



Notice
February 6, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended: The Proposed Expansion of the Co-location of Achievement First Apollo Charter School (84K774) with Existing School J.H.S. 302 Rafael Cordero (19K302) in Building K302 Beginning in 2014-2015

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

On January 22, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposed to expand the co-location of existing public charter school, Achievement First Apollo Charter School (84K774, “AF Apollo”) in buildings K302 (“K302”) and Transportable Classroom Unit K974 (“K974”), located at 350 Linwood Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208, in Community School District 19 (“District 19”) beginning in 2014-2015. AF Apollo currently serves students in kindergarten through third grade, and will serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade in the 2013-2014 school year. On February 6, 2013, this EIS was amended to include information about the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation’s receipt of a one-year Promise Neighborhoods Program planning grant from the United States Department of Education and J.H.S. 302’s partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. If this proposal is approved, AF Apollo will serve kindergarten through fifth grade students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, eventually expanding to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade in the 2017-2018 school year.

AF Apollo is currently co-located with J.H.S. 302 Rafael Cordero (19K302, “J.H.S. 302”), an existing district middle school. J.H.S. 302 currently serves sixth through eighth grade students through the District 19 Middle School Choice Process, giving priority to students who reside in the zone and then admitting students using an unscreened selection method. In a separate amended Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also published on February 6, 2013, the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close J.H.S. 302 because of its low performance and inability to improve quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, J.H.S. 302 will no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. One grade will then be phased out each subsequent year. During the 2013-2014 school year, J.H.S. 302 will serve students in seventh and eighth grade; in 2014-2015 it will serve students in eighth grade. J.H.S. 302 will close after June 2015. That proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

In a separate amended EIS also posted on February 6, 2013, the DOE is proposing to open and

co-locate two new district middle schools, 19K661 and 19K662, in building K302 with AF Apollo and J.H.S. 302. That proposal can be found here <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

For the purposes of this amended EIS describing the proposal to expand the co-location of AF Apollo, it is assumed that the proposals to phase out J.H.S. 302 and open and co-locate two new district middle schools in K302 will be approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”). However, if the proposal to phase out J.H.S. 302 is not approved, the DOE still believes there is space for the expansion of AF Apollo with J.H.S. 302 in building K302, and this amended EIS and the accompanying Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) will be revised as necessary. If the proposal to phase out J.H.S. 302 is not approved, the replacement schools, 19K661 and 19K662, would not open and this amended EIS and the accompanying BUP will be revised as necessary.

As previously stated, AF Apollo is an existing charter school that currently serves kindergarten through third grade students in K302. AF Apollo is managed by Achievement First Schools (“Achievement First”), a Charter Management Organization (“CMO”). In January 2008, AF Apollo’s charter was authorized by the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY CSI”) to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. However, the school took two planning years to better prepare for opening, and did not open until September 2010. As such, AF Apollo recently applied for a two-year extension of its original charter to allow it to serve the full five year charter term (from September 2010 until June 2015). Only SUNY CSI has the authority to approve or deny the request for an extension.

In addition, AF Apollo has informed the DOE that it intends to apply to SUNY CSI to further expand its grade span to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade, reaching full scale in 2017-2018. Only SUNY CSI has the authority to approve or deny that request. Should SUNY CSI deny AF Apollo’s request to expand, or if AF Apollo fails to make this request, AF Apollo will only serve its approved grade span of kindergarten through fifth grade in K302. If the expansion proposal is approved, AF Apollo would continue to expand to serve students in the sixth through eighth grades in K302. Beginning in 2014-2015, AF Apollo would serve kindergarten through fifth grade students, admitting kindergarten students through the charter lottery process with a preference given to District 19 students. AF Apollo will add one grade per year until the school reaches full scale and serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade in 2017-2018.

For the purposes of this amended EIS describing the proposal to expand the co-location of AF Apollo, it is assumed that the request for a two-year extension of its original charter and the request to expand its grade span will be approved by SUNY CSI. However, if either request is not approved, or if AF Apollo fails to make the request to expand its grade span, this amended EIS and the accompanying BUP will be revised as necessary.

In addition, K302 houses a Community Based Organization, Beacon, which provides after-school programming, and a School-Based Health Center (“SBHC”). The DOE does not expect the proposed expansion of AF Apollo to impact the continued siting of or space allocations for the SBHC or Beacon.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K302 has the capacity to serve a total of 1,657 students. In 2012-2013, the buildings are serving 1,231 total students, yielding a building utilization rate of 74%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal, the proposal to phase-out J.H.S. 302, and the proposal to open and co-locate 19K661 and 19K662 are all approved, in 2017-2018, once AF Apollo’s kindergarten through eighth grades have fully phased in and the school has reached full scale, AF Apollo is projected to serve 710-890 kindergarten through eighth grade students, 19K661 is projected to serve 255-285 sixth through eighth grade students, and 19K662 is projected to serve 345-375 sixth through eighth grade students, for a total of 1,310-1,550 students in buildings K302, yielding a projected building utilization rate of approximately 79%-94%.

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

The amended EIS and 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 amended EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of J.H.S. 302 and AF Apollo.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208

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: Gabrielle Wyatt
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
J.H.S. 302
350 Linwood Street
Brooklyn, NY 11208

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