



Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 27, 2011

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science’s (07X500) High School Grades to Building X162 in the 2011-2012 School Year and Middle School Grades to Building X162 in the 2012-2013 School Year, and the Resulting Co-location of Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science with J.H.S. 162 Lola Rodriguez de Tio (07X162), Green Dot NY Charter School (84X393), and X010@X162 (75X010), a District 75 School

Date of Panel Vote: April 28, 2011

Summary of Proposal

Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science (07X500, “Hostos”) is an existing school serving students in grades 6-12. Hostos is located on the Hostos Community College campus at 475 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451, in School Building X500 (“X500”) in Community School District 7. This is a proposal to re-site Hostos’ high school grades in 2011-2012 and middle school grades in 2012-2013 to Building X162 (“X162”), at 600 Saint Ann’s Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455, where they will remain permanently.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Hostos high school students in grades 9-12 would be served in the X162 building where the school will be “co-located” with (1) J.H.S. 162 Lola Rodriguez de Tio (07X162, “J.H.S. 162”), an existing zoned middle school serving grades 6-8, (2) Green Dot NY Charter School (84X393, “Green Dot”), an existing public charter high school currently serving grades 9-11, and (3) an existing District 75 (“D75”) school, X010@X162 (75X010, “X010@X162”) serving middle school-aged students with Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”) classifications of mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed. X162 also houses an Alternative Learning Center (88X998, “ALC”).

The ALC will move out of X162 prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Then, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, Hostos middle school students in grades 6-8 would join Hostos high school students in the X162 building. Accordingly, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, all of Hostos’ grades would be co-located with J.H.S. 162, Green Dot, and X010@X162.

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.

This proposal is being made in response to the request by City University of New York (“CUNY”) and Hostos Community College to move Hostos out of its space on the campus. In order to accommodate Hostos in X162, the enrollment at J.H.S. 162 will be decreased.

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, J.H.S. 162 will begin to downsize its incoming sixth grade enrollment. J.H.S. 162 currently serves 728 students, but in 2011-2012, it will serve approximately 580-625 students, and in 2012-2013, it will serve approximately 465-510 students. In 2013-2014, when J.H.S. 162 is anticipated to complete its downsize, it will serve approximately 465 students.

Two earlier Educational Impact Statements (“EISs”) describing proposals to re-site Hostos to the X184 building and re-site the South Bronx Academy for Applied Media (07X296, “SBAAM”) to the X162 building for the 2011-2012 school year have been withdrawn. CUNY recently gave the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) approval to move Hostos out of the Hostos Community College campus over two years and the DOE believes that a phased move over two years without impacting SBAAM is the preferable scenario.

The details of this proposal are available in an EIS which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals.htm>. Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Hostos and the schools co-located in the X162 building.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

Two joint public hearings regarding this proposal were held, one at building X500 on April 6, 2011 and one at building X162 on April 12, 2011. At the hearings, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. On April 6, approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing, one person spoke, and one person asked a question. Present at the meeting were: DOE Executive Director of School Programs and Partnerships Gregg Bethel, Bronx High School Superintendent Geraldine Taylor-Brown, District 7 Community Superintendent Yolanda Torres, Hostos Principal Nicholas Paarlberg, and Citywide Council on High School (“CCHS”) representative Constance Asiedu. The District 7 Community Education Council (“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. Also present at the hearing, on behalf of Hostos Community College, was Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance.

On April 12, approximately 100 members of the public attended the hearing, 9 people spoke, and 5 questions were submitted. Present at the meeting were: DOE Executive Director of School Programs and Partnerships Gregg Bethel, Bronx High School Superintendent Geraldine Taylor-Brown, District 7 Community Superintendent Yolanda Torres, CEC 7 representative Almeta Trammel; CCHS representative Constance Asiedu; Hostos Principal Nicholas Paarlberg and Hostos SLT representatives Patricia Dais and Annette Quinones; J.H.S. 162 Principal Maryann Manzollillo and J.H.S. 162 SLT representatives Ben Borener, Irene Castro, and Arnulfo Rivera; Green Dot Principal Ashish Kapadia and SLT representative Daniel Rodriguez; P010X Principal Barbara Hanson and SLT representatives Elissa O’Brien and Xiomara Carvajal-Nuñez. Also

present at the hearing, on behalf of Hostos Community College, was Dr. Carlos Molina, the Dean for Special Programs.

