



Notice
January 14, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of M.S. 45 / S.T.A.R.S. Prep Academy (04M045) Following the 2012-2013 School Year

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to close M.S. 45 / S.T.A.R.S. Prep Academy (04M045, “M.S. 45”), an existing middle school in building M045 (“M045”) located at 2351 First Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10035, in Community School District 4 (“District 4”). It currently serves students in grades six through eight. The DOE is proposing to close M.S. 45 based on its poor performance, low student enrollment and demand, and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs. M.S. 45 admits students through the District 4 middle school choice process. If this proposal is approved, M.S. 45 will close at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Existing students currently enrolled in the sixth or seventh grade, as well as current eighth grade students who do not meet promotional criteria at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, will be provided with an alternate placement at other middle schools in District 4.

M.S. 45 is co-located with Coalition School for Social Change (04M409, “Coalition”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve, and Harlem Village Academy Leadership Charter School (84M335, “HVA Leadership”) an existing school currently serving students in kindergarten and fifth through eighth grade in M045 as well as students in grades nine through twelve in private space. On April 26, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal to expand the number of grades served by HVA Leadership in M045 to include students in kindergarten through second grade. HVA Leadership began phasing in elementary grades in the 2012-2013 school year, serving kindergarten students in addition to students in grades five through eight. HVA Leadership will serve students in first grade beginning in 2013-2014, and second grade in 2014-2015.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on January 14, 2013, the DOE is proposing to expand the number of elementary grades served by HVA Leadership in M045. This proposal would expand the grades served by HVA Leadership in M045 to include third and fourth grades, expanding the grades served by HVA Leadership at M045 from kindergarten through second and fifth through eighth to kindergarten through eighth grade by the 2016-2017 school year. That proposal can be found at

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

The offices of the Community Education Council 4 (“CEC 4”) are located in M045, as well as

one community based organization (“CBO”): El Faro Beacon. This proposal is not expected to impact the siting of the CBO or the CEC 4 offices. However, as enrollment changes in the M045 building, student interest in the services provided by the CBO is also subject to change, which could impact siting in the future.

M.S. 45 currently admits sixth-grade students through the District 4 Middle School Choice Process. The school admits students through the screened admissions method and gives priority to District 4 students and residents. Coalition admits students through the High School Admissions Process and uses the educational option (“Ed. Opt.”) admissions method (admissions procedures are discussed in more detail in Section III below). The school gives first priority to Manhattan and Bronx students or residents and gives secondary priority to New York City residents.

HVA Leadership is managed by Harlem Village Academies, a charter management organization (“CMO”) that operates Harlem Village Academy Middle School and Harlem Village Academy High School in addition to HVA Leadership. In 2002, Harlem Village Academies’ charter authorizer, the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY CSI”), approved the CMO to open both Harlem Village Academy Middle School and Harlem Village Academy High School. Harlem Village Academies opened HVA Leadership in 2005, and the school currently serves students in kindergarten and fifth through twelfth grade. As discussed above, students in kindergarten and fifth through eighth grade are served in M045. Students in ninth through twelfth grade are served in private space located at 413 East 120th Street, New York, NY 10035. As stated above, HVA Leadership has been approved to serve students in kindergarten through second grade in addition to students in fifth through eighth grade in M045. HVA Leadership currently admits students in kindergarten and fifth grade via the charter school lottery application process, with preference to District 4 residents.

In a separate proposal described in another EIS, the DOE is proposing to expand the elementary grades served by HVA Leadership in the under-utilized space that would result from M.S. 45’s closure. That proposal can be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>. If this proposal and the proposal to expand HVA Leadership are approved, HVA Leadership will continue to phase in to the building following the closure of M.S. 45. If this proposal for M.S. 45’s closure is not approved, the proposal to expand HVA Leadership’s elementary grades would be revised accordingly.

Background on the DOE Decision-Making Process

Schools are identified for possible phase-out or closure for any of the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor score on their most recent Quality Review; or (3) they have been identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as a Priority School, defined by SED as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state. In August 2012, SED identified Priority schools across the State, including 122 in New York City. Middle schools are identified as Priority based on the school’s state test performance. Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a grade of D, F, or a third consecutive C grade or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that receive a rating of Underdeveloped on the Quality Review are evaluated for

intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out or closure. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools on a scale of A through F based on Student Progress, Student Performance, School Environment, and, new to the Progress Report in 2011-2012, College and Career Readiness. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observing classrooms and talking with students, staff, and families. Schools are rated on the following four-point scale: “Underdeveloped” (the lowest possible rating), “Developing,” “Proficient,” and “Well Developed” (the highest possible rating).

M.S. 45 received an overall D grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012 and received overall C grades for the prior two years. The school’s most recent Quality Review was in 2009-2010, when it received a “Proficient.” In that same year, 2009-2010, M.S. 45 received an overall C grade on its Progress Report and an F grade in Performance. In 2012, the school was designated a Priority School by SED.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of M.S. 45, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the M.S. 45 community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent historical performance and demand data from the school, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

The DOE is proposing that M.S. 45 be closed at the end of this school year, rather than phased out, because the school currently serves very few students, especially in sixth and seventh grades. Therefore, a phase-out would leave the school with too few students and insufficient funding to adequately meet its instructional and operational needs. Currently, M.S. 45 serves only 28 sixth grade students, 32 seventh grade students, and 83 eighth grade students. In addition, such low student enrollment is evidence that the school is not in high demand in the community.

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

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

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EISs and BUP are also available in the main offices of M.S. 45, Coalition School for Social Change, and HVA Leadership.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-34366.

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: Jennifer Peng
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466.

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

February 20 at 6:00 p.m.
M.S. 45
2351 1st Ave
Manhattan, NY 10035

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.

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

March 11, 2013 at 6:00pm

Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217