



Analysis of Public Comment

Date: April 19, 2010

Topic: Proposed Co-location of a District 75 Program, P186X@X840 (75X186), with P.S. 140 in School Buildings X140 and X840

Date of Panel Vote: April 20, 2010

Summary of Proposal

In the 2010-2011 school year, P186X (75X186), an existing District 75 School that currently serves Kindergarten through grade 12, will open a new site in school building X840 (“X840”), located at 916 Eagle Avenue, Bronx in Community School District 8 (“District 8”). P186X is an existing District 75 School serving students in multiple sites. X840 will be a new site for P186X (“P186X@X840”) and in 2010-2011 the site will open and serve approximately 48-60 new and existing District 75 students in grades K-5 classified as emotionally disturbed on their Individualized Education Plans. P186X@X840 will be co-located with P.S. 140 The Eagle School (“P.S. 140”) beginning in 2010-2011 school year.

Building X840 is a minischool building with a 2008-2009 target capacity of 165 and a target utilization rate of 63%. X840 is on the same campus as the X140 school building where P.S. 140 is housed. X140 had a 2008-2009 target capacity of 800 and a target utilization rate of 73%.

P.S. 140 currently shares the school campus with Bronx Haven High School (08X381, “Bronx Haven”). P.S. 140 uses the X140 school building and Bronx Haven uses the X840 school building. The schools operate in separate buildings and do not share any common spaces. In another Educational Impact Statement, the DOE proposed that Bronx Haven be re-sited to school building X600 prior to the start of the 2010-2011 school year. That proposal was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy at its March 23, 2010 meeting. With the move of Bronx Haven, there will be sufficient space in X840 and X140 for both P186X@X840 and P.S. 140 to operate at full organizational capacity.

All classroom instruction at P186X@X840 will take place in the minischool building X840 and there is sufficient space there for P186X to operate its site at full organizational capacity. All classroom instruction for P.S. 140 will take place in school building X140. The October 31, 2009 Audited Register at P.S. 140 was 599 students, and based on the projected 2010-2011 enrollment for P.S. 140 of 604 students, there will still be sufficient space for P.S.

140 to operate at full organizational capacity in X140. Some common spaces in X140, such as the cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium, will be shared by both schools.

District 75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired and/or multiply disabled. District 75 consists of 56 school organizations, home and hospital instruction and vision and hearing services. District 75 schools and programs are located at more than 310 sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island and Syosset, New York.

The opening of P186X@X840 will create approximately 48-60 grades K-5 elementary seats for emotionally disturbed students. The creation of these additional elementary seats at P186X@X840 will help meet the increasing demand for District 75 services in the Bronx. There has been a consistent rise in the number of students requesting District 75 services at the elementary school and middle school level over the past several years in the Bronx. Currently, there is a short-fall of approximately 150 seats projected for the 2010-2011 school year at the elementary school and middle school level in the Bronx. The co-location of P186X@X840 addresses the need to accommodate the special education needs of additional students in the Bronx.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at X840 on April 12, 2010, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the hearing. One person signed up to speak during the public comment period. After brief remarks from the principal of P186X about the school and its educational philosophy, the hearing was opened up to a Question & Answer session where members of the public asked questions. The speaker who signed up to speak chose not to ask her question during the public comment portion of the hearing and instead asked her question during the Q&A period. The following questions were asked and the following answers were provided by the principal of P186X:

Question	Answer
1. What is meant exactly by “severely emotionally disturbed”? How are the students labeled as “emotionally disturbed”?	Children who consistently exhibit behavior that is considered more exaggerated than warranted for the situation are referred for an evaluation and may then be classified as “emotionally disturbed.” Typically students who are classified as emotionally disturbed have poor coping mechanism, poor impulse control and need adult supervision that the 12:1:1 program would provide. Examples of such behavior were provided and then the clinical approach taken by P186X to support these students was described – each child is assigned staff members such as a counselor, therapist, etc. to

	help them learn how to thrive.
2. How does the school gauge which students need different kinds of emotional and behavioral supports?	The specific needs of the student help these staff members determine which emotional and behavioral supports are most appropriate for them.
3. Will P186X share a nurse with P.S. 140?	Given the supports needed for P186X students, it is unlikely that the two schools will share a nurse.
4. Will the two schools share the gym?	While P186X@X840 may share the gym with P.S. 140, when and how often will be determined by the school administration of both schools, so it is not yet known.
5. Can a child be transferred from P.S. 140 to P186X@X840?	If a P.S. 140 student were to exhibit the behaviors described above, they would receive an evaluation and it is possible they would then be offered a seat at the P186X@X840 site. However, placement at P186X@840 depends on the specific needs of the student, as determined by their evaluation, and the availability of seats.
6. What happens if a child wanders off and leaves the building (X840)?	An occurrence such as a child leaving the school building on their own (as described by a parent in her question) is unlikely to occur at any P186X school site because the staff escorts students during all activities.

The Question & Answer session allowed parents to ask questions and receive answers and no participants spoke in opposition to the co-location of P186X@X840 with P.S. 140.

**Summary of Issues Raised in Written and Oral Comments
and Significant Alternatives Suggested**

No written or oral comments regarding this proposal have been received and no significant alternatives were proposed.

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

The creation of additional elementary seats to be served by P186X@X840 will help meet the increasing demand for District 75 services in the Bronx. There has been a consistent rise in the number of students requesting D75 services at the elementary school and middle school level over the past several years in the Bronx. Currently, there is a short-fall of approximately 150 seats projected for the 2010-2011 school year at the elementary school and middle school level in the Bronx. This proposal helps to achieve some of the demand for District 75 seats in the Bronx.

The proposal will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy as it is currently posted.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/BD228776-71B2-459E-93C9-BCEEE02F65F5/80800/X840_District75_AmendedEIS_Final_4910.pdf.