



Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis¹

Date: March 8, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-location of A New Secondary School, 09X350, with The Urban Assembly Academy for History and Citizenship for Young Men (09X239), Bronx Collegiate Academy (09X227), DreamYard Preparatory School (09X329), Bronx High School of Business (09X412), Bronx High School for Medical Science (09X413), Jonathan Levin High School for Media and Communications (09X414), and Claremont International (09X564) in School Building X410, Beginning in 2013-2014

Date of Panel Vote: March 11, 2013

Summary of Proposal

On January 11, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate 09X350, a new secondary school, in school building X410 (“X410”), the William Howard Taft Educational Campus (“Taft Campus”), beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The Taft Campus is located at 240 East 172nd Street, Bronx, NY 10457, within the geographical confines of Community School District 9 (“District 9”). The proposed new secondary school, 09X350, will serve students in grades six through twelve with an educational program designed to serve overage middle school students and support them through the completion of high school. On February 5, 2013, the DOE issued an amended EIS which corrected the baseline space allocations for the co-located schools in the X410 building, included an updated description of how this and other pending proposals will impact high school seat capacity in the Bronx, included updated information regarding State Improvement Grants, and corrected typographical errors. This amendment did not substantially revise the proposal.

If this proposal is approved, 09X350 will be co-located with the following seven district schools: Urban Assembly Academy for History and Citizenship for Young Men (09X239, “UAA History and Citizenship”), an existing high school serving students in grades eleven and twelve, which is phasing out; Bronx Collegiate Academy (09X227, “Bronx Collegiate”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; DreamYard Preparatory School (09X329, “DreamYard”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Bronx High School of Business (09X412,

¹ 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.

“School of Business”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Bronx High School for Medical Science (09X413, “School for Medical Science”), an existing secondary school serving students in grades six through twelve; Jonathan Levin High School for Media and Communications (09X414, “Levin High School”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve, and Claremont International High School (09X564, “Claremont International”), a new school that opened with ninth grade in September 2012 and which is in the process of phasing in to serve grades nine through twelve. In addition, building X410 houses a school-based health center operated by the Montefiore Medical Center (“Montefiore Health Center”) and a Living for the Young Family Through Education (“LYFE”) program.

The proposed opening and co-location of 09X350 in X410 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large. If this proposal is approved, 09X350 will offer a rigorous academic program designed to help students who are one or more year(s) behind their expected age and credit accumulation while at the middle school level. At the high school level, 09X350 will continue to support these students as they progress towards graduation. Similar options exist in the form of transfer high schools. However, unlike transfer high schools, 09X350 will not require applicants to have previously attended another DOE school and it will be the first school of its kind to create specific programs for students who are one or more year(s) over the expected age for their given grade in middle school.

If this proposal is approved, the new school will open during the 2013-2014 school year, when it will serve approximately 100-120 sixth- and seventh-grade students. 09X350 will then add an eighth-grade component in 2014-2015, ninth- and tenth-grade components in 2015-2016, and eleventh- and twelfth-grade components in 2016-2017. The school’s enrollment will continue to grow until it reaches full scale in 2018-2019, at which point 09X350 will serve 350-420 students in grades six through twelve.

In a separate EIS, also initially posted on January 11, 2013, and subsequently amended on February 5, 2013, the DOE proposed to phase out and eventually close Levin High School after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school is unable to improve despite numerous efforts to enhance instruction and school organization. In the event that the phase-out of Levin High School is not approved, the DOE will re-examine the availability of space in the building, and may, as appropriate, revise its proposal to co-locate 09X350 in X410. Such a revised proposal will be described in a revised EIS.

The EIS containing additional details about this co-location proposal, along with the EIS describing the proposed phase out of Levin High School, can be accessed here:

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

Copies of the EISs are also available in the main offices of all schools located on the X410 campus.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal and the related co-location proposal was held at the X410 building on February 13, 2013. Members of the School Leadership Team (“SLT”) from every school organization in the X410 building were invited to participate and confirmed their availability to attend the hearing. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 175 members of the public attended the hearing, and 50 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Levin High School Principal Nasib Hoxha; School for Medical Science Principal William Quintana; School for Medical Science SLT Chairman

Orlando Avila; a Bronx Collegiate SLT representative, Patrick Sprinkle; School of Business Principal Vincent Rodriguez; Claremont International Principal Elizabeth Demchak; DreamYard Principal Alicia Wargo; New York City Council member Maria del Carmen Arroyo; Community Education Council 9 (“CEC 9”) President Marilyn Espada, along with CEC 9 representatives Carmen Ramos, Nicole Graham-McCathern, and Nora Mercado; Levin High School SLT representatives Faustino Rosa, Delores Norris, Carolyn Corleio, Kassandra, Yara Ruiz, Lisa Ray, Michael Grant (who is also the Levin High School United Federation of Teachers’ (“UFT”) chapter leader), Jeanette Logan (who is also the Levin High School District Council 37 representative), and Barbara Hull; Adhim DeVeaux, a member of the UAA History and Citizenship SLT; Constance Asiedu from the Citywide Council of High Schools; UFT Vice President Janella Hinds; Robert Powell, the Bronx Borough President’s appointee to the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”); and DOE representatives including Deputy Chancellor Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Melissa Harris, and Amanda Cahn, Jean-Pierre Jacquet and Henry Bluestone Smith from the Office of Portfolio Management Director of Planning.

There were no questions, comments, or remarks made regarding this co-location proposal at the joint public hearing.

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

1. A written question received at the public hearing read as follows: “Small schools don’t have APs who are specialists in their fields. Why are former math teachers supervising English teachers?”

The DOE received a number of Written and/or Oral Comments along with comments at the Joint Public Hearing which did not directly relate to the Proposal

The Analysis of Public Comments regarding the related proposal to phase-out Levin High School is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

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

Comment 1 inquired about the qualifications of assistant principals at small schools.

There are a variety of attributes which make someone a good school administrator, just as there are a variety of attributes which make someone a good teacher. The DOE trusts its school leaders and affords them the authority to select administrators as they see fit, consistent with Chancellor’s Regulation C-230. In this way, the DOE allows school leaders to create a school culture and leadership team that they feel best suits the need of their students. This is true at all schools across the City regardless of school size.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.