



Notice
March 3, 2011

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-location of a New Transfer School, Bronx Arena High School (08X537), with The Felisa Rincon de Gautier Institute of Law And Public Policy (08X519) and Bronx Academy High School (08X560) in School Building X972

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposes to co-locate a new transfer school, Bronx Arena High School (08X537, “Bronx Arena”), in school building X972 (“X972”), located at 1440 Story Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473, within the geographical confines of Community School District 8 (“District 8”). If this proposal is approved, Bronx Arena would be “co-located” in building X972 with The Felisa Rincon De Gautier Institute of Law and Public Policy (08X519, “Felisa Rincon”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve, and Bronx Academy High School (08X560, “Bronx Academy”), an existing transfer school currently serving students who are 16 years of age and older and who have already completed at least one year of high school with a minimum of 10 academic credits. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, libraries, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on March 3, 2011, the DOE has also proposed to phase out and eventually close Bronx Academy. That EIS can be accessed on the DOE’s website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals.htm>. Hard copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Bronx Academy and Felisa Rincon. In the event that the phase-out of Bronx Academy is not approved, the DOE would re-examine the availability of space in the building and may, as appropriate, revise its proposal to co-locate Bronx Arena in X972. Such a revised proposal would be described in a revised EIS.

The DOE proposed to phase out Bronx Academy after conducting an extensive review of data and community feedback which indicated that the school is unable to turn around despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. Bronx Academy currently enrolls students who are classified as tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders based on their credit accumulation.

If this co-location proposal were to be approved, Bronx Arena would open in building X972 in September 2011 with approximately 125-150 students. In 2011-2012, Bronx Arena would begin its co-location with Bronx Academy and Felisa Rincon and the building would serve approximately 625-725 students, yielding an approximate building utilization rate of 95%-110% of target capacity. Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, as discussed in Section II of the EIS, 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. Furthermore, Section III.B. of the EIS describes the

allocation of rooms between the organizations to provide a more complete picture of the available space in X972.

Bronx Arena would continue to phase in to the building in 2012-2013 by adding 45-55 students to bring the school's total enrollment to 150-175 students. Bronx Arena would complete its expansion in 2013-2014 with the addition of another 25-35 students, bringing its total enrollment to 175-210 students at full scale.

As detailed in a separate EIS, if the proposed phase-out of Bronx Academy is approved, the school would not admit new students at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Its enrollment would decrease to 150-165 students in 2011-2012 and 100-110 students in 2012-2013. Bronx Academy would complete its phase-out in June 2013. In 2013-2014, once Bronx Academy has completed its phase-out and Bronx Arena has completed its expansion, X972 would serve approximately 550-645 students, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 83%-98% of target capacity.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement describing this co-location proposal can be found on the Department of Education's web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of Bronx Academy and Felisa Rincon.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Izaak Orlansky
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers St
Email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearing for this proposal.

April 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Bronx Academy / Felisa Rincon
1440 Story Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473

Questions about the proposal can be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. To request interpretation services, please contact Mr. Orlansky at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

April 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Prospect Heights Campus, 883 Classon Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225