



Public Comment Analysis

Date: November 16, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of P.S. 51 Bronx New School (10X051) in Building X781

Date of Panel Vote: November 17, 2011

Summary of Proposal

P.S. 51 Bronx New School (10X051, “P.S. 51”) is a choice elementary school, which was located in Building X825 (“X825”) at 3200 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468, through the 2010-2011 school year. The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to permanently re-site P.S. 51 to Building X781 (“X781”), located at 695 East 182nd Street, with gymnasium space located nearby at 2239 Crotona Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457. P.S. 51 has been housed in Building X781 since the start of the 2011-2012 school year, pursuant to an Emergency Declaration signed by the Chancellor on August 31, 2011. Both X825 and X781 are located in Community School District 10 (“District 10”).

Last summer, the DOE became aware that Building X825 contained levels of a chemical, trichloroethylene (“TCE”), that exceeded the New York State Department of Health air guideline value. Because these levels could not be effectively remediated prior to the opening of school in September 2011, the DOE determined it necessary to find a new location for P.S. 51, the only school located in Building X825, for the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. In September 2011, the entire student population of P.S. 51 moved from X825 to X781, and if this proposal is approved, the school will remain there permanently—beyond the six month period for which the Emergency Declaration provides.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A Joint Public Hearing regarding this proposal was held at P.S. 51 on November 3, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately seven members of the public attended the hearing; none of these seven spoke. Also present at the meeting were District 10 Superintendent Sonia Menendez; District 10 Community Education Council President Marvin Shelton; Valerie Greaves, CEC 10 Member; Paul Smith, Principal of P.S. 51; Scott Schneider, Assistant Principal of P.S. 51; Donele Harrison, the Parent Association President, representing the School Leadership Team; Kevin Won, a teacher from P.S. 51, representing the School Leadership Team; Eileen Bernstein,

Chapter Leader; Renardo Wright, Children’s First Network 402 Leader; Tracey Collins, Children’s First Network 402 Deputy Leader; Jesse Mojica, Executive Director, Division of Family and Community Engagement; Jenny Sobelman, Chief of Staff, Division of Family and Community Engagement; Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive, Office of School Support Services; Amanda Cahn, Director of Bronx Planning, Office of Portfolio Management; Juan Rosales, Associate Planner, Office of Portfolio Management; Helen Tsang, Office of Public Affairs; Nydia Portilla, Division of Family and Community Engagement; and Frank Thomas, Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Communications and Media Relations.

The following comments and remarks were made at the Joint Public Hearing:

1. Marvin Shelton, president of Community Education Council 10, asked for updated facilities information regarding the school’s new site, building X781.

The DOE received no comments at the Joint Public Hearing which did not directly relate to the proposal.

The DOE received no written and/or oral comments through its dedicated phone line and e-mail for this proposal.

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

CEC 10 President Marvin Shelton requested additional information about building X781, which was newly leased this year. The building was constructed in 1925 and two additional floors were added in 1956. An adjacent gymnasium was constructed in 1949. Building X781 is partially ADA accessible: the gymnasium is American Disability Act (ADA) accessible, but the school building is not. Statistics relating to capacity and utilization are not yet available, nor is data related to energy and maintenance costs.