

## **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: December 19, 2012  
Topic: The Proposed Grade Truncation of I.S. 392 (23K392) to a 6-8 school in 2013-2014  
Date of Panel Vote: December 20, 2012

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## **Summary of Proposal**

I.S. 392 (23K392, “I.S. 392”) is an existing district middle school located in building K356 (“K356”), at 104 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23. It currently serves students in fifth through eighth grades. I.S. 392 is currently co-located with P.S. 156 Waverly (23K156, “P.S. 156”), an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. 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.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a “grade truncation” at I.S. 392, meaning that the school would no longer offer the option to enroll fifth-grade students after the current 2012-2013 school year.<sup>1</sup> Beginning in September 2013, I.S. 392 would only serve sixth through eighth-grade students. Although I.S. 392 was budgeted to serve 21 fifth graders during the 2012-2013 school year, no fifth graders actually chose to enroll at the school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, but I.S. 392 may enroll students starting in fifth grade. Currently, I.S. 392 is the only DOE-managed school in District 23 that serves an irregular grade span in the kindergarten through eighth grade span. Historically, the majority of I.S. 392’s fifth-grade students articulated from P.S. 007 Abraham Lincoln (19K007, “P.S. 7”) in District 19, where they were enrolled for fourth grade. At its meeting on February 9, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal to expand P.S. 7 from a school that serves students in kindergarten through fourth grades to a school that serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades. P.S. 7 began enrolling fifth-grade students in the 2012-2013 school year. If I.S. 392’s fifth grade is not truncated and historical enrollment patterns continue, the enrollment in any future I.S. 392 fifth grade class would be adversely affected by P.S. 7’s expansion because P.S. 7’s students will likely continue at P.S. 7 for fifth grade rather than enroll in I.S. 392 for fifth grade. Furthermore, because I.S. 392 is the only district school in District 23 that serves an irregular grade span in the kindergarten through eighth grade span, the enrollment in any future I.S. 392 fifth grade class would not likely be composed of District 23 students.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school entry grades in District 23. Additionally, having students start I.S. 392 through multiple entry grades (at both fifth and sixth grades) creates challenges for students and the school as a whole. Having students enter in multiple years is also challenging for teachers and leadership from an instructional perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> The EIS describing that proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Dec2012Proposals.htm>.

Changing I.S. 392's grade span from fifth through eighth grade to sixth through eighth grade will free up additional space that I.S. 392 could use to accommodate existing sixth-through eighth-grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.).

Copies of the EIS describing the proposed grade truncation of I.S. 392's fifth grade are available in the main offices of I.S. 392 and P.S. 156 in K356. It is also available on the DOE's website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Dec2012Proposals>.

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing**

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at K356. At the joint public hearing, participants had the opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 6 members of the public attended the hearing, but nobody offered any comments. Present at the meeting were: Community School District 23 Superintendent Ainslie Cumberbatch, Roshana Ross, representative of Community Education Council 23 ("CEC 23"); Principal Shirley Wheeler Massey of I.S. 392; Principal Beverly Logan of P.S. 156; Tracey Bean Haye of I.S. 392's School Leadership Team ("SLT") and Stephen Demers of the DOE.

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

No written or oral comments were received regarding this proposal.

### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

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