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Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis

Date: February 29, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Re-Siting of Mott Hall III (09X128) to School Building X110 and Co-Location with P.S. 110 Theodore Schoenfeld (09X110), Beginning in the 2012-2013 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: March 1, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site Mott Hall III (09X128, “Mott Hall”), an existing district choice middle school serving students in grades six through eight, which is currently located in school building X055 at 450 Saint Paul’s Place, Bronx, NY 10456, in Community School District 9 (“District 9”). If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), for 2012-2013, Mott Hall will be re-sited to school building X110, located at 580 Crotona Park South, Bronx, NY 10456, also in District 9, where it will be co-located with P.S. 110 Theodore Schoenfeld (09X110, “P.S. 110”), an existing zoned elementary school serving students in grades kindergarten through five and offering a full-day pre-kindergarten program. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

On January 19, 2012, the DOE amended this proposal to include the complete list of P.S. 110’s partnerships, as reported by the school.

Mott Hall is currently co-located in building X055 with P.S. 55 Benjamin Franklin (09X055, “P.S. 55”). P.S. 55 is an existing zoned elementary school serving students in grades kindergarten through fifth and offering a full-day pre-kindergarten program.

P.S. 110 is currently co-located in building X110 with M.S. 327 Comprehensive Model School Project (09X327, “M.S. 327”), an existing district choice middle school serving students in grades six through eight. However, pursuant to an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) approved by the PEP on January 18, 2012, M.S. 327 will be re-sited to building X240 (“X240”), a new facility being constructed at 1501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452, also in District 9, for

the 2012-2013 school year and beyond. The approved re-siting of M.S. 327 from building X110 to building X240 will enable Mott Hall to move into X110, where it will occupy the space vacated by M.S. 327, if this proposal is approved.

Building X110 has a target capacity of 872 students. In the current 2011-2012 school year, the building is serving approximately 807 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 93%. In the 2012-2013 school year, when M.S. 327 has moved out and Mott Hall will have moved in, if this proposal is approved, the projected enrollment in the building will be approximately 766-856 students, resulting in a projected target utilization rate of 88-98%. Thus, building X110 has sufficient space to accommodate both Mott Hall and P.S. 110.

This proposal will not impact P.S. 110's instructional programming, partnerships, and extra-curricular offerings. In addition, this proposal is not expected to have an impact on P.S. 110's pre-kindergarten program, which will continue to be offered subject to continued funding and demand.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

The DOE held two Joint Public Hearings regarding this proposal. The first hearing took place at building X110 on February 13, 2012, and the second hearing took place at building X055 on February 15, 2012. At those hearings, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 35 members of the public attended the February 13th hearing, and one person spoke. Also present at the meeting were: Dolores Esposito, District 9 Community Superintendent; Marilyn Espada, President of the District 9 Community Education Council ("CEC"); Jorisis Stupart, Principal of Mott Hall; Daisy Pérez, Principal of P.S. 110; Mott Hall School Leadership Team ("SLT") representatives David López, Rachel Rymer, Elizabeth Riera, and Corinthian Lee; Ariel Guerrero from the DOE Division of Family and Community Engagement; and Stephanie Crane from the DOE Division of Portfolio Planning.

Approximately 210 members of the public attended the February 15th hearing, and no comments were received on this proposal.¹ Also present at the meeting were: Dolores Esposito, District 9 Community Superintendent; Barbara Martoral, District 9 Family Advocate; Marilyn Espada, President of CEC 9; Carmen Ramos and Nora Mercado, CEC 9 representatives; Jorisis Stupart, Principal of Mott Hall; Luis Torres, Principal of P.S. 55; William T. Martin representing Adlai Stevenson's Office; and Amanda Cahn, Rosa Fernández, and Keisha Mosquera from the DOE Division of Portfolio Planning.

¹ This hearing also served to discuss another proposal posted on January 12, 2012, to re-site Bronx Success Academy Charter School 2 (84X494, "BSA 2") from its current location in school building X146 to school building X055, where it will backfill the space in X055 that Mott Hall is proposed to vacate. Although that hearing was well-attended, all public comments were directed to the BSA 2 re-siting proposal, rather than to this proposal to re-site Mott Hall.

The following comments and remarks were made at the Joint Public Hearings

1. A parent spoke against the proposal and asked why Mott Hall is moving to a new location and whether Mott Hall would have access to the cafeteria, gymnasium, and library at the new location.

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

The DOE received no written or oral comments through the dedicated phone line and Web site for this proposal.

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

In response to the question about the DOE's decision to re-locate Mott Hall: The proposal to re-site Mott Hall to building X110 came from within the school community. The leadership at Mott Hall expressed interest in moving the school to a different building within District 9 that had more appropriate spaces for middle school-aged students, such as a science lab and a gymnasium. Building X055 does not have either of these. Mott Hall was also an ideal candidate for a re-siting because it is choice school, whereas it is not ideal to move a zoned school. Furthermore, given that building X110 is approximately five blocks away from Mott Hall's current location, the school can move to building X110 without largely disrupting transportation plans for its community.

Additionally, Mott Hall will have access to the cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, and library at the proposed new location. As indicated in the EIS describing this proposal, Mott Hall will share these large common and specialty rooms with P.S. 110, if this proposal is approved. More specific decisions regarding the allocation of the shared spaces will be made by the Building Council, which is composed of the principals of all co-located schools or their designees, in conjunction with the Office of Space Planning.

Changes Made to this Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.