



Public Comment Analysis

Date: February 2, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Co-location of a New School P.S. 325 (19K325) with P.S. 260 Breuckelen (19K260) in School Building K260

Date of Panel Vote: February 3, 2011

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposes to site a new zoned elementary school, 19K325 (“19K325”), at 87 Williams Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, in Community School District 19, in Building K260 (“K260”). If this proposal is approved, 19K325 would be co-located with an existing elementary school, P.S. 260 Breuckelen (19K260, “P.S. 260”), as P.S. 260 phases out. P.S. 260 is an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves grades Kindergarten through 6, and it offers a full day Pre-Kindergarten program. 19K325 would be a new DOE zoned elementary school that would serve grades Kindergarten through 5, and would serve the same zone area that P.S. 260 currently serves. Pending funding availability, the new elementary school would also offer a Pre-Kindergarten program beginning in 2011-2012.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) that was published on December 17, 2010, and amended on January 24, 2011, the DOE proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close P.S. 260 because of its low performance. If that proposal is approved, P.S. 260 would no longer serve Kindergarten students or offer grades one, two or six after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. Nor would it offer a Pre-Kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. All current Kindergarten and first grade students in P.S. 260 would be guaranteed a seat at 19K325 to be opened in K260 in September 2011. All current fifth grade students would continue to participate in the District 19 Middle School Choice process and enroll in sixth grade at a choice middle school or his or her zoned middle school. Students who reside in the P.S. 260 zone are zoned to I.S. 68 Isaac Bildersee (18K068) or J.H.S. 166 George Gershwin (19K166) for middle school. Current sixth graders are guaranteed a seventh grade seat at his or her zoned middle school.

19K325 would open in K260 as a zoned elementary school in the 2011-2012 school year, when it would serve approximately 40 students in Kindergarten, approximately 40 students in first grade, and approximately 50 students in second grade. 19K325 would then grow to serve 50 third grade students in the 2012-2013 school year and 50 fourth graders in the 2013-2014 school year. 19K325 is expected to reach full scale in 2014-2015 and would serve approximately 250-300 students in Kindergarten through fifth grade and serve the same zone area as P.S. 260. Pending funding availability, this school may also offer a Pre-Kindergarten program beginning in 2011-2012. Enrollment policy for Pre-Kindergarten admissions would remain the same. Younger siblings of

zoned students already enrolled in P.S. 260 or 19K325 would get first preference into Pre-Kindergarten admissions. Siblings from outside the zone would receive second preference.

19K325 would be “co-located” with P.S. 260 as P.S. 260 phases out. 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 19K325 has completed its expansion and P.S. 260 has completed its phase-out, there would be approximately 250-300 students served in the building.

This proposal was amended on January 24, 2011. The amended EIS is available in the main office of the school and on the DOE website:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Feb32011Proposals>

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at P.S. 260 Breuckelen on January 25, 2011. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 107 members of the public attended the hearing, and 31 people spoke. Present at the meeting were interim District 19 Superintendent Rose Marie Mills; P.S. 260 Principal Pierre Raymond; and Community Education Council 19 representative Robie Chowdhury.

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

1. Multiple commenters objected to replacing P.S. 260 with a charter school.

The DOE received no comments at the Joint Public Hearing which did not directly relate to the proposal.

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

1. No written or oral comments regarding this proposal were received.

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

Comment 1 relates to the possibility of replacing P.S. 260 with a charter school. As noted in the EIS initially posted on December 17, 2010, the DOE has proposed to replace the seats lost by the phase out of P.S. 260 with a new DOE zoned elementary school, 19K325, which would serve kindergarten through fifth grade students in the same zone as P.S. 260. The new elementary school would open in K260 in the 2011-2012 school year, and would serve students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. It would then expand by one grade per year until 2014-2015, when it will reach full scale and serve students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. There are no plans to site a charter school in the building at this time.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.