

Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 27, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of P017X@P179X (75X017) to Building X043, Consolidation with P017X@P043X (75X017) and Co-location with P.S. 043 Jonas Bronck (07X043)

Date of Panel Vote: April 28, 2011

Summary of Proposal

P017X is an existing District 75 school serving students in grades K-8 at four different sites in the Bronx. X017@X040, also referred to as P017X@P179X (75X017, “X017@X040”) is one of these sites, and serves students with an Individual Education Plan (“IEP”) classification of autistic in grades K-5 at 468 East 140th Street, Bronx, NY 10454, in Community School District 7, in Building X040 (“X040”).

On February 22, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to re-site X017@X040 to Building X043 (“X043”), at 165 Brown Place, Bronx, NY 10454. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, all X017@X040 students would be served in the X043 building where the school will be consolidated with another P017X site, X017@X043 (75X017, “X017@X043”), which also serves elementary school-aged students in grades K-5 with an IEP classification of autistic. The consolidated X017@X043 and X017@X040 programs would be “co-located” with P.S. 043 Jonas Bronck (07X043, “P.S. 043”), an existing zoned elementary school serving grades K-5 which also offers three sections of pre-kindergarten. The X043 building is approximately 0.4 miles from the X040 building.

A “re-siting” means a school will be located in a different building than the building it is located in currently. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations will be located in the same building and may share common spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

An amended EIS was issued on March 22, 2011 that replaced the site-specific demographic data for P017X@P179X and P017X@P043X with P017X school-wide demographic data and removed references to the proposal to re-site Hostos Lincoln Academy of Science to the X184 building (where it would have been co-located with another P017X site) because that proposal has been withdrawn, but does not modify or revise the proposal to re-site and consolidate X017@X040 and X017@X043 itself.

The details of this proposal are available in an amended EIS which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals.htm>. Copies of the amended EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 043 and each of P017X's sites.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

Two joint public hearings regarding this proposal were held, one at P017X@X043 on March 30 and one at P017X@X040 on April 7. At the hearings, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. On March 30, approximately 15 members of the public attended the hearing and 5 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 7 Superintendent Yolanda Torres; P.S. 043 Principal Giovanna Delucchi and School Leadership Team ("SLT") members Peter Kalkau, Angela Robinson, Carl Burzey, and Joyce Starke; P017X Assistant Principals Jacqueline Colon and Marlin Hoggard and SLT member and Parent Association ("PA") representative Angel Candelaria; and District 7 Community Education Council ("CEC") 7 first vice-president Almeta Trammel.

On April 7, approximately five members of the public attended the hearing, but none of these individuals spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 75 Superintendent Gary Hecht; P017X Principal Robin Cohen; and P017X SLT member and PA representative Angel Candelaria. CEC 7 was invited to the hearing and confirmed that at least one member would attend, but no members of CEC 7 actually attended the hearing.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearings:

1. CEC 7 first vice-president Almeta Trammel introduced herself and emphasized the importance of CEC involvement in the process.
2. P.S. 043 Principal Giovanna Delucchi expressed support for the proposal, citing the long-standing positive relationship between P017X and P.S. 043.
3. P017X Assistant Principal Jacqueline Colon expressed support for the proposal because the P.S. 043 site offers more services than the X040 site, including technology, art, and music programs, as well as extracurricular activities. She also cited the positive relationship between the two schools and the openness of P.S. 043 to work with P017X students.
4. P017X Assistant Principal Marlon Hoggard expressed support for the proposal because it would benefit P017X students.
5. P017X SLT member and PA representative Angel Candelaria inquired whether P017X students would be mainstreamed at P.S. 043.

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

The DOE received one oral comment via telephone and no written comments.

6. A commenter stated her opposition to giving two extra rooms to P017X in the X043 building.

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

- Comment 1 asserts the important role that the CEC plays in the joint public hearing process. The DOE agrees with this statement.
- Comments 2, 3, and 4 are all in favor of the proposal and do not require a response.
- Comment 5 was a question about mainstreaming P017X students with P.S. 043 students. The P017X and P.S. 043 principals have discussed the possibility of creating an inclusion program for P017X students with P.S. 043. At the joint public hearing on March 30, Principal Delucchi from P.S. 043 said that there has been mainstreaming between P017X and P.S. 043 in the past and her school would continue to mainstream P017X students if the situation remains appropriate. Assistant Principal Colon said that P017X would look at data at the end of the year to see about mainstreaming possibilities with P.S. 043.
- Comment 6 opposes the proposal to give two extra rooms to P017X in X043. The DOE maintains that the consolidation of P017X in the X043 building will afford P017X students more opportunities. The building has a current target capacity of approximately 75%. In the 2011-2012 school year, once X017@X040 is consolidated with X017@X043 in the building, the utilization rate of the building will be approximately 88%. As indicated in the EIS, although P.S. 043 will be allocated fewer rooms than it currently uses, P.S. 043 will continue to receive rooms in excess of its baseline Footprint allocation.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.