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

1. Ms. Rodriguez-Chardavoyne (on April 6) and Dr. Molina (on April 12) both shared a statement on behalf of the Hostos Community College President Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, which stated:
 - a. Given the downturn in the economy, demand for community colleges like Hostos Community College has risen. Hostos has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade, a trend which is expected to continue. To address this growth, Hostos Community College is renovating one of its main buildings, which requires swing space for faculty and staff offices as well as classrooms during the process.
 - b. Since September 2009, Hostos Community College, CUNY, and the DOE have been working together on a plan to re-locate Hostos from its present facilities on the campus to a different one. The conversations were always related to space issues only. In December 2009, there was agreement to propose a re-location by June 30, 2011.
 - c. Hostos Community College has remained proactive with the DOE and Hostos to make this relocation process cooperative. They have continued to meet in order to understand the needs of Hostos during the transition period.
 - d. As a result of these conversations, in March 2011, the DOE requested additional time for the re-location of Hostos' middle school grades. Hostos Community College and CUNY agreed to accommodate the DOE's request and allow Hostos' middle school grades to remain on the campus until June 2012.
 - e. Hostos Community College remains committed to the Early College program. Hostos students will take some courses physically at Hostos Community College, and Hostos Community College faculty will teach some courses in the new home of Hostos (Building X162).
 - f. Most early college programs in the nation and in New York do not depend on a co-location for it to function effectively.
 - g. Hostos Community College will continue to work with the DOE and Hostos to ensure a smooth transition in the coming months and ensure that the educational needs of Hostos students continue to be met.
 - h. The Hostos Early College program is the first in the community that will be graduating a cohort of students. This cohort will be attending the Hostos Community College graduation because they earned an Associate Degree and will then attend their high school graduation, which is quite an accomplishment.
2. Principal Ashish Kapadia of Green Dot made the following comments on April 6 and April 12:
 - a. Green Dot sympathizes with the situation that Hostos is in. Green Dot is interested in being good neighbors and working with all stakeholders so that instruction and the quality of academic life can be at its highest possible level.
 - b. Green Dot is concerned that with the increase of students in the building, facility space will be tight and at times congested.

- c. “The Footprint” that the DOE uses has not taken into account what is best for students and for a high-quality education. In addition, the DOE has not done an accurate assessment of the impact this proposal will have on all schools in the X162 building.
 - d. In particular, the DOE not taken enough consideration yet into the quality of shared space facilities, including the auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, and the library. The DOE should consider how those shared spaces can be improved so that all stakeholders can use them.
 - e. The DOE should consider how to improve the quality of the actual classrooms for all of the different programs in the school.
 - f. There will be programming concerns with respect to special-needs students. The DOE must provide adequate resources to the X162 building to alleviate those concerns.
3. CEC 7 representative Almeta Trammel stated that she is happy that Hostos is being kept in District 7. However, she said that just as J.H.S. 162 has to decrease its incoming enrollment to accommodate the co-location of Hostos, the other schools in X162 should also decrease their enrollment.
4. J.H.S. 162 SLT representative Arnulfo Rivera stated the following:
 - a. He is proud to have worked at the school almost ten years and to be working in the South Bronx. J.H.S. 162 has an incredible staff and student body (citing students who have gotten college scholarships).
 - b. While the DOE still calls it a proposal, it feels like everything has already voted and “all the handshakes have been done.”
 - c. The proposal speaks about how Hostos is a high-quality school, while there are families at J.H.S. 162 with special needs. The proposal should address how these students are going to be taken care of.
 - d. The downsizing at J.H.S. 162 has already been in progress and has not been in the school’s control. The school’s enrollment has decreased even though there is still demand for the school. This makes it seem that this co-location was planned beforehand.
 - e. If the DOE was committed to supporting its students, it would help J.H.S. 162. Hostos and the opening of Green Dot makes the news, but the DOE should not forget about supporting J.H.S. 162.
5. Hostos Principal Nicholas Paarlberg expressed concern that the building has not had a facilities upgrade in a number of years.
6. P010X Principal Barbara Hanson stated the following:
 - a. P010X has sites in seven different schools, including at X162. Special needs students at X162 are integrated into the community school and share some of the facilities.
 - b. It is difficult to share spaces, especially when you have to share space not just with one or two schools, but with three or four schools. Everyone wants to use the space.
 - c. Although P010X students are from the surrounding community, it seems that most of the time these students get pushed to the side.

