

## **Public Comment Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

Date: March 8, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New High School 07X259 with Existing Schools Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655), Mott Haven Community High School (07X557) and New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (84X208) in Building X655, Beginning in 2013-2014

Date of Panel Vote: March 11, 2013

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### **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and co-locate 07X259, a new district Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) high school, on the Samuel Gompers Educational Campus in school building X655 (“X655”) located at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455, within the geographical confines of Community School District 7 (“District 7”). The proposed new high school, 07X259, will offer rigorous CTE programming in the Health Science career path, which is designed to prepare students for post-secondary college and careers. If this proposal is approved, 07X259 will be co-located in Building X655 with Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655, “Samuel Gompers”), an existing high school that is in the process of phasing out and will close following the 2014-2015 school year; Mott Haven Community High School (07X557, “Mott Haven Community”), a transfer school that serves students between the ages of 16 and 21 and does not organize students by grades; and New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (84X208, “HUM II”), an existing public charter high school that currently serves students in ninth grade and will reach its full scale of ninth through twelfth grades in 2015-2016. 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.

The proposed co-location of 07X259 in building X655 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large and to provide another option in the Samuel Gompers campus. 07X259 will offer a rigorous academic program with a CTE course of study to prepare students for post-secondary work. The school will be open to students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and will have a limited unscreened admissions method with priority for Bronx students and residents. The DOE strongly believes in the importance of CTE education and supports the opening of a new high school in the X655 building which will offer Health Science CTE programming. As described in last year’s proposal to phase out Samuel Gompers, the DOE has been eager to bring new CTE opportunities to X655 to serve families in the Bronx; the co-location of 07X259 will help meet this goal.

07X259 will provide a six-year Early College program, meaning that it will serve students in ninth through twelfth grades, and students in the twelfth grade who have finished their high school graduation requirements will have the option of staying for a fifth and sixth year. During these two years, students

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<sup>1</sup> The DOE will continue to accept comments concerning this proposal up to 24 hours prior to the Panel for Educational Policy’s (“PEP”) vote on March 11, 2013. Those additional comments will be addressed in an amended Public Comment Analysis which will be provided to the PEP before it votes on this proposal.

will have the opportunity to intern at local health facilities and enroll in off-site classes at Hostos Community College of The City University of New York (“CUNY”) and Bronx Community College of CUNY. Students will primarily complete their studies at these off-site partnerships and will only occasionally be on the Samuel Gompers campus.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), building X655 has a target capacity of 1,368 students. However, during the current 2012-2013 school year the building serves a total of 709 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 52%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students.

If this proposal is approved, the new school will open during the 2013-2014 school year, when it will serve approximately 105-115 students in the ninth grade. 07X259 will gradually phase in by adding one grade per year. The school is expected to reach full scale in 2018-2019 and will serve approximately 630-690 students in grades nine through twelve, including the students staying for their fifth and sixth years.

In 2018-2019, once Samuel Gompers has completed its phase-out and Mott Haven Community, HUM II, and 07X259 have reached full scale, there will be approximately 1,440-1,600 students served in X655, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 105%-117%, as is discussed in the Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and its accompanying Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”). It is important to note that this range of 105-117% represents the DOE’s most conservative estimate of building utilization, and is in fact an over-estimation, as it includes 210-230 students in their fifth and sixth years of 07X259’s six-year Early College program, who will primarily complete their studies at off-site classes and health facilities, and will only occasionally be on the Samuel Gompers campus, but whose use of the building cannot be perfectly estimated at this time. Two additional classrooms will be allocated to 07X259 for use by fifth- and sixth-year students on an as-needed basis, but the DOE does not believe that these students will increase the day-to-day building utilization rate as significantly as the 105-117% range suggests.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS and BUP which can be accessed here: <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 Samuel Gompers, Mott Haven Community, and HUM II.

