



Notice
October 3, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 236 Langston Hughes (09X236) to a K-5 School in Buildings X236 and X173 Beginning in 2012-2013

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

P.S. 236 Langston Hughes (09X236, “P.S. 236”) is an existing choice elementary school split-sited¹ in Buildings X236, located at 499 East 175 Street, Bronx, NY 10457 and X173, located at 1871 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453, in Community School District 9 (“District 9”). P.S. 236 is an early childhood center (“ECC”) that currently serves students in kindergarten through second grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. ECCs are small elementary schools that focus on early childhood education, typically kindergarten through second grade.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion,” whereby P.S. 236 would expand to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade (“K-5”) at full scale.

If this proposal is approved, students currently enrolled in kindergarten, first, and second grades would be able to continue at the school for third, fourth, and fifth grades. In 2012-2013, P.S. 236 would begin to serve third grade. P.S. 236 would grow to serve one additional grade level each subsequent year until September 2014, at which point the school would be full scale and would serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Department of Education (“DOE”) does not anticipate that the proposed expansion of P.S. 236 would affect its pre-kindergarten program.

The proposal to expand P.S. 236 is supported by the school community (i.e., students and their families) currently served by P.S. 236, as well as P.S. 236’s school leadership team. As described below, P.S. 236 will be able to serve the instructional needs of all elementary school students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Moreover, buildings X236 and X173, the two buildings in which the school is split-sited, have appropriate facilities and sufficient space to support this proposed grade reconfiguration.

P.S. 236 currently shares space at X173 with the La Peninsula Community Organization, a non-profit development program that operates several Head Start centers in the Bronx. This proposal would not impact La Peninsula’s Head Start center at X173, and La Peninsula’s Head Start center at X173 would continue to operate out of the same number of rooms it has currently been allocated.

¹ “Split-sited” schools are located in more than one Building.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school at every stage of their education. The DOE is proposing to expand P.S. 236 because having elementary schools that terminate in different grades (i.e., K-2 versus K-5) creates challenges for students who must leave elementary schools after second grade and move to other elementary schools for third through fifth grades. In addition, matriculating second graders are limited to those schools that still have available third grade seats. As a result, some P.S. 236 students may not be able to enter their preferred elementary school after they leave P.S. 236. The proposed grade expansion at P.S. 236 would allow the school to provide its students with a continuous elementary school experience from kindergarten through fifth grade, reduce the number of transitions P.S. 236 students are required to make during the elementary school years, and would provide P.S. 236 students with similar access to elementary school options as compared with their district peers.

Currently, elementary students in District 9 can attend their zoned elementary schools, apply to P.S. 236 through a school-based random selection process, or apply to Citywide or district-wide Gifted and Talented programs through the Gifted and Talented application process. Under this proposal, P.S. 236 would remain a choice school, and elementary students in District 9 would retain all of the above options.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) for this proposal may be found on the Department of Education’s Website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Nov2011PEP.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 236’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments may be sent to D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments may be left at 212-374-5159

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

Name: Juan Rosales
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
E-mail: D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

V. Date, time and place of Joint Public Hearings for this proposal.

November 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 236 Annex
1871 Walton Ave.
Bronx, NY 10453

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

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

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

November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Avenue, Queens, NY 11106