



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
March 1, 2016

The Proposed Consolidation of M.S. 326 Writers Today & Leaders Tomorrow (06M326) with M.S. 328 Manhattan Middle School for Scientific Inquiry (06M328) in Building M164 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to consolidate M.S. 326 Writers Today & Leaders Tomorrow (06M326, “M.S. 326”) with M.S. 328 Manhattan Middle School for Scientific Inquiry (06M328, “M.S. 328”), two existing District 6 middle schools serving students in sixth through eighth grades in building M164 (“M164”), located at 401 West 164th Street, New York, NY 10032, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The DOE is proposing to consolidate M.S. 326 and M.S. 328 because both schools have struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. A “consolidation” means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. If this proposal is approved, M.S. 326 and M.S. 328 will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of M.S. 326 will become part of M.S. 328 and M.S. 326 will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2016-2017 school year.

M.S. 326 and M.S. 328 are currently co-located in M164. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. M164 also houses a community-based organization (“CBO”), Beacon. If this proposal is approved, Beacon will continue to provide services and maintain its space in M164.

The New York State Education Department (“SED”) assigns an accountability status to each district school—Good Standing, Local Assistance Plan, Focus, or Priority. Both M.S. 326 and M.S. 328 are identified as a Local Assistance Plan (“LAP”) school. If this proposal is approved, the newly consolidated school would retain M.S. 328’s status as a LAP school.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate M.S. 326 with M.S. 328 based primarily on the benefits students would derive from the additional resources made available by consolidating the two school organizations into one. If this proposal is approved, students attending the consolidated M.S. 328 will have access to a variety of academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports that would not be financially feasible for either individual school to offer in the absence of a consolidation.

Building M164 has the capacity to serve a total of 907 students. If this proposal is approved, in 2016-2017, M.S. 328 will absorb the enrollment of M.S. 326 and will serve a projected 225-255

students in sixth through eighth grades, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 25%-28%. If this proposal is approved, M164 will still be considered under-utilized because the consolidation is not expected to significantly change the total building enrollment, and there will still be significant excess space available in the building. If this proposal is approved, the DOE anticipates issuing another proposal for the use of that excess space.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/April202016SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of M.S. 326 and M.S. 328.

III. Submission of public comment.

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. Members of the public that do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as described below. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the PEP the evening before the PEP votes.

Written comments can be sent to D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

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: Eric Herman
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10038
Email: D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

April 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Building M164
401 West 164th Street
New York, NY 10032

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in Section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing, at 5:30 PM, and will close 15 minutes after the start of the hearing.

VI. Date, time and place of the PEP meeting at which the PEP will vote on the proposed item.

April 20, 2016 at 6:00 PM
M.S. 131
100 Hester Street
New York, NY 10002