

Public Comment Analysis

Date: November 24, 2014

Topic: The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 152 Gwendoline N. Alleyne School (30Q152) from a K-6 School to a K-5 School Beginning in the 2015-2016 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: November 25, 2014

Summary of Proposal

On October 8, 2014, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to truncate P.S. 152 Gwendoline N. Alleyne School (30Q152, “P.S. 152”) beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. P.S. 152 is an existing elementary school that serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and offers two sections of a half-day pre-kindergarten program. The DOE is proposing that P.S. 152 only serve kindergarten through fifth grade and offer a pre-kindergarten program, which means that the school will no longer offer sixth grade after the 2014-2015 school year. The DOE believes that P.S. 152 families would benefit if all students move on to middle school after completing fifth grade. Middle schools typically have extremely varied and rich instructional offerings, especially in the sciences and languages, as well as extra-curricular activities. The space and facilities in middle school buildings are typically better aligned to support these programs. By entering middle school in sixth grade rather than seventh grade, students at P.S. 152 will be able to take advantage of these enriching, high-school preparatory experiences one year earlier.

The DOE is proposing to truncate the sixth grade of P.S. 152. P.S. 152 is a zoned elementary school which currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade in building Q152, located at 33-52 62nd Street, Queens, NY 11377, in Community School District 30 (“District 30”). If this proposal is approved, P.S. 152 will no longer enroll sixth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year. In 2015-2016 and beyond, P.S. 152 will continue serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and will continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program. There may be some current sixth-grade students who do not meet promotional requirements and must repeat the sixth grade, which will no longer be offered by P.S. 152 in the 2015-2016 school year. These students will repeat sixth grade at their zoned middle school. Sixth-grade students zoned to P.S. 152 for elementary school are zoned to one of several middle schools: I.S. 125 (24Q125, “I.S. 125”), I.S. 10 (30Q010, “I.S. 10”) or I.S. 230 (30Q230, “I.S. 230”) for middle school.

P.S. 152 is a zoned school that currently enrolls students in kindergarten through sixth-grade. A student’s zoned school is determined by his or her home address. If this proposal is approved and P.S. 152 no longer serves sixth-grade students, P.S. 152 will continue to admit students in kindergarten through fifth grade who reside in its zone.

On October 16, 2014, the District 30 Community Education Council approved a rezoning plan that includes changes to P.S. 152’s zone beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The rezoning proposal reduces the size of P.S. 152’s zone, meaning the school will serve fewer students and the building utilization rate will decrease over time.

The proposed grade truncation would align the school’s grade span with those of other elementary schools throughout District 30 and the city. If this proposal is approved, the change in P.S. 152’s grade span will reduce the school’s enrollment by approximately 45-65 seats in 2015-2016. Additionally, future incoming kindergarten classes will be smaller than P.S. 152’s current kindergarten class as a result of the rezoning mentioned above. Therefore, P.S. 152 will reach a lower, stable enrollment in 2020-2021. At that point, the school will serve approximately 1,092-1,152 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and pre-kindergarten, and building Q152 will have an estimated building utilization rate of 104% - 109%.

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>.



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 152.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at the Q152 building on November 10, 2014. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 4 members of the public attended the hearing. No individuals spoke. Present at the meeting were District 30 Community Superintendent Philip Composto; CEC 30 members Lavern Maison and Victoria Medelius; P.S. 152 School Leadership Team representatives Principal Vincent Vitolo and Lily Foley; and Vicki De Javier and Dean Guzman from the DOE.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on November 10, 2014:

No comments or remarks were made at the joint public hearing related to this proposal.

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

One written comment was received via email:

1. The principal of P.S. 152, Vincent Vitolo, submitted a comment supporting the proposed truncation of P.S. 152's sixth grade. In his comment, Principal Vitolo elaborated on his own support for truncation and noted the following:
 - a. Parents at a parent association meeting held on September 17, 2014 supported truncation. The meeting was well-attended with 115 parents.
 - b. The P.S. 152 School Leadership Team ("SLT") expressed their support for truncation at a meeting on September 29th.
 - c. Approximately 47 parents, most of them 5th grade parents, attended a Parent Association meeting dedicated solely to the subject of truncation on October 1st. No parent expressed opposition to the proposed truncation and there was general consensus in favor of having all fifth grade students leave P.S. 152 as a single cohort.
 - d. The SLT reaffirmed their support for truncation at a meeting on October 20th.

Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comment 1 is in support of the proposal and thus does not require a response.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.