- d. The DOE needs to consider the “true impact” of what happens to every program within the building that has to share space. No child should be “short-changed” from getting the mandated services that the DOE requires.
7. Green Dot SLT representative Daniel Rodriguez stated the following:
 - a. There is concern that having two high schools in the building will limit access to high school facilities. He inquired whether the DOE would help expand access to facilities for high school research and exploration of colleges, since most students will be applying to college.
 - b. He hopes the co-location will not affect construction, school culture, class times and safety for everyone in the building.
8. Multiple commenters expressed concern that the downsizing of J.H.S. 162 would affect the music program and other programs. Multiple commenters raised concern that the downsizing would cause the music program to be hindered or eliminated. A commenter added that there are only two music programs in the South Bronx and that the program at J.H.S. 162 draws students to the school who are passionate about music.
9. Multiple commenters stated that the music and technology programs at J.H.S. 162 have helped them academically, socially, and personally. Multiple commenters cited colleges and universities to which alumni have been admitted.
10. Multiple commenters expressed pride for J.H.S. 162 and for the alumni who came back to the school to support J.H.S. 162.
11. Multiple commenters stated that the downsizing of J.H.S. 162 would result in less funding that would mean the school could not finance certain programs like arts, technology and music. A commenter also expressed concern about how programs at J.H.S. 162 have slowly disappeared.
12. A commenter inquired where Hostos would move to in the X162 building.
13. A commenter stated his opposition to the downsizing of J.H.S. 162 because it would cause the school to “lose the momentum” and be negatively impacted. The commenter cited the fact that his/her elementary school, junior high school, and high school have all been closed.
14. A commenter stated that she uses the auditorium as a music classroom and expressed concern as to how that would change if two additional schools were co-located in the building. The commenter stated that J.H.S. 162 students need the music program.
15. A commenter expressed concern that next year three teachers at J.H.S. 162 will be sharing two classrooms.
16. A commenter expressed concern that technology, music and art teachers will be excessed if J.H.S. 162 is downsized.
17. A commenter inquired how parents were notified about the joint public hearing on April 6 at Hostos. The commenter said that they just received an e-mail the day of the hearing.
18. A commenter inquired how the DOE assesses the benefits of shared space. More specifically, the commenter inquired whether the DOE compares the costs of housing multiple schools in one building with the cost of hiring more teachers.
19. A commenter inquired about the effects of teacher turnover on student achievement.
20. A commenter inquired about the extent to which public input is considered in the decision. Additionally, the commenter inquired whether the proposal would have been “pushed through so quickly” if the community was more vocal and financially influential.

21. A commenter inquired what the DOE will do for students who will or may not attend college.

Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting

On April 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., the DOE held a Chancellor's Town Hall meeting at the X162 building. The meeting was hosted by the CEC 7 and former Deputy Chancellor Santiago Taveras attended the meeting. The meeting was intended to be a community conversation about student achievement, school finances, and the City's educational goals and priorities. Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask Deputy Chancellor Taveras questions. Approximately 30-40 people were in attendance.

Although the DOE is not obligated to include comments received outside the official channels designated to receive public comments concerning this re-siting and co-location proposal, as a courtesy, the DOE has included the comments made at the Town Hall meeting which pertain to the proposal, to the extent that they are not duplicative of other comments received through the designated channels.

