



Public Comment Analysis

Date: June 25, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Re-Siting, Grade Expansion, and Co-location of P.S. 48 William C. Wilcox (31R048) with a District 75 Program (75RTBD) at New Building R071 Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: June 26, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site and expand P.S. 48 William C. Wilcox (31R048, “P.S. 48”), an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves 551 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.^{1,2} P.S. 48 is currently located in building R048 (“R048”) at 1055 Targee Street, Staten Island, NY 10304 in Community School District 31. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 48 will be re-sited to new building R071 (“R071”) located at 1050 Targee Street, Staten Island, NY 10304 also in Community School District 31. A “re-siting” means that a school will be located in a different building than the building it is currently located in.

This proposal also describes a planned grade expansion at P.S. 48, which will be submitted to the DOE’s Office of New Schools for approval. The proposal provides that in the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 48 will enroll sixth grade students for the first time. The school will then add one grade each year until reaching full scale serving students in grades kindergarten through eight in the 2015-2016 school year. The expansion at P.S. 48 provides the opportunity for its elementary students to have a seamless transition into middle school. The re-siting into a new building provides students a facility that includes a gymnasium, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a music suite (including a music instrument storeroom), a science room, and a science lab/demo room. Finally, since the R048 building is over-utilized and the current building is not sufficient to meet the growing elementary school demand, this re-siting will help relieve over-crowding in the community.

¹ A student’s zoned school is determined by his or her home address. For more information about school zoning and admissions processes for zoned elementary schools, please visit the DOE website’s School Search function at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/>.

² 2011-2012 Audited Register.

Building R071 is a new site currently under construction by the School Construction Authority (“SCA”). The re-siting and grade expansion of P.S. 48 is contingent upon the completion of this new building. The new building also includes designed space for a District 75 (“D75”) school. As such, if this proposal is approved, P.S. 48 will be co-located with a yet-to-be determined D75 school (“75RTBD”). A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building, often sharing large common spaces like the auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria. Because it is a newly constructed facility, no school organization currently uses space at R071. The building is projected to have the capacity to serve 844 students.³ If this proposal is approved, P.S. 48 K-5 students will be re-sited to R071 for the 2013-2014 school year with the sixth grade cohort and a District 75 school. During the 2013-2014 school year, these organizations will serve approximately 702-782 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 83-93%. In the 2015-2016 school year, when P.S. 48 has reached full-scale serving students in grades kindergarten through eight, there will be a total of approximately 830-920 students. The District 75 school is projected to serve approximately 62-72 students in the 2015-2016 school year, yielding a projected building utilization rate for both organizations of 106-118%.⁴

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS, which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/June2012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 48.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing was held at P.S. 48 in building R048 on June 20, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing, and three people spoke. Present at the meeting were Community School District 31 Superintendent Erminia Claudio; District 31 Community Education Council (“CEC”) Members Sam Pirozzolo and Steven Beck; P.S. 48 Principal Jacqueline Mammolito; P.S. 48 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Members Beth Cohen, Susan Orlandi, Marie Verdutti, Christine Murphy, Yan Xu, Susan Laun, Lori Aiello, and Lisaann Siracusa; and Emily Ades from the Office of Portfolio Management.

³ Reported by School Construction Authority (“SCA”) in the Building Completions Report.

⁴ All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization, Report (the “Blue Book”). Utilization rates referenced for the 2011-2012 school year is based on audited enrollment and do not include Long Term Absences (“LTAs”), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2011. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

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

Comment 1: CEC President Sam Pirozzolo congratulated the P.S. 48 community and commented that CEC 31 fully supports the proposal.

Comment 2: The PTA President of P.S. 48, Lori Aiello, spoke on behalf of the parents and students at P.S.48 and expressed full support for the move and grade expansion. She expressed her gratitude to the Mayor, the Chancellor, Councilman James Otto, Principal Mammolito, and the P.S. 48 staff for their advocacy and support of the P.S. 48 community.

Comment 3: Steven Matteo from Councilman Otto's office read a statement from the Councilman thanking the Mayor, Chancellor, and the principal. He praised the PTA and thanked them for their efforts and advocacy on behalf of the community. He noted that in 2006, he presented the idea to the DOE to purchase the Doctor's Hospital site which has lead to where we are today with a new building for P.S. 48 and a grade expansion to serve students in grades K-8 which will benefit the community greatly. He urged approval of the proposal by the PEP.

The DOE received no comments at the joint public hearing which did not directly relate to the proposal.

The DOE received no written and/or oral comments through its dedicated phone line and e-mail for this proposal.

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

Comments 1, 2 and 3 were all in favor of the proposal and do not require response.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.