



Notice
November 5, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of Washington Heights Academy (06M366) from K-5 to K-8 Beginning in 2014-2015

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

On September 20, 2012 the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposed to expand Washington Heights Academy (06M366, “WHA”) to serve kindergarten through eighth grades.

That proposal was scheduled to be considered by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) on November 8, 2012. However, that proposal was withdrawn from the PEP’s agenda in the wake of disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy. The DOE is now reissuing the proposal.

This proposal will now be voted on at the December 20, 2012 meeting of the PEP.

WHA is an existing district elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades in building M263 at 202 Sherman Avenue, New York, NY 10034, in Community School District 6. WHA also offers a pre-kindergarten program.

WHA currently serves 353 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and pre-kindergarten. If this proposal is approved, students enrolled in WHA would be able to stay at the school through eighth grade. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, WHA would add one grade each year until 2016-2017, when it would reach full scale and serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades and pre-kindergarten. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed grade expansion of WHA will affect the pre-kindergarten program at the school.

The M263 building has a capacity of 488 students and currently serves 353 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, yielding a utilization rate of 72%. If this proposal is approved, the building would serve approximately 455 - 555 students and have a utilization rate of 93 – 114% in 2016-2017 when WHA reaches full scale. Although there may be a utilization rate above 100%, as discussed in section III.B. of the Educational Impact Statement, the building has sufficient space to provide WHA with at least its baseline room allocations. Therefore, the M263 building has the capacity to accommodate the proposed grade expansion of WHA.

The proposal to expand WHA initially came from the school community. In May 2012, a grade expansion team composed of WHA teachers, parents, staff, and administrators submitted a formal application to expand the grades served by the school. That application was supported by parents and the broader school community. This suggests a high level of satisfaction within the

school and its parent body and strongly implies that an expanded WHA will suit the needs of the children in District 6. This grade expansion will allow WHA to serve elementary and middle school grades and a pre-kindergarten program at full scale.

If this proposal is approved, fifth grade students will be able apply to attend middle school at WHA through the District 6 Middle School Choice Process for the 2014-2015 school year. Students enrolled at WHA will have admissions priority if they wish to remain for sixth grade. Other eligible fifth graders in District 6 will have the opportunity to apply to attend middle school at WHA should additional seats become available. .

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Dec2012Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are available in the main office of Washington Heights Academy (06M366).

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Yael Kalban
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

Date: December 12, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Washington Heights Academy
202 Sherman Avenue
Manhattan, New York, 10034

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VI. This document further serves as formal notice that in the event of a cancellation of the above noticed joint public hearing date and time due to inclement weather or other unforeseen occurrence, event, or emergency, the joint public hearing will be held on the following alternate schedule:

Date: December 18, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Washington Heights Academy
202 Sherman Avenue
Manhattan, New York, 10034

VII, Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

December 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM
The High School for Fashion Industries
225 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011