



Public Comment Analysis

Date: January 18, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of P.S. 182 Samantha Smith in Building Q277 for the 2012-2013 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: January 19, 2011

Summary of Proposal

P.S. 182 Samantha Smith (28Q182, “P.S. 182”) is an existing Early Childhood Center (“ECC”) in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in kindergarten through second grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 182 is “split-sited,” which means it is currently located in three buildings:

- Q882, located at 90-36 150th Street, Jamaica, NY, 11435
- Q883, located at 85-40 150th Street, Jamaica, NY, 11435; and
- Q278, located at 88-13 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, 11432.

P.S. 86 (28Q086, “P.S. 86”) is an existing elementary school located at 87-41 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, 11432, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in third through sixth grade and is located in building Q086. At this time, P.S. 182 and P.S. 86 share a zone, and students from P.S. 182 typically enroll in P.S. 86 for third grade.

The DOE is proposing to move P.S. 182 to building Q277, which is also located in District 28, at 153-26 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica, NY, 11432 for September 2012. This is a new site currently under construction by the School Construction Authority (“SCA”).

The re-siting of P.S. 182 is contingent upon the completion of this new building; if the opening date of Q277 is delayed for any reason, this re-siting would also be delayed, and the Department of Education (“DOE”) would issue a new Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) addressing the new timeframe for the re-siting.

All new construction sites reserve approximately 10 percent of the new building’s space for District 75 (“D75”) schools. As such, P.S. 182 will be co-located with a yet-to-be determined D75 school. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building, often sharing large, common spaces like the auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria.

Under the re-siting proposal, P.S. 182 would move to Q277 upon that building’s completion, currently scheduled for August of 2012. The new building, Q277, has 27 full-size classrooms, 4

half-size classrooms designated for one or more school organizations, as well as rooms that are reserved for a D75 school. The building also has a gymnasium, auditorium, library, cafeteria and an outdoor space targeted to have a separate space for the Early Childhood students.

The building will have a target capacity for the non-D75 rooms of approximately 665 students, allowing sufficient space for the school with its current grade span or the separately proposed grade expansion to include third, fourth and fifth grade. This is because while the proposed grade span serves twice as many grade levels, it would serve less than half as many students at each grade level.

P.S. 182 students will benefit from the greater resources of Q277's larger facility, including public assembly spaces that can serve all students at one time and improved outdoor space. Additionally, students will not have to leave the building to access facilities like the cafeteria, which will not only positively impact the quality of students' experiences, but also decrease the amount of time spent moving between buildings rather than receiving instruction.

This re-siting proposal is not dependent upon the Panel for Educational Policy's ("PEP") approval of the grade reconfigurations of P.S. 182 and P.S. 86. In other words, if the re-siting proposal is approved, P.S. 182 will be re-located to building Q277 regardless of whether the grade expansion proposal is also approved.

Similarly, the grade reconfiguration of P.S. 182 is not contingent upon being re-sited: if, for any reason, the PEP does not vote to approve the re-siting of P.S. 182, but does vote to approve the grade reconfiguration proposal, the grade reconfigurations at both P.S. 86 and P.S. 182 would still move forward.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at P.S. 182 on January 11, 2011. At the hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 57 members of the public attended the hearing, and three people spoke. Also present at the meeting were District 28 Superintendent Beverly Ffolkes-Bryant; Community Education Council representative Emily Ades; P.S. 182 Principal Andrew Topol; and P.S. 182 School Leadership Team representatives Jorge Morales, Marie Ajax, Lolita Parbhu, Tania Gonzales, and Christine Hillard.

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

1. Community Education Council representative Emily Ades stated CEC 28's complete support for the proposal to reconfigure P.S. 182 and P.S. 86 since that would allow for an easy and uniformed enrollment process and also to re-site P.S. 182. She also stated that, having worked with Hillside Community Partnerships and P.S. 182, the CEC is very happy to support the re-siting.
2. SLT member Marie Ajax expressed her support for the proposal.
3. A commenter expressed support for the proposal, but also noted concern that P.S. 182 may not be re-sited after the grade reconfiguration. The commenter stated that she does

not believe that the expansion of grades will work in the current building if the re-siting is not approved.

4. A commenter stated that the re-siting of P.S. 182 is a big step for the school, which would not have been possible without the help of the CEC representative, Emily Ades.
5. A commenter inquired about safety since the new building is on Hillside Avenue where there's a lot of traffic and parking.

The DOE received the following comments at the Joint Public Hearing which did not directly relate to the re-siting proposal and are addressed in the Analysis of Public Comments regarding the grade reconfigurations of P.S. 182 and P.S. 86.

1. SLT member Christine Hillard inquired about the Parsons School (building Q278), where she currently serves as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Specifically, she asked whether Pre-Kindergarten was included in the grade reconfiguration and which grades would be housed in the Parsons school building.
2. A commenter asked what was going to happen to sixth graders at P.S. 86 when the grades reconfigurations are implemented at both schools.

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

1. A commenter expressed support for the proposed re-siting, but noted concern regarding the possibility of P.S. 182 not being able to move into the new building. The commenter expressed concern about the school being split-sited and also that the students at P.S. 182 share the cafeteria with the homeless population.

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

1. Comments 1, 2 and 4 express support for the proposal and do not require a response.
2. With regards to comment 3 and written comment 1, the re-siting of P.S. 182 is contingent upon the completion of the new building, Q277. According to the Educational Impact Statement regarding the re-siting of P.S. 182, "if the opening date of Q277 is delayed for any reason, this re-siting would also be delayed and the DOE would issue a new EIS addressing the new timeframe for the re-siting."
3. With regards to comment 5, CEC member Elizabeth Ades stated that the entrance to the school will not be on the Hillside Avenue, but instead on the 88th street. She also commented that the corner near the new school is a hub for the NYPD and envisioned that there will be police presence during the arrival and dismissal of the school. Additionally, she mentioned that the CEC requested crossing guards on Hillside Avenue. Furthermore, according to the EIS, "P.S. 182 will develop a safety and security plan for Q277 prior to the first day of school in September 2012."

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes in the proposal were made in response to public feedback.