



Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 20, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of Leadership Preparatory Brownsville Charter School's (84K711) K-3 Grades and Co-location of Leadership Preparatory Brownsville Charter School's K-4 Grades with Existing Schools Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy V (23K518), Metropolitan Diploma Plus High School (23K647), and Brooklyn Democracy Academy (23K643) in Building K275 Beginning in 2012-2013

Date of Panel Vote: March 21, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") is proposing to re-site Leadership Preparatory Brownsville Charter School's (84K711, "LPBV") kindergarten through third grade ("K-3") from building K284 ("K284"), located at 213 Osborn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212 in Community School District 23, to building K275 ("K275"), located 985 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212 in Community School District 23. LPBV is an existing public charter school that currently serves 245 K-3 students and is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade. In 2012-2013, LPBV will expand to serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade ("K-4"). If this proposal is approved, its students in K-4 will be served in K275. In a separate Educational Impact Statement ("EIS"), the DOE has proposed to split-site and co-locate LPBV's future fifth through eighth grades in K284.

LPBV is currently co-located in K284 with P.S. 284 Lew Wallace (23K284, "P.S. 284"), an existing zoned elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a full-day pre-kindergarten program. If this proposal is approved, in K275, LPBV will be co-located with an existing middle school, Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy V (23K518, "KAPPA V"), and two existing transfer high schools: Metropolitan Diploma Plus High School (23K647, "Metropolitan Diploma Plus") and Brooklyn Democracy Academy (23K643, "Brooklyn Democracy") beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Metropolitan Diploma Plus and Brooklyn Democracy serve students between the ages of 16 and 21 who have fallen behind academically and are more than two years away from graduation.

K275 also currently houses a District 75 program (75K140, "P140K@KAPPA V") that serves kindergarten through eighth grade students who have an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") classification of emotionally disturbed. In a separate EIS posted in January 2012, the

DOE proposed re-siting 75K140@Kappa V from K275 to building K258 (“K258”), which is located 141 Macon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216. If the proposal to re-site P140K@KAPPA V is approved, it will be re-sited to K258 before the start of the 2012-2013 school year and, therefore, will not be impacted by this proposal. If the proposal to re-site P140K@KAPPA V is not approved, the DOE will re-evaluate space availability at K275 and issue a revised EIS regarding LPBV’s proposed re-siting, if necessary.

K275 also provides space to three Community Based Organizations (“CBOs”), specifically Beacon, CAMBA, and the Jewish Child Care Association.

In 2012-2013, LPBV will expand to serve students in K-4 as outlined in its charter, which was authorized by the State University of New York Charter School Institute. Thus, if this proposal is approved, LPBV will serve approximately 331-423 K-4 students in K275 starting in the 2012-2013 school year.

In the following years, LPBV would expand by one grade each year until it reaches full scale and serves approximately 595-760 kindergarten through eighth grade students. The DOE recognizes that K275 does not have sufficient space for LPBV to serve its kindergarten through eighth grade students. Thus, in a separate EIS, the DOE is also proposing to split-site and co-locate LPBV’s fifth through eighth grade students with P.S. 284 in K284. If that proposal is approved, beginning in 2013-2014, LPBV would serve approximately 45-58 fifth grade students in K284. In the following years, LPBV would expand by one grade each year until it reaches full scale in K284 and serves approximately 215-274 fifth through eighth grade students in K284 in 2016-2017.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K275 had a target capacity to serve 1,209 students. However, in 2011-2012 it serves only 763 students, which yields a target utilization rate of 63%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal and the proposal to re-site P140K@KAPPA V are approved, there will be approximately 871-1,073 students served in K275 in 2012-2013, which yields a projected utilization rate of 72%-89%. Thus, K275 has adequate capacity to accommodate the co-location of LPBV’s K-4 students, KAPPA V, Metropolitan Diploma Plus, and Brooklyn Democracy.

Copies of the EIS and BUP describing this proposal are available in the main offices of LPBV, KAPPA V, Brooklyn Democracy, and Metropolitan Diploma Plus. They are also available on the DOE’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012Proposals.htm>.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

Two joint public hearings regarding this proposal were held, one on February 29, 2012 at K284, and a second on March 1, 2012, at K275.

At the hearing held at K284 on February 29, 2012, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 37 members of the public attended the hearing,

and 10 people spoke¹. Present at the meeting were the Chancellor's Designee, Community School District 23 Superintendent Ainslie Cumberbatch; District 23 Community Education Council ("CEC") member, Milton Bolton Williams; State University of New York ("SUNY") Representative, Thomas Franta; P.S. 284 School Leadership Team ("SLT") representative, Keisha Ferguson; and LPBV SLT representative, Analiza Quiroz Wolf.

