



Notice
September 20, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 291 (10X291) to a K-5 School Beginning in 2013-2014

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

P.S. 291 (10X291, “P.S. 291”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in building X015 (“X015”), located at 2195 Andrews Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453, in Community School District 10 (“District 10”). It currently serves students in kindergarten through fourth grades. P.S. 291 is co-located with P.S. 15 Institute for Environmental Learning (10X015, “P.S. 15”), an existing district choice school that serves students in kindergarten through eighth grades, and a District 75 program (75X010, “P010X”) that provides both self-contained and inclusion classes. 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. This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion,” whereby P.S. 291 would expand to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades (“K-5”) at full scale. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 291 will begin enrolling fifth-grade students for the 2013-2014 school year.

The standard exit point for an elementary school in the Bronx is fifth grade; therefore P.S. 291’s grade configuration of kindergarten through fourth grade is not aligned with all other District 10 elementary schools. Many students residing in the P.S. 291 elementary zone are also zoned to I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau (10X206, “I.S. 206”), a middle school that currently serves fifth through eighth grades. P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 are the only two schools in District 10 that serve irregular grade spans in the K-8 realm, and this proposal seeks to bring these schools into conformity with the rest of the district. As it stands, the majority of fourth-grade students graduating from P.S. 291 enroll in I.S. 206 for fifth grade, not only because many students residing in the P.S. 291 elementary zone are also zoned to I.S. 206 for middle school, but also due to the schools’ complementary exit and entrance points. It is sensible that most graduating fourth-graders from P.S. 291 attend I.S. 206; otherwise, they would have to complete one additional year of school (fifth grade) at a new elementary school, before switching again for middle school (sixth through eighth grades).

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted in September of 2012, the DOE is proposing to truncate I.S. 206 to become a traditional middle school serving sixth through eighth grades. This proposal can be found on the DOE Web site:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>.

If that proposal is approved, I.S. 206 will no longer enroll fifth-grade students. By aligning P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 with other schools in the district, the DOE will offer a better range of options to students who graduate from P.S. 291. If both proposals are approved, fourth-grade students

enrolled at P.S. 291 will be able to stay at P.S. 291 for fifth grade and will no longer be able to attend I.S. 206 for fifth grade. Other fourth-grade students residing in District 10 may also apply for a seat at I.S. 206 for fifth grade but their enrollment will depend on seat availability as I.S. 206 would first give preference to its current fourth-grade students and then to other zoned students.

The DOE is confident that P.S. 291 can accommodate fifth grade in the excess space available in the X015 building. P.S. 291 already decided to reduce the number of incoming kindergarten sections from approximately five to four for the 2012-2013 school year and will continue this practice in the coming years, and the Office of School Enrollment (“OSE”) has implemented a new enrollment strategy whereby District 10 schools will no longer enroll out-of-zone students, further ensuring the feasibility of this expansion in terms of space availability within the X015 building.

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/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 291, P.S 15, and P010X.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Stephanie Crane
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

Monday, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
Building X015
2195 Andrews Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453

Questions about the proposal should 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.

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

November 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11106