



Notice
November 6, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended Educational Impact Statement: The Proposed Grade Truncation of I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau (10X206) to a 6-8 School in 2013-2014

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

I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau (10X206, “I.S. 206”) is an existing zoned middle school located in building X206 (“X206”), at 2280 Aqueduct Avenue, in Community School District 10 (“District 10”). It currently serves students in fifth through eighth grades. I.S. 206 is the only school organization located in X206.

On September 20, 2012, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an educational impact statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” at I.S. 206 whereby the school will no longer enroll fifth-grade students after the 2012-2013 school year if this proposal is approved. At the close of the 2012-2013 school year, all fifth-grade students at I.S. 206 who meet promotional standards will be promoted to sixth grade. Those students will have the choice to continue at I.S. 206 or they can participate in the District 10 Middle School Choice process. If an I.S. 206 fifth-grade student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year and is required to repeat the grade in the 2013-2014 school year, the DOE will seek to place that student in a fifth-grade class at a nearby elementary school. If such a placement is not feasible, the DOE will find an alternative District 10 placement for that student. If this proposal is approved, beginning in September 2013, I.S. 206 will only serve students in sixth through eighth grade.

On November 6, 2012, the DOE issued an amended EIS, which clarifies that P.S. 291 (10X291, “P.S. 291”) is the last K-4 school in the district and I.S. 206 is the last 5-8 school in the district. The previous EIS noted that P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 were the only two misaligned schools in District 10; however this is not the case, as other schools in District 10 serve irregular grade spans such as K-2 and K-6. Additionally, the amended EIS includes updated building utilization information as per the release of the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (“the Blue Book”).

Under this proposal, changing I.S. 206’s grade span from fifth to eighth grades to sixth to eighth grades will not significantly decrease the school’s enrollment because the school’s administration has elected to add a choice program to offer to grades six through eight. This program will be added to the school’s programming at the start of the 2013-2014 year and will phase into the school each subsequent year, allowing the school to have an enrollment at the

completion of the 2015-2016 school year which is comparable to its current enrollment. Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, but I.S. 206 begins serving students in fifth grade. Thus, I.S. 206, as it is currently configured, is not aligned with the majority of other middle schools in the district, which serve sixth through eighth grade students. P.S. 291 is the only remaining K-4 school and I.S. 206 is the only remaining 5-8 school in District 10. Thus, currently, I.S. 206, and an elementary school, P.S. 291, are among the minority of DOE schools in District 10 that serve irregular grade spans in the K-8 realm. In a separate EIS, posted on September 20, 2012 and amended on November 6, 2012, which can be found at the DOE Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>, the DOE is proposing to expand P.S. 291 from a kindergarten through fourth-grade school to a kindergarten through fifth-grade school. These proposals are complementary, as P.S. 291 mainly feeds into I.S. 206. As it stands, students who graduate from P.S. 291 at the end of fourth grade typically enroll in I.S. 206 for fifth grade and remain for the duration of middle school; otherwise those students would have to attend a new elementary school for fifth grade and then a new middle school for sixth through eighth grades. By aligning P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 with the majority of other schools in District 10, the DOE will maximize the choices available to all District 10 students.

The proposal to expand P.S. 291 to serve fifth grade will result in a net increase of fifth-grade seats in District 10 despite the truncation of I.S. 206, as P.S. 291 will serve more fifth-graders than are currently served by I.S. 206.

As a policy matter, this proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 10. Additionally, having students start middle school through multiple entry grades creates challenges for students and the school as a whole.

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

The amended 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 amended EIS are also available in I.S. 206's main office.

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: Steph 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.

The joint public hearing for this proposal occurred on:

October 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
X206 Building
2280 Aqueduct Avenue
Bronx, NY 10468

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

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 PM
The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11106