At the hearing held at K275 on March 1, 2012, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 40 members of the public attended the hearing, and 6 people spoke.² Present at the meeting were the Chancellor's Designee, Brooklyn High School Superintendent, Aimee Horowitz; Community School District 23 Superintendent Ainslie Cumberbatch; District 23 CEC member, Roshama Ross; SUNY representative, Ralph Rossi; LPBV SLT representative, Analiza Quiroz Wolf; P140K@KAPPA V Principal, Roderick Palton; KAPPA V Principal, Dellie Edwards; Brooklyn Democracy Principal, Thomas McKenna; and Metropolitan Diploma Plus Principal, Meri Yallowitz. New York City Council Member Charles Barron also attended the hearing.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing at K284:

No comments regarding this proposal were made at the joint public hearing held at K284 on February 29, 2012.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing at K275:

1. The LPBV SLT representative expressed her support for the proposed co-location.
2. Council Member Charles Barron expressed his concern regarding:
 - a. The fact that his office was not consulted about the proposed co-location.
 - b. How space will allocated in the building between the co-located schools and how the shared spaces will be shared equitably.
3. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal.

The following comments were made at the hearing that do not directly relate to this proposal:

4. Council Member Charles Barron expressed his concern regarding the failed educational policies of the Bloomberg administration. He cited the number of schools that have opened under Bloomberg's administration that have since been slated for closure.

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

¹ The joint public hearing at K284 was also held to solicit public comments concerning the proposed co-location of LPBV's fifth through eighth grades with existing school P.S. 284 Lew Wallace (23K284) beginning in 2013-2014. The comments solicited at this hearing that relate to that proposal are set forth in a separate analysis of public comments available here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012Proposals.htm>.

² The joint public hearing at K275 was also held to solicit public comments concerning the proposed re-siting of a P140K@KAPPA V (75K140), a District 75 School, with Leadership Preparatory Bedford Stuyvesant Charter School (84K517) and an Alternative Learning Center (88K983) in building K258 in 2012-2013. The comments solicited at this hearing that relate to that proposal are set forth in a separate analysis of public comments available here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012Proposals.htm>.

The DOE did not receive any written or oral comments about this proposal.

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

Comments 1 and 3 express support for the proposed co-location, and therefore do not require further analysis.

Comment 2(a) concerns engagement.

The DOE aims to engage a broad range of community partners early and often—before, during, and after proposals are issued. The intention is to not solely rely on the public review process governed by A-190 to inform proposals and collect public feedback. The DOE tries to engage early and often during the preliminary planning phases and throughout the development of the EIS for a particular proposal.

Per Chancellor’s Regulation A-190, the DOE’s Office of Public Affairs sent the joint public hearing notice regarding this proposal to Council Member Barron’s office on January 26, 2012 via e-mail. In addition, the Office of Public Affairs contacted Council Member Barron’s office between January 26, 2012 and March 1, 2012 to inform the office of the proposal and its related joint public hearings.

Comment 2(b) concerns space allocations.

The Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) is the guide used to allocate space to all schools based on the number of class sections they program and the grade levels of the school. The number of class sections at each school is determined by the Principal based on enrollment, budget, and student needs; there is a standard guideline of target class size (i.e., number of students in a class section) for each grade level. For elementary schools serving grades kindergarten through five (and for all pre-kindergarten programs), the Footprint assumes that classes are self contained. Therefore, the Footprint allocates one full-size room for each general education or Integrated Co-Teaching section and a full-size or half-size room to accommodate each self-contained special education section served by the school. In addition to these rooms, schools serving grades kindergarten through five receive an allocation of cluster or specialty rooms proportionate to the number of students enrolled. These spaces can be used at the principal’s discretion for purposes such as art and/or music instruction, among other things. At the middle school and high school levels, the Footprint assumes every classroom is programmed during every period of the school day except one lunch period. The full text of the Footprint is available at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011_FINAL.pdf.

The Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) details the number of class sections each school is expected to program each year and allocates the number of classrooms accordingly. The assignment of specific rooms and location for each in the building, including those for use in serving students with IEPs or special education needs, will be made in consultation with the Principals of each school and the Office of Space Planning if the proposal is approved. The BUP

demonstrates that there is sufficient space in the building to accommodate the proposed co-location.

KAPPA V, Metropolitan Diploma Plus, and Brooklyn Democracy will continue to use space largely consistent with their current usages. The DOE anticipates that LPBV's kindergarten through fourth grades will occupy space that will be vacated P140K@KAPPA V. The DOE also anticipates that all organizations will continue to use the building's constructed dividers, such as hallway doors, to delineate borders between each school organization's space allocations on their respective floors.

As in other situations where schools are co-located, the schools would need to share large common and specialty rooms in the building, such as the cafeteria, the gymnasium, and the library. Specific decisions regarding the allocation of the shared spaces will be made by the Building Council, consisting of principals from all co-located schools, in conjunction with the DOE's Office of Space Planning. A Shared Space Committee will also meet a minimum of four times a year and report back to the Building Council regarding the BUP and the scheduling of shared spaces. Please refer to the BUP for further details:

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

There are currently hundreds of schools in buildings across the City that are co-located; some of these co-locations are multiple DOE schools while others are DOE and public charter schools sharing space. In all cases, the Footprint is applied to both DOE and public charter schools to ensure equitable allocation of classroom, resource and administrative space. The DOE seeks to fully utilize all its building capacity to serve students and does not distinguish between students attending public charter schools and students attending DOE schools.

Comment 4 is not directly related to this proposal, and therefore does not need to be addressed.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes were made as a result of this proposal.