



Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

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

Date: March 8, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Elementary School (12X314) with Existing School P.S. 050 Clara Barton (12X050) in Building X050 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 co-locate a new elementary school, 12X314 (“12X314”), in building X050 located at 1550 Vyse Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460 in Community School District 12 (“District 12”). If this proposal is approved, 12X314 will be co-located in building X050 with P.S. 050 Clara Barton (12X050, “P.S. 050), an existing elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Additionally, P.S. 050 offers a pre-kindergarten program. 12X314 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades and will offer a pre-kindergarten program (pending continued demand and availability of funding). 12X314 will admit students according to standard zoned admissions priorities as described in Chancellor’s Regulation A-101. If this proposal is approved, 12X314 will begin enrolling kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students in 2013-2014, as well as offering a pre-kindergarten program, and will add one grade per year until the school has reached full scale and serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades in 2016-2017.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), published in January 2013, the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close P.S. 050 because of its low performance and inability to improve quickly to better support student needs. The EIS describing that proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>. If the phase-out proposal is approved, P.S. 050 will no longer admit kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year, and will cease offering its pre-kindergarten program. One grade will then be phased out each subsequent year. During the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 050 will serve students in third, fourth, and fifth grade; in 2014-2015, it will serve students in fourth and fifth grade; and in 2015-2016, P.S. 050 will serve students in fifth grade. The school will close after June 2016.

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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. Any additional comments will be addressed in an amended Public Comment Analysis which will be made available to the PEP before it votes on this proposal.

If this co-location proposal is approved, 12X314 will open in X050 as a zoned district elementary school serving the same zone as P.S. 050. In the 2013-2014 school year, 12X314 will serve kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students who would have otherwise attended P.S. 050 if it were not being phased out. 12X314 will then expand one grade each year until it reaches full scale in 2016-2017 and serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades. 12X314 will also offer a pre-kindergarten program, subject to continued demand and funding.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), in 2012-2013, X050 had a target capacity of 709 students, but the building served only 440 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 62%. This means that the building is “under-utilized” and has extra space to accommodate additional students.

In 2016-2017, once P.S. 050 has completed its phase-out and 12X314 reaches full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 351-411 students served in building X050, thereby yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 50%-58%. The DOE anticipates that building X050 will still have excess space once P.S. 050 has completed its phase-out and 12X314 has completed its phase-in. The DOE plans to propose the co-location of an additional elementary school in building X050 in the future. Any such significant changes in school utilization will be described in a separate EIS in accordance with Chancellor’s Regulation A-190.

12X314 will replace the majority of elementary school seats that will be lost as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure of P.S. 050 and will provide a new educational option for families in District 12. As discussed below, while there will be fewer zoned seats than P.S. 050 currently offers, the DOE anticipates that 12X314 will be able to accommodate the current demand from zoned families.

A copy of the Education Impact Statement (“EIS”) pertaining to this proposal can be found in the main office of P.S. 050 Clara Barton and online here:

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

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

A joint public hearing regarding this co-location proposal and the proposal to phase-out P.S. 050 was held at the X050 building on February 25, 2013. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 80 members of the public attended the hearing, and 18 people spoke. Present at the meeting were P.S. 050 Principal Kimberly Nohavicka; P.S. 050 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Member Ruth Diaz; District 12 Community Superintendent Myrna Rodriguez; District 12 Community Education Council (“CEC 12”) President Winifred Coulton, and additional CEC 12 members Ikla Rios, Catherine Baez, Durpati Budhram, Carmen R. Santos, and Gail Gadsde members; a representative from New York State Senator Ruben Diaz’s Office, Reverend Joel Bauza; a representative from the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz’s Office, Monica Major; DOE Deputy Chancellor Corinne Rello-Anselmi, DOE External Affairs Representative Jenny Sobelman; DOE Liaison to the PEP, Jamie Kessler; DOE representatives from the Division of Portfolio Planning, Yael Kalban and Ashley Davies.

### **The following questions, comments, and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:**

No comments were received related to this proposal.

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

No comments were received related to this proposal.

The Public Comment Analysis concerning the related proposal to phase-out P.S. 050 can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

## **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to this proposal.