



Notice
December 10, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of Academy of Collaborative Education (05M344)

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

Academy of Collaborative Education (05M344, “A.C.E.”) is an existing middle school located at 222 West 134 Street, New York, NY, 10030, in Community School District 5, in Building M092. It currently serves students in sixth through eighth grade. Building M092 also houses P.S. 92 Mary Bethune McLeod (“P.S. 92”), an existing zoned elementary school, St. HOPE Leadership Academy Charter School (“St. HOPE Leadership”), a 5-8 public charter school, and Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School (“Democracy Prep Harlem”), a 6-8 public charter school (that currently serves only sixth grade). The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to close A.C.E. based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If approved, A.C.E. would close at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. Current students who have not graduated would be offered seats at other District 5 schools, or could apply to charter schools in District 5 or throughout the City. (Students who do not meet promotional requirements following the closure would continue to have access to appropriate courses to support their progress toward promotion. For example, if a current sixth grader does not meet promotion standards to enter seventh grade in 2011-12, he/she may repeat sixth grade at his/her new school).

The DOE’s proposal to close A.C.E. at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year, rather than phase A.C.E. out over two years, is driven by the fact that enrollment at A.C.E. is too low to sustain a two-year phase out. Enrollment at A.C.E. as of November 1, 2010 is 13 students in sixth grade, 42 students in seventh grade, and 79 students in eighth grade. Parents of current sixth- and seventh-grade students would be informed about middle school transfer options in Spring 2011.

P.S. 92, St. HOPE Leadership, and Democracy Prep Harlem would remain “co-located” after A.C.E. is closed. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Once Democracy Prep Harlem has completed its expansion and A.C.E. has closed, there would be approximately 900-930 students served in the building and a utilization of 106-109% of target capacity. Many buildings operate effectively at above 100% capacity. Utilization above this level is often due to class sizes larger than DOE targets, particularly at charter schools.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Feb12011Proposals>

A copy of the EIS is also available in the main offices of A.C.E., P.S. 92, St. HOPE Leadership, and Democracy Prep Harlem.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

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

Name: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

January 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Building M092 (current site of A.C.E./ P.S. 92/ St. HOPE Leadership/ Democracy Prep Harlem)
222 West 134 Street
New York, NY, 10030

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

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Falstrom at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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

February 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217