- One person at the meeting asked why J.H.S. 162's enrollment was being reduced. The commenter notes that resources are generated based on the number of students in a school and contended that J.H.S. 162 has been serving students well since it opened. Deputy Chancellor Taveras noted that parents are looking for schools to best meet the needs of their children. In the Bronx, some schools have an increasing number of applicants and some do not. The DOE is looking to increase choice for all families knowing that the population is changing. Demand for schools is an indication of family choice. Please refer to the response to comments 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29 below for further information concerning J.H.S. 162's downsizing enrollment.
- One commenter noted that Hostos is welcome to move into the X162 building. However, why does the DOE not think about smaller class size with more teachers?
- CEC 7 member Almeta Trammel stated that her child attends J.H.S. 162, and that there are already several other schools in the building including an ALC, P010X, and J.H.S. 162. J.H.S. 162 stands by itself. The school is being inconvenienced. Parent choice is something the DOE talks about, but the result of parent choice is more co-locations. Parent choice is not parent choice if students are not given real choices. District 7 needs school buildings. The community should mandate that the School Construction Authority build more schools. Parents should visit buildings that are underutilized. The DOE needs to understand that there are homeless shelters, dislocated families and new housing coming online in District 7. These realities need to be acknowledged.

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

The DOE has received five written comments via e-mail about the proposal to re-site Hostos to Building X162.¹

22. Multiple commenters expressed concern that the proposal would cause J.H.S. 162 to cut classes such as art, band, and technology. Multiple commenters described the importance of such programs for the students of J.H.S. 162.
23. Multiple commenters expressed pride and appreciation for the special programs at J.H.S. 162. A commenter described the impact of the music program for him as a student. Another commenter described a track team program that a teacher began that helped students build confidence and discipline.
24. Multiple commenters described the achievements that have been made by J.H.S. 162 students and alumni in academia and music throughout the country. A commenter suggested that these accomplishments would be lauded if J.H.S. 162 was a charter school.
25. Multiple commenters expressed concern that the proposal would cause J.H.S. 162 to lose space. A commenter stated that she teaches music in the auditorium and expressed concern that as the demand for gym space in the building increases with an additional school organization, her band classes will have to re-locate, which is inconvenient. Another commenter stated that gym space is already strained when two schools share the same gym period.
26. A commenter expressed pride that J.H.S. 162 serves the entire community, with an extraordinarily large percentage (26.7%) of students with disabilities. The commenter stated that J.H.S. 162 accepts students that “selective” schools “counsel out” or reject as below their standards.
27. A commenter described the dedication of the staff at J.H.S. 162 and expressed concern that the proposal would eliminate their positions.
28. A commenter expressed concern that the DOE would possibly close J.H.S. 162 in a few years while promoting schools that are “selective” and do not accept all students.
29. A commenter expressed concern that downsizing the enrollment of J.H.S. 162 would cause programs to be downsized as well, and would decrease the attractiveness of J.H.S. 162 for prospective students.
30. A commenter stated that students in Manhattan do not have to worry about co-locations and space issues, and inquired why.

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

- Comment 1 described the rationale behind Hostos Community College’s request to move Hostos off the campus, the timeline for discussions about the school’s relocation, and the commitment that Hostos Community College has to ensuring the continued success of Hostos in its new location. The DOE supports the continued relationship between Hostos

¹ The DOE received 30 written comments regarding its earlier proposal to re-site SBAAM to Building X162. That proposal was later withdrawn; a summary of those comments can be found in the notice of withdrawal, available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar232011Proposals.htm>.

² Excessing of staff occurs when a school requires fewer positions than the number of staff currently in the license area or job

and Hostos Community College. The DOE is committed to Hostos' continued success at X162 and continuing the early college program between Hostos and Hostos Community College.

