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Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 20, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Co-Location of New Transfer High School 07X557 with Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655) and New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (84XTBD) in School Building X655, Beginning in 2012-2013

Date of Panel Vote: March 21, 2012

Summary of Proposal

On February 3, 2012, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) to propose that 07X557, a new transfer high school, be co-located in the X655 building with Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655, “Samuel Gompers”) and New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (84XTBD, “HUM II”), beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Building X655 is located at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455, within the geographical confines of Community School District 7 (“District 7”). A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

In a separate EIS, originally posted on December 22, 2011 and amended on February 3, 2012, the DOE proposed to phase out Samuel Gompers, an existing Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) high school currently located in building X655, after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs. The phase-out of Samuel Gompers was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) on February 9, 2012. Thereby, Samuel Gompers will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The school’s enrollment will decrease gradually over the next three years, and the school will complete its phase-out in June 2015.

The proposed co-location of 07X557 in building X655 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that are intended to better serve future students and the community at large. 07X557 will prepare over-age, under-credited students for post-secondary education

and/or career. 07X557 will have a rolling admissions policy, accepting students throughout the year who are 16 years of age and older and who have attended another New York City high school for at least one year.

Building X655 has a target capacity of 1,348 students. In the 2011-2012 school year, the building is serving a total of 630 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 47%.

If this co-location proposal is approved, 07X557 will open in building X655 in September 2012 and will serve approximately 130-170 students in grades nine through twelve. In each subsequent year through 2014-2015, the school will enroll approximately 50 additional students. 07X557 is expected to reach full scale in terms of enrollment in 2014-2015, when it will serve approximately 230-270 students in grades nine through twelve.

In 2017-2018, once Samuel Gompers has completed its proposed phase-out and both HUM II and 07X557 have reached full scale, there will be approximately 810-910 students served in the building. This yields a projected target building utilization rate of approximately 60-68%.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS and a Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) which can be accessed here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in Samuel Gompers’ main office.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A Joint Public Hearing regarding this proposal was held at school building X655 on March 8, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the hearing, and one person spoke about this proposal. Present at the hearing were: Yolanda Torres, District 7 Community Superintendent; Susan Megna, New York State Education Department Representative; Tracy Woodall and Neyda Franco, Community Education Council (“CEC”) 7 Representatives; Joyce Mills Kittrell, Samuel Gompers Principal; Yira Salcedo, Samuel Gompers Assistant Principal; Jayne Godlewski, Children’s First Network Leader for Samuel Gompers; Evelyn Rodríguez, President of the Parent-Teacher Association for Samuel Gompers; Helen Rodney, United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) Chapter Leader for Samuel Gompers; John Highlander, President of the Samuel Gompers Alumni Association; Ron Chaluian and Jennie Soler-McIntosh, Representatives from New Visions for Public Schools; Amanda Cahn, Rosa Fernández, Scott Torres, and Jessica Fredston-Hermann from the Division of Portfolio Planning; and Percy Forrest from the Division of Family and Community Engagement.

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

1. Several commenters (including Evelyn Rodríguez, President of the Parent-Teacher Association for Samuel Gompers, and Neyda Franco, member of CEC 7) asked whether

Samuel Gompers students would receive admissions priority into the new transfer high school.

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

The DOE received no written comments through the dedicated e-mail address for this proposal and no comments were received via telephone.

The following comments and remarks were made at the Joint Public Hearing that were not related to the proposal

2. Several commenters (including Helen Rodney, UFT Chapter Leader for Samuel Gompers, and John Highlander, President of the Samuel Gompers Alumni Association) stated that Samuel Gompers has a high concentration of special needs students. Helen Rodney specifically stated that 25% of the student body receives special education services.
3. UFT Chapter Leader Helen Rodney noted that Samuel Gompers offers a number of CTE-certified programs in the areas of information technology, computer programming, and engineering. Additionally, Samuel Gompers is the only high school in the Bronx offering CISCO Networking, which is an information technology program that teaches students how to design, build, troubleshoot, and secure computer networks.
4. Several commenters stated that Samuel Gompers has been successful in preparing students for entering the workforce.
5. Several commenters expressed general opposition to the decision to phase out Samuel Gompers.

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

- Comment 1 inquires about the admissions process of the transfer school and whether Samuel Gompers students will receive priority into the school. The proposed new transfer school will be open to students who are 16 years of age and older and who have attended another New York City public high school for at least one year. The school will have a rolling admissions policy, accepting eligible students throughout the school year. To enroll, students and their parents/guardians will contact the school directly to schedule an intake appointment.

Students will be requested to provide a copy of their academic transcripts at the intake interview. Students with disabilities and English Language Learner students will be treated in the same manner as their general education peers and, if admitted to 07X557, will receive all mandated services in accordance with DOE policy.

If students at Samuel Gompers fall behind on their credits and need more individualized support at a transfer school to catch up and graduate from high school, they could also apply

to the proposed new transfer school, 07X557, on the building X655 campus. Their applications will be evaluated based on the criteria described above.

- Comments 2-5 are not related to this proposal as they concern the approved proposal to phase out Samuel Gompers. For a full discussion of the phase-out of Samuel Gompers, please refer to the Analysis of Public Comment available on the DOE's Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals.htm>.

Changes Made to this Proposal

- No changes have been made to this proposal.

