



Notice
January 18, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469) Beginning in 2013-2014

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to phase out Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, “Choir”), an existing secondary school located in building M501 (“M501”) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Building M501 is located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035 in Community School District 5 (“District 5”). Choir currently serves students in grades six through twelve and admits middle and high school students through a screened and audition process. The school provides performing arts, visual arts, and design programming. The DOE is proposing to phase out the school based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that it lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs. In two separate Educational Impact Statements (“EISs”) also posted on January 18, 2013, the DOE is proposing to (1) co-locate a new district high school (“05M157”) and (2) co-locate the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School (84M481, with high school grades referenced throughout this document as “Democracy Prep Harlem High School”) in M501 beginning in September 2013. Those proposals can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm>.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, Choir will concurrently phase out its middle and high school grades such that in 2013-2014, the first year of phase out, Choir will no longer serve students in sixth and ninth grades; in 2014-2015 Choir will no longer serve students in seventh and tenth grades; in 2015-2016 Choir will no longer serve students in eighth and eleventh grades; and, after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, Choir will close. Current middle school students will be served and supported as they progress towards completion of middle school; current high school students will be served and supported as they progress towards high school graduation. In cases where students do not meet promotional requirements from middle school or complete high school graduation requirements by the applicable school closing date, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their education after Choir completes phasing out.

Choir is co-located with Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II (84M341, “Promise Academy II”), an existing public charter school serving students in grades kindergarten through eight. In addition, building M501 houses a high school level Alternative Learning Center (88M993, “ALC”). ALCs provide an educational setting for students who are suspended from their regular schools to receive academic, social, and emotional supports to prepare themselves

for a return to the school from which they were suspended.

Promise Academy II's seventh and eighth grades are temporarily co-located for one year with Choir and the ALC in M501. The temporary expansion of the co-location of Promise Academy II's seventh and eighth grades in M501 was proposed and approved by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") on March 23, 2011. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, Promise Academy II will only serve students in kindergarten through sixth grade in M501, as the seventh and eighth grades of Promise Academy II will move to private, non-DOE space.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, Choir will continue serving currently enrolled students, but will begin phasing out in September 2013, and will complete its phase-out after the 2015-2016 school year. In two separate EISs also posted on January 18, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new district high school and Democracy Prep Harlem High School beginning in September 2013. Those proposals can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm>.

If those proposals are approved, 05M157 will open with ninth grade, adding one grade per year and reaching full scale in the 2016-2017 school year with a grade span of nine through twelve in building M501. If approved, Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School will expand to serve students in grades nine through twelve, adding one grade per year and reaching full-scale in the 2016-2017 school year with a grade span of nine through twelve in building M501. Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School is an existing public charter school that currently serves students in grades six through eight in private, non-DOE space at 207 West 133rd Street, New York, NY 10030 in District 5. Students in grades six through eight will continue to be served in that private, non-DOE space as mentioned above. 05M157 and Democracy Prep Harlem High School will grow to full-scale as Choir phases out.

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

The Educational Impact Statements ("EISs") 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 EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Choir Academy of Harlem and Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466

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: Meera Jain
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
2005 Madison Avenue
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