- Comment 2 (a) from the principal of Green Dot sympathizes with Hostos's position and expresses his desire to ensure that the instruction and academic life of the schools in X162 continues. No response is necessary.
- Comments 2(b, d, e), 5, 6(b), 7(a, b), 12, 14, 15, 18, and 25 expressed concerns about the sufficiency of space in the X162 building and the condition of the facility.
 - Comments 2(b) and 7(b) express concern that the increase of students in the building will mean more congestion and might affect construction, school culture, class time, and safety. The DOE believes that the temporary split-siting of Hostos on different campuses for one year will allow J.H.S. 162 to decrease its enrollment slightly so that X162 can more easily absorb Hostos students. As indicated in the Under-utilized Space Memorandum Part II, released on February 17, 2011, X162 was identified preliminarily as an under-utilized building. (the memo is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6EBA8731-4A23-4E36-A528-157D795BA9CE/99427/UnderutilizedSpaceSpaceMemorandum021111.pdf>). If the re-siting and co-location proposal is approved, X162 is projected to enroll 1,330-1,555 students in 2011-2012, which would yield a utilization rate of approximately 94%. In 2012-2013, when the re-siting of Hostos is completed, and the ALC has been re-sited, the building will have an estimated enrollment of 1,365-1,620 students. This would yield an approximate utilization rate of 98%, indicating that there is sufficient space in the building to accommodate Hostos and the other currently co-located schools. Furthermore, because the projected enrollment for Hostos is expected to decrease slightly in future years to approximately 570 students (the standard enrollment for a 6-12 school at scale), the utilization rate for the building will decrease slightly as well.
 - Comments 2(d), 6(b), and 14 express concerns about the impact of the proposal on access to shared spaces, specifically the auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria and library, and request that the DOE consider how to improve these spaces. Comment 2(e) requested that the DOE improve the quality of classroom space. As in other situations where schools are co-located, schools in X162 would share large common and specialty rooms in the building, namely the cafeteria, the gymnasiums, the auditorium and the library. Specific decisions regarding the allocation of the shared spaces will be made by the Building Council, consisting of principals from all co-located schools, in conjunction with the DOE Office of Space Planning. In addition, a shared space committee will meet at least four times per year to review the implementation of the building space plans. As indicated in the EIS on pp. 6-9, the DOE does not anticipate that the proposal will adversely impact any of the X162 school's programs, extracurricular activities or partnerships.

All schools in the building will be able to continue having athletic teams. We anticipate that schools will have sufficient time on the black top yard to accommodate the needs of their athletic teams. Specific decisions about how much time each school will have and when will be made at the beginning of the year through the Building Council. It is unclear at this time whether the athletic teams of the schools currently located in X162 will have more or less practice time next year than they did this year.

Currently, there are no facility upgrade projects identified for X162. However, the DOE will continue to evaluate the X162 building and consider facilities upgrades to ensure that all students in the building are served according to their needs.

Comments 5 and 7 (a) expressed concern that having two high schools in the building will limit access to high school facilities and queried whether the DOE will expand access to facilities for high school research and the exploration of college opportunities. Hostos will continue being an early college secondary school in a collaboration between the Department of Education (“DOE”) and CUNY. If this proposal is approved, Hostos students will continue to have the opportunity to graduate with a Regents diploma granted by the DOE and an Associate Degree from Hostos Community College. Guidance counselors at Hostos will continue to help students with Post-secondary Planning. Please see the following links for more information:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Teachers/guidance/PostSecondary/default.htm> and
<http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E87396C8-B32F-43A0-9309-A6F533B60B53/24834/UFTguidanceBrochure1.pdf>.

This proposal is not anticipated to impact Green Dot’s college and career counseling services. For more information about Green Dot’s counseling, please see: http://www.greendot.org/newyork/counseling/counseling_announcements.

As discussed above, currently, there are no facility upgrade projects identified for X162. However, the DOE will continue to evaluate the X162 building and consider facilities upgrades to ensure that all students in the building are served according to their needs.

- Comments 15 and 25 express concerns that J.H.S. 162 will be allocated fewer rooms and teachers will have to share classrooms or relocate where they teach classes. As indicated in the EIS on p. 17, it is likely that J.H.S. 162 (which is currently operating over its baseline allocation) will receive fewer total rooms next year than it did in 2010-2011 due to its declining enrollment, although it will continue to receive at a minimum its adjusted baseline allocation. Specific decisions about which classrooms are allocated to a particular school will be made by the Building Council and the Office of Space Planning, and the manner in which a school uses the rooms it is allocated will be determined by the school’s

principal. With respect to the allocation of shared spaces, such as the auditorium and gym, the Building Council, which is comprised of the principals and/or charter leaders of each co-located school, will collaboratively develop a schedule for each school's use of the shared spaces.

- Comment 18 queried how the DOE assesses the benefits of shared spaces. This question is somewhat unclear, but to the extent that the commenter has queried why sharing buildings or co-locating schools is important, the following should be noted: Given that building space is scarce in New York City neighborhoods, and the growing enrollment needs of our 1.1 million students, the DOE must use its existing public buildings in the most efficient manner possible. Sharing space is central to New York City's strategy for school improvement. The DOE now has over 800 schools and programs (out of nearly 1,700 citywide) co-located with at least one other district or charter school in multi-school campus buildings. Co-locating Hostos in X162 will permit a high quality secondary school option to remain in District 7, where space is limited.

