



Notice
May 10, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Expansion of the Co-Location of South Bronx Classical Charter School (84X346) with the School of Performing Arts (12X217) and Entrada Academy (12X384) in Building X116, Beginning in 2013-2014

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand the grades served by South Bronx Classical Charter School (84X346, “Bronx Classical”) in school building X116 (“X116”), from kindergarten through fifth grades to kindergarten through eighth grades. Building X116 is located at 977 Fox Street, Bronx, New York 10459, in Community School District 12 (“District 12”). Bronx Classical, an existing public charter school currently serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades in X116, has been approved to expand to serve the sixth through eighth grades. If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), Bronx Classical will begin serving sixth grade in X116 in 2013-2014 and will add seventh and eighth grades in the subsequent two years, thereby completing the expanded co-location in the 2015-2016.

Bronx Classical is currently co-located in X116 with School of Performing Arts (12X217, “Performing Arts”), an existing district middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grades, and Entrada Academy (12X384, “Entrada Academy”), also an existing district middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grades. Building X116 also provides space to three community-based organizations (“CBOs”): the Beacon program, Simpson Street Development Association (“SISDA”), and Montefiore Medical Center. The DOE anticipates that the Beacon program, SISDA, and Montefiore Medical Center will not lose any space or reduce the services offered as a result of this proposal. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Bronx Classical was originally authorized under its charter from the DOE to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The school applied to and was approved by the DOE’s Charter School Office on December 14, 2011, and the State Education Department (“SED”) at its February 13-14, 2012 meeting, to expand to serve middle school grades. Bronx Classical sought this expansion in response to families’ requests for a middle school.

Bronx Classical, whose mission is to prepare kindergarten- through fifth-grade students to excel in college-preparatory high schools, currently admits students through a charter lottery application, giving preference to students who reside in District 12.

Performing Arts admits students to its zoned and choice programs through the District 12 Middle School Choice Process. Entrada Academy admits students through the District 12 Middle School Choice Process as well.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), X116 has the capacity to serve 1,321 students. Currently, the building serves 981 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 74%. This means that the building is underutilized and that the space could be used more efficiently to serve more students. Bronx Classical is serving 322 students in kindergarten through fifth grades in the 2011-2012 school year.

If this proposal is approved by the PEP, Bronx Classical will begin its grade expansion in the X116 building during the 2013-2014 school year. This means that next school year, 2012-2013, there will be no change in how building X116 is used. In the 2012-2013 school year, the building is projected to serve a comparable number of students as it serves in the current 2011-2012 school year.

However, during school year 2013-2014, the first year of the proposed expansion, the school will serve a total of approximately 300-370 kindergarten through sixth-grade students in X116. In the 2014-2015 school year, the second year of the proposed expansion, Bronx Classical will serve a total of approximately 320-400 kindergarten through seventh-grade students in X116. In the 2015-2016 school year, the third and final year of the proposed expansion, Bronx Classical will serve approximately 340-430 kindergarten through eighth-grade students in X116. At this time, the projected target utilization rate of building X116 is 77-88%, which means there is sufficient space to accommodate all three schools at scale.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) can be found on the DOE’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/June2012Proposals>

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of the School of Performing Arts, Entrada Academy, and Bronx Classical.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to: D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at: (212) 374-5159

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

Name: Rosa Fernández
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
E-mail: D12Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

V. Date, time, and place of Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.

When: June 20, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: School Building X116
977 Fox Street
Bronx, NY 10459

Questions about the proposal should 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.

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

When: June 26, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225