2 will open during the 2012-2013 school year with a ninth grade cohort of approximately 44-54 students. The school would

grow to scale by adding one grade level per academic year until it reaches its full grade span of ninth through twelfth grade in the 2015-2016 school year, when it would serve approximately 481-588 students.

Uncommon Charter High 2 will only enroll students who have been promoted from a charter middle school operated by Uncommon Schools (“Uncommon”), the Charter Management Organization (“CMO”) that will also manage Uncommon Charter High 2. The charter middle schools that will feed into Uncommon Charter High 2 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year are Bedford Stuyvesant Collegiate Charter School, located in District 16 (84K648, “BSC”), and Brownsville Collegiate Charter School, located in District 23 (84K710, “BVC”). Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School, located in District 23 (84K777, “OHC”) and Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School, located in District 13 (84K780, “BEC”) will also feed into Uncommon Charter High 2.

BSC and BVC were both authorized by the State University of New York’s Charter School Institute (“SUNY Charter School Institute”). BSC opened in the 2008-2009 school year and BVC opened in the 2009-2010 school year. Each school has been approved by the SUNY Charter School Institute to offer high school grades. BSC and BVC are also applying for a charter revision that would allow both of their high school programs to be co-located in one building. If the applications are approved, then the co-located high school grades would be known as Uncommon Charter High 2 and, if this proposal is approved, then Uncommon Charter High 2 will be sited in K458. In 2013-2-14, Uncommon will apply to the SUNY Charter School Institute to revise the charters of BEC and OHC to allow those schools to serve high school grades and to co-locate those high school grades with BSC and BVC at Uncommon Charter High 2 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Two other existing schools managed by Uncommon, specifically Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School (84K355) and Kings Collegiate Charter School (84K608), have successfully undergone an identical charter revision process. Therefore, the DOE and CMO are confident that the revisions to BSC’s, BVC’s, BEC’s, and OHC’s charters will also be approved. The SUNY Charter School Institute’s revision process does not allow the CMO to formally request a revision until the school year before the co-location would begin. Once a revision is formally requested, Uncommon will work with the DOE to schedule a public hearing regarding the revisions to the respective charters.

The K458 building has adequate capacity to accommodate the co-location of Uncommon Charter High 2, Brooklyn Academy, Bedford Stuyvesant Prep, 75K373@79K575, the GED Plus Program, the LYFE program, and the two CBOs in the building at full operational capacity. During the 2015-2016 school year, when Uncommon Charter High 2 is fully phased in, the building would serve approximately 931-1,166 students, yielding an approximate utilization rate of 78-98%.

The DOE believes in Uncommon’s record of success and supports the permanent placement of an Uncommon charter school in District 13 in order to continue providing excellent educational opportunities for students and families.

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/Dec2011Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of Brooklyn Academy, Bedford Stuyvesant Prep, and 75K373@79K575.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building K458 on December 8, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 104 members of the public attended the hearing and 9 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Principal of Brooklyn Academy, Elaine Lindsey; Principal of Bedford Stuyvesant Prep, Darryl Rascoe; District 79 Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Daniel Greenblatt; District Director of Facilities, Health, Food and Transportation, Chris Mangiero; Uncommon Charter High 2 Principal, Jesse Corburn; State University of New York representative Thom Franta; Brooklyn High School Superintendent Karen Watts; and New York State Assembly Member Hakeem Jeffries. Community Education Council (“CEC”) 13 president Benjamin Greene was invited to attend the hearing, but he was ultimately unable to attend. A representative from the Citywide District 75 Council was invited to attend the hearing, but he was also ultimately unable to attend.

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

1. The principal of Uncommon Charter High 2 stated that the school’s staff is grateful for the opportunity to join Brooklyn Academy and Bedford Stuyvesant Prep in K458. He further stated that Uncommon Charter High 2 is committed to being a positive and supportive partner in the building and that Uncommon Charter High 2 looks forward to serving District 13 students.
2. Assembly Member Hakeem Jeffries stated that he supports the co-location of Uncommon Charter High 2 in K458 because BSC’s academic performance has been excellent. He cited that 100% of BSC’s seventh grade students achieved proficiency on the New York State math assessment in 2010-2011. He also stated that, due to K458’s current utilization rate of 43%, a co-location would not have adverse effect on students enrolled in the schools that are already in K458, and that an additional high school option in the community is welcomed. Finally, he stated that various community leaders have also expressed their support for this co-location.
3. Several commenters identified themselves as parents of students enrolled at two charter schools managed by Uncommon and supported the proposal.

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

1. No written or oral comments regarding this proposal were received.

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

All comments received at the hearing were in support of the proposed co-location and, therefore, do not need to be addressed.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.