To the extent that the commenter has queried how individual shared spaces within a building (such as the gym, cafeteria and auditorium) are allocated, as discussed above, the Building Council will collaboratively develop a schedule for each school's use of the shared spaces.

- Comment 2(c) asserts that the DOE's Instructional Footprint does not taken into account what is best for a high-quality education and states that the DOE did not accurately assess the impact of the proposal on all schools in the X162 building. The Footprint is based, in part, on The Enrollment-Capacity-Utilization Report (the "Blue Book"), which remains the city-wide standard for assessing capacity within DOE buildings. The Footprint is an instructional translation of the information in the Blue Book, and is meant to assist school managers and staff in efficient programming of space. Key stakeholders throughout the Department of Education including the School Construction Authority, the Division of Portfolio Planning, Office of Space Planning, the Division of School Support & Instruction, and school principals were involved in developing these parameters.

As demonstrated in the EIS, there will be sufficient space to accommodate Hostos, J.H.S. 162, Green Dot, and X010@X162 (as well as the ALC in 2011-2012) pursuant to the "Footprint." In 2011-2012, even after each school has received its baseline allocation of rooms (or adjusted baseline allocation, as applicable), there will be 11 full-size rooms and 3 half-size rooms remaining. Similarly, in 2012-2013, after each school has received its baseline (or adjusted baseline) allocation of rooms, 10 full size and 1 half-size room will remain.

Furthermore, the EIS properly analyzes the impact of the proposal on the schools currently located in X162 by describing the anticipated impact on each school's enrollment, admissions, programs, extracurricular activities and partnerships, as well as the availability of space, among other things.

- Comment 12 queried where Hostos will be located in the X162 building. Specific decisions about the location of Hostos in the X162 building will be made by the Building Council in consultation with the Office of Space Planning, and will not be finalized until the proposal is voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy at its April 28 meeting.
- Comments 2(f), 4(c), 6(a, c, d) express concerns about the impact of the proposal on special needs students. X010@X162 students are not expected to be impacted by the re-siting of Hostos to the X162 building, nor is this proposal anticipated to impact the students at P010X's other sites. X010@X162 students will continue to be integrated into the X162 building and will share common spaces. As indicated in the EIS, X010@X162 will continue to receive its adjusted baseline allocation of rooms. Furthermore, current and future students with IEPs at Hostos, J.H.S. 162, Green Dot, X010@X162 will continue to receive mandated services.
- Comments 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 concern J.H.S.'s 162's downsize and the impact it will have on students.
 - Comment 3 suggests that all schools in the X162 building should downsize to accommodate Hostos, not just J.H.S. 162. In recent years, the demand for seats at J.H.S. 162 has declined. From 2006-2007 to 2009-2010, overall enrollment at the school dropped by 20%. Thus, J.H.S. 162's downsize is part of an already-existing enrollment trend. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, J.H.S. 162 will begin to downsize its incoming sixth grade enrollment. J.H.S. 162 currently serves 728 students, but in 2011-2012, it will serve approximately 580-625 students, and in 2012-2013, it will serve approximately 465-510 students. In 2013-2014, when J.H.S. is anticipated to complete its downsize, it will serve approximately 465 students. In addition, the ALC will move out of the X162 building prior to the 2012-2013 school year. The DOE believes that the downsize at J.H.S. 162 and re-siting the ALC prior to the 2012-2013 school year will provide sufficient space for all of Hostos' grades, J.H.S. 162, and Green Dot and X010@X162. Furthermore, unlike J.H.S. 162, X010X@X162 has not experienced a decline in enrollment, and Green Dot is still in the process of phasing-in. It should also be noted that, as disclosed in the EIS (p. 14), the projected enrollment for Hostos is expected to decrease slightly in future years to approximately 570 students (the standard enrollment for a 6-12 school at scale).
 - Comments 4(a), 9, 10, 23, 24 and 26 are from J.H.S. 162 teachers and alumni who are proud of J.H.S. 162's accomplishments and the fact that the school serves a large percentage of students with disabilities. The DOE commends the positive impact the school has had on many staff, alumni and current students. The DOE will continue to support J.H.S. 162 during its downsize.
 - Comments 4(d, e) and 13 state that the decrease of J.H.S. 162's enrollment was