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing**

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at the Samuel Gompers Educational Campus located at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455 on January 23, 2013. Approximately 19 members of the public attended the hearing and no members of the public spoke. Present at the meeting were Samuel Gompers Principal Joyce Mills-Kittrell; Samuel Gompers School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representative Peter Spence; Principal Helene Spadaccini from Mott Haven Community; Mott Haven Community SLT representative John McSorley; Principal Richard Gonzalez from HUM II; Ron Chaluisan and Pam Fairclough, two representatives from New Visions for Public Schools; Bronx High School Superintendent Elaine Lindsey; District 7 Community Education Council (“CEC 7”) President Neyda Franco; and Jean-Pierre Jacquet and Ashley Davies from the DOE’s Office of Portfolio Management.

The following question was asked at the joint public hearing:

1. CEC 7 President Neyda Franco asked about the demographic makeup of HUM II’s current and future student enrollment.

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

No written and/or oral comments on this proposal were submitted to the DOE.

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

Comment 1 asked about the demographic makeup of HUM II's current and future student enrollment.

Under the Charter Schools Act, charter schools are prohibited from restricting admission based on, among other things, intellectual ability, measures of aptitude (like test scores) or disability. If public charter schools, like HUM II, receive more applicants than available seats, they must run a lottery to admit students. Lotteries select students randomly from among the applicant pool. In contrast, district public schools may exercise screened or limited unscreened or zoned admissions methods, which limit the eligibility of students to enroll.

Furthermore, charter schools serve the communities in which they are located. Charter school lotteries give preference to students who live in the community school district in which the charter school is located. In May 2010 the Charter Schools Act was amended to expressly require that charter schools demonstrate good faith efforts to attract and retain English Language Learners ("ELLs"), students with disabilities, and students eligible for free or reduced lunch at rates comparable to those of the Community School District. Charter schools which fail to meet the special education and or ELL targets set by their authorizer having their renewal applications rejected.

HUM II is a charter school and accepts students through a lottery process. Applications for New Visions Charter High Schools are now available on the school's website <http://www.newvisions.org/pages/apply>.

The application deadline will be after April 1, 2013. Any late applications will be automatically placed at the bottom of the waitlist in the order in which they were received. This lottery will be held in mid April.

Applicants will be admitted according to the following priorities:

1. First preference is given to students who attended the school the previous year and are returning to the school;
2. Second preference is given to applicants whose sibling is currently attending HUM II
3. Third preference is given to applicants who reside in HUM II's Community School District (District 7).
4. Fourth preference is given to applicants whose sibling is selected in the lottery.
5. If space remains, students outside HUM II's Community School district are admitted. Once the available spaces are filled by students whose names are drawn or by students whose siblings are selected for enrollment, the remaining applicants are placed on a waiting list in the order in which their names are drawn.

Each student will receive, in writing, notification of his/her seat or waitlist number. All students who are accepted for enrollment must complete all of the school’s enrollment forms by the date required on the forms to secure enrollment. Students may forfeit their right to enroll if the forms are not returned by the designated date. As seats become available, students on the waitlist will be contacted in numerical order and must also complete all of the school’s enrollment forms by the date required on the forms to secure enrollment.

Students are considered reenrolled for the following school year unless parents notify the school otherwise by the end of the current school year.

All students in District 7 will continue to have the opportunity to participate in charter lottery process for charter high schools. For more information about the charter lottery application process, please consult the DOE’s Directory of NYC Charter Schools, which can be accessed on the DOE’s Website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/For+Parents>.

The chart below, from the EIS published on December 18, 2013, includes additional demographic data relating to HUM II’s current student population:<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of Students Receiving ICT or SC Services	16%
Percentage of Students with Individualized Education Programs	26%
Percentage of English Language Learner Students	17%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	87%

### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to the proposal in response to public feedback.

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<sup>2</sup> All figures are as a percentage of total students from the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012). “ICT” refers to Integrated Co-teaching Classes and “SC” refers to Self-Contained Classes.