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Chancellor

### Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 20, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Co-Location of a New Public Charter High School, New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II (84XTBD), with Existing School Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (08X650) and New High School 08X559 in School Building X650, Beginning in 2012-2013

Date of Panel Vote: March 21, 2012

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#### Summary of Proposal

On February 3, 2012, the Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to co-locate New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science (84XTBD, “AMS II”), a new public charter school, in building X650, located at 900 Tinton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456, within the geographical confines of Community School District 8 (“District 8”) beginning in 2012-2013. AMS II is a new public charter school that is proposed to serve students in grades nine through twelve at scale in building X650 where it would be co-located with Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (08X650, “Jane Addams”), and 08X559, a new district career and technical education (“CTE”) school. In addition, X650 houses a Living for the Young Family through Education (“LYFE”) program that would also be co-located with AMS II. 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 and eventually close Jane Addams, a CTE high school currently located in building X650.

The DOE proposed to phase out Jane Addams 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 Panel for Education Policy (“PEP”) approved the proposal to phase out Jane Addams in February 2012. As a result, Jane Addams 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.

In a separate EIS, issued on February 3, 2012, the DOE also proposed to open and co-locate 08X559, a new district high school which will offer CTE programming, in building X650 beginning in 2012-2013. If these proposals are approved, AMS II will be co-located with 08X559 in building X650 throughout the

course of its phase-in and thereafter. 08X559 will open in September 2012 with ninth-grade and will add one grade every year until reaching its full grade-span of grades nine through twelve in 2015-2016.

The proposed co-location of AMS II in building X650 is part of the DOE's central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large. AMS II will offer CTE programs, which will train students with workforce skills in specific careers—and will thus help meet the DOE's goal of providing new CTE options for the community in light of the phase-out of Jane Addams.

The mission of AMS II is to ensure that its graduates have the skills and content knowledge necessary to succeed in their post-secondary choices by engaging them in coherent learning experiences that cultivate critical thinking and creativity. The school's charter was approved by the New York State Education Department ("SED") on September 12, 2011. Under this charter, AMS II will admit students through a charter lottery, giving preference to students who reside in District 8.

If the co-location proposals are approved, AMS II will be co-located in building X650 with Jane Addams (as it phases out) and with 08X559 (as it phases in). AMS II will also be co-located with the LYFE center housed in building X650. AMS II will open in September 2012 serving approximately 120-130 students in the ninth grade. AMS II will gradually phase into the building by adding one grade at a time in each subsequent year. The school is expected to reach its full grade span in 2015-2016, when it will serve approximately 530-580 students in grades nine through twelve. However, since the school is starting with a smaller enrollment during the first two years of phase-in, it will take two additional years before the school's enrollment grows to full scale at approximately 580–640 students in grades nine through twelve.

Building X650 has a target capacity of 1,241 students. In the current 2011-2012 school year, the building is serving approximately 706 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 57%.

In 2017-2018, once Jane Addams has completed its phase-out and both AMS II and 08X559 have reached full scale, there will be approximately 1,100-1,200 students served in the building, which will yield a target building utilization rate of approximately 89 – 97%.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS and 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 Jane Addams' main office.

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

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at school building X650 on March 12, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the hearing, and 2 people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 7 Community Superintendent Yolanda Torres; New York State Education Department Representative, Jamal Young; Jane Addams School Leadership Team Representatives, including I.A. Principal Joel Dibartolomeo; Scott Torres from the Office of Charter Schools; and Amanda Cahn and Stephanie Crane from the Division of Portfolio Planning. Although Community Education Council ("CEC") 8 was invited to the hearing and confirmed that at least one CEC member would attend, no CEC 8 members appeared at the hearing.

The following questions, comments, and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

1. One commenter, who is a member of the New Visions staff, voiced support for the proposal to co-locate AMS II in the X650 building. He explained that New Visions has done work with school communities for the past ten years, including working with various communities to create small high schools. He also noted that New Visions provides opportunities for professional development and for school staff. He further noted that the New Visions community believes strongly in working with schools that are in a co-location situation and working together to provide the best educational experiences for students in all co-located schools organizations in the same building. He also stated that the the preference for charter application for the new school will go to District 8 students and the lottery will be held on April 17, 2012.
2. One commenter, who is also a member of the New Visions staff, explained the importance of community engagement and ample access to enrollment at the New Visions schools. She noted that the application deadline is April 2, 2012 and the admissions lottery will be held on April 17, 2012. She explained that New Visions representatives will be traveling throughout the Bronx and District 8 to make students and parents aware of the opportunity to apply to the New Visions school that will be co-located in the X650 building if this proposal is approved. She also noted that New Visions has done extensive mailings to inform parents of the opportunity to apply to the New Visions school. She also explained that New Visions schools will meet the needs of all students, including students that are English Llanguage Learners or students with Individualized Education Programs. She encouraged community members to reach out to her with any questions and/or concerns.

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

The DOE received no written comments and no oral comments through the dedicated Web site and phone line for this proposal.

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

Comments 1 and 2 voiced support for the proposal and require no response.

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

No changes have been made to this proposal.