already in progress and beyond the school's control and query whether the co-location was planned before. As noted above, enrollment at J.H.S. 162 decreased by 20% between 2006-2007 and 2009-2010, prior to the DOE's consideration of X162 as a site for Hostos. Comment 4(e) contends that if the DOE was committed to J.H.S. 162, it would help the school. Comment 13 expresses concern that the school will "lose its momentum" and be negatively impacted. The DOE will continue to support J.H.S. 162 during its downsize by monitoring its enrollment and the Office of Space Planning will work to ensure the success of the Building Council.

- Comments 8, 11, 22 express concern that the music and arts programs will be impacted by the downsizing of J.H.S. 162 because the school will receive less funding. The DOE has no plans to eliminate music or arts programs at J.H.S. 162. Please refer to pages 29-30 of the EIS for an explanation of how each school's basic operating budget is determined. Although it is likely that J.H.S. budget may decrease as a result of its downsized enrollment, principals have discretion over how to spend their allotted funds. As with all schools, J.H.S. 162 would continue to offer programs based on student interests, available resources, and staff support for those programs. Students would continue to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs though the specific programs offered at a given school are always subject to change. That is true for any City student as all schools modify offerings annually based on student demand and available resources. Resources will continue to be supplied to schools through Children's First Networks and school budgets will be allocated consistent with Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocation levels.
- Comments 16 and 27 express concern that technology, music and art teachers will be excessed as the result of J.H.S. 162's downsize. As indicated in the EIS on p. 28, some teachers, administrative and non-pedagogical staff at J.H.S. 162 may be excessed over the course of the downsize.² This process would take place gradually as student enrollment declines with each successive graduating class. With fewer students, the school's staffing needs will naturally be reduced. All excessing would be conducted in accordance with existing labor contracts.
- Comment 28 is a concern that J.H.S. 162 will eventually be phased out. Currently, the DOE has no plans to phase-out J.H.S. 162.
- Comment 29 is a concern that if programs are downsized at J.H.S. 162, this would decrease the attractiveness of J.H.S. 162 for prospective students. As discussed above, J.H.S. 162 would continue to offer programs based on student interests, available resources, and staff support for those programs.

² Excessing of staff occurs when a school requires fewer positions than the number of staff currently in the license area or job title.

- Comments 4(b) and 20 concern the approval process for proposals and query whether public input is considered. Proposals cannot be implemented unless the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approves them. All public comment received at joint public hearings and through the designated e-mail address and voicemail number are included in an analysis of public comment, which is presented to the PEP prior to its vote. Public input certainly influences the DOE and the PEP’s consideration of proposals. For example, after receiving feedback on the DOE’s original proposals to re-site Hostos to the X184 building and re-site SBAAM to the X162 building, those proposals were withdrawn and the proposal to re-site Hostos to X162 was forwarded instead.
- Comment 17 queried how parents were notified about the joint public hearing on April 6 at Hostos. On March 4, 2011, the CEC, CCHS, Community Boards, Superintendent, Principals and other stakeholders were all notified when the proposal to re-site Hostos to X162 was released. Principals received copies of the EIS, a parent letter and a joint public hearing notice. Both the joint public hearing and parent letter disclosed the dates, times and locations of the joint public hearings on this proposal, provided instructions on how to submit written or oral comments, and stated that hard copies of the EIS were available at each impacted schools’ main offices. The Superintendent instructed the principals of the impacted schools to backpack the parent letter and joint public hearing notice home to parents. The joint public hearing was scheduled 30-45 days after the proposal was released to give the community ample notice. The parent letters and public notices also disclosed when and where the Panel for Educational Policy will vote on this proposal.

The following comments do not directly relate to the proposal and therefore will not be addressed.

- Comment 18 queried whether the DOE compares the costs of housing multiple schools in one building with the cost of hiring new teachers.
- Comment 19 queried about the effects of turnover on student achievement.
- Comment 21 queried about what the DOE will do for students who will or may not attend college.
- Comment 30 concerned whether students in Manhattan are concerned about co-locations and space issues.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.