

Public Comment Analysis

Date: November 24, 2014

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of The Peck Slip School (02M343) from Building M860 to New Building M343 in the 2015-2016 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: November 25, 2014

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site The Peck Slip School (02M343, “Peck Slip”) to new building M343 (“M343”) beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.¹ A “re-siting” means students will attend classes in a different building than the one in which they attended classes in the previous year. The School Construction Authority (“SCA”) is currently constructing M343 and is planning the building for occupancy in September 2015. M343 will be located at 1 Peck Slip, New York, NY 10038 in Community School District 2 (“District 2”). Peck Slip is currently housed in building M860, more commonly known as Tweed Courthouse (“Tweed”), located at 52 Chambers Street, New York, New York 10007, also in District 2. If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, Peck Slip students will no longer attend classes in Tweed. Instead, they will attend classes in M343.

Peck Slip currently serves 164 students in kindergarten through second grades. On December 14, 2011, the District 2 Community Education Council (“CEC 2”) approved a proposal to create a zone for Peck Slip beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. This zone was drawn around the M343 building, with the plan being for that building to serve as Peck Slip’s permanent home. Peck Slip is a District 2 zoned elementary school that gives admissions priority to students in its zone.

The DOE incubated Peck Slip in Tweed beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, in anticipation of its eventual move to M343 upon M343’s completion. An “incubation” occurs when a new school opens and serves students at a temporary site in advance of moving to its permanent site. Such temporary siting allows a school to begin operating before its long-term site is available for student occupancy. If this proposal is approved, Peck Slip will be re-sited to M343 and will operate in M343 beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

As mentioned above, this proposed re-siting to M343 is expected to have a positive impact on Peck Slip by providing a new facility that has more space than its current facility and has specific spaces designed to support elementary school instruction. M343 can accommodate Peck Slip as it continues growing beyond serving kindergarten to second grades to become a full-fledged elementary school serving students through fifth grade.

If this proposal is approved, Peck Slip will move to M343 prior to the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, when it will serve approximately 306-346 students in kindergarten through third grades and two sections of full-day pre-kindergarten, which will result in an approximate building utilization rate of 43%-49% of target capacity. Peck Slip will gradually phase into the M343 building by adding one grade per

¹ M343 has been designed to serve students in the elementary grades.

year. The school is expected to reach its full scale grade span in 2017-2018, when it will offer pre-kindergarten and serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Peck Slip also plans to serve more students in each grade in the coming years: the school is expected to reach its full scale enrollment in 2020-2021, when it will serve approximately 756-816 students in kindergarten through fifth grades, which includes two sections of full day pre-kindergarten. At that point, M343 will have an estimated utilization rate between 106%-115% of target capacity. While Peck Slip's anticipated at-scale utilization rate exceeds 100% in M343, if this proposal is approved, Peck Slip will receive its baseline allocation and excess space in M343 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the "Footprint") during and after the school's re-siting. Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation.

If approved, this proposed re-siting could require students in kindergarten and second grade enrolled at Peck Slip in the 2014-2015 school year to travel a greater distance from home to attend school in a different school building in the 2015-2016 school year, as Tweed and M343 are located 0.6 miles apart. However, the DOE believes that the re-siting will not create significant travel hardships, since both buildings are located close to central public transportation hubs and the Peck Slip community has been aware of this planned re-siting since the school first opened.

The details of this proposal have been released in an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/November2014SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of Peck Slip.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at Tweed on November 10, 2014. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately eight members of the public attended the hearing, and two people spoke. Present at the meeting were Bonnie Laboy, District 2 Superintendent and the Chancellor's Designee; Maggie Siena, Peck Slip principal and School Leadership Team ("SLT") member; Sonni Mun, member of CEC 2; and Kia Higgins and Sarah Turchin of the DOE's Office of District Planning.

Below is a summary of the comments received:

1. Sonni Mun, member of CEC 2, asserted the following:
 - a. She is very excited to welcome Peck Slip to the community, and the parents in the community are excited about the move.
2. Maggie Siena, principal of Peck Slip, asserted the following:
 - a. She has been involved in the planning of the new building since spring of 2012; is very excited that the project is coming to fruition; and is looking forward to moving in the summer of 2015.
 - b. She is looking forward to utilizing the new spaces in the facility.

3. Ellen McHugh, representative from the Citywide Council on Special Education, asked about planning for specialized programming other than integrated co-teaching classes for students with disabilities.

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

4. In a written statement, Catherine McVay Hughes, member of Community Board 1 (“CB1”), asserted the following:
 - a. On October 28, 2014, CB1 unanimously passed a resolution supporting the re-siting of Peck Slip to M343.
 - b. The resolution requests that the DOE and SCA ensure that the move is not delayed.

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

Comments 1a, 2, and 4a are in favor of the proposal and do not require a response.

Comment 3 asked about programming for students with disabilities in the new school building. The DOE seeks to provide high quality education options for all students, including students with disabilities. Planning and implementation of specialized programming for students with disabilities will be completed based on student need, enrollment, and in accordance with applicable laws. All Peck Slip students having Individualized Education Programs (“IEPs”) will continue to receive all mandated services in accordance with their IEPs at the new M343 building.

Comment 4b relates to the timeline for moving Peck Slip from Tweed to M343. Building M343 is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in September 2015. The DOE and SCA will work to ensure that construction, as well as Peck Slip’s move from Tweed to the new site, will not encounter any delays.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.