



Date: January 26, 2010

Topic: Proposed Extension to the Co-Location of PAVE Academy Charter School (84K651) and P.S. 15 Patrick F. Daly (15K015)

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### **Summary of Proposal**

This is a proposal to extend PAVE Academy Charter School's co-location with P.S. 15 Patrick F. Daly in school building K015, located at 71 Sullivan Street, Brooklyn in Community School District 15 ("District 15"). PAVE currently serves grades K-2, and P.S. 15 serves grades pre-K-5. In 2010-2011, PAVE will add grade 3 and will continue a gradual phase-in, adding one additional grade each year, until it reaches its full grade K-8 scale. PAVE will remain in K015 until construction of a new facility for the school is completed. Construction is currently expected to be completed in 2013, pending availability of funding and on-time construction schedules. Should construction be completed according to current plans, PAVE will move out of the K015 building for the 2013-2014 school year when it will serve grade K-6. The proposal as originally posted indicated that PAVE would remain in K015 through the 2014-2015 school year if construction of its new facility is not completed as scheduled. Approximately 260 additional grades K-8 seats will be gained in District 15 by the continued gradual phase-in of PAVE.

An Educational Impact Statement on this proposal was posted on the Department of Education's website on December 11, 2009.

### **Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing**

A joint public hearing was held at K015 on January 19, 2010, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Forty-three members of the public spoke in opposition to proposal, citing concerns about the large number of special education students served at P.S. 15 and the belief that the Department of Education's Instructional Footprint does not accurately account for the space required to provide services such as speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Members of the public opposed to the proposal also expressed concerns about the potential loss of classrooms dedicated to enrichment programs such as music and the fact that PAVE made a commitment to move out of the building after two years and is now requesting an extension. Community members who spoke in opposition to the proposal

expressed frustration with the Department of Education for pitting two schools against each other.

Thirteen members of the public spoke in favor of the proposal, stating that PAVE is committed to raising millions of dollars to build a new school facility in Red Hook, has identified a property, and received approval on its application to the Department of Education and School Construction Authority's Charter Facility Matching Grant Program. Parents of students at PAVE spoke in favor of the proposal stating that they are very satisfied with the instruction, sense of community, and stability their children experience at PAVE. Parents of PAVE students who receive special education and English language learner services at PAVE spoke in support of the school and noted that they are satisfied with the services their children receive.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Written and Oral Comments and Significant Alternatives Suggested**

A total of 247 oral and written comments regarding this proposal have been received; comments were received from PAVE and P.S. 15 parents, members of the PAVE Board of Trustees, anonymous commenters, David Bloomfield of Brooklyn College, and City Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez. Eighty-two comments were opposed to the proposal; the remaining 165 were in support. Those in opposition to the proposal, including David Bloomfield, stated their belief that PAVE's presence creates overcrowding and a noisy environment in P.S. 15, opposed the presence of a charter school in the building, and expressed concern over possible class size increase due to PAVE's presence. Council Member Gonzalez opposes the proposal and stated that the DOE had originally agreed that PAVE would be co-located with P.S. 15 only for two years, and the Educational Impact Statement makes no claims about the length of PAVE's co-location with P.S. 15. Individuals in support of the proposal expressed PAVE's need to remain in the building until its new building is constructed.

The only significant alternative to the proposal to extend the co-location of PAVE in the K015 building was to move PAVE to the 15K027 building, another school facility located in the Red Hook community, and move the Red Hook Neighborhood School (a new zoned elementary school that opened in the 2009-2010 school year in the K027 building) to the K015 building.

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

The K015 building has 45 full size rooms. Currently, P.S. 15 has 38 full size rooms and 24 sections; including three pre-Kindergarten classes, six self-contained special education classes, and 18 general education / CTT classes. The Department of Education Instructional Footprint allocates P.S. 15 24 full size instructional rooms, three full size cluster rooms, and three resource rooms, for a total of 30 rooms. There are eight available full size classrooms in the K015 building.

P.S. 15 also uses six half size rooms and five administrative spaces (main office, principal's office, assistant principal's office, PTA room, and teachers lounge). There is a gym,

auditorium, lunch room and library in the K015 building. The space occupied by Good Sheppard Services and Lutheran Medical Center in K015 is not counted as part of the eight available full size classrooms.

Principals make the determination regarding how space is utilized within his or her allocation of space. The Division of School Support and the Office of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners is working with the principal and School Leadership Team at P.S. 15 to ensure the appropriate delivery of special education services, including advising the school on better use of available space.

The DOE has chosen not to accept the suggested alternative to move PAVE to K027 and to move the Red Hook Neighborhood School from K027 to K015 because it would require rezoning and subject students to additional moves. The Red Hook Neighborhood School is a zoned elementary school. The K015 building is located one mile away from K027. Relocating the Red Hook Neighborhood School to the K015 building would require students zoned to the Red Hook Neighborhood School to attend school in a building located outside of their zone. The move of Red Hook Neighborhood School would impact pupil transportation and require a school to move in its second year of operation. The DOE makes every attempt to avoid the re-location of zoned schools given the impact it has on the surrounding neighborhood and school community. Moreover, those who favor the move of Red Hook Neighborhood School to the K015 building rather than the extension of PAVE's co-location with P.S. 15 assert that there is not sufficient space for PAVE in the building. However, placing the 250 Red Hook Neighborhood School students in the building would increase the utilization of K015 similar to the utilization increase caused by the siting of PAVE in the building.

Accordingly, the DOE does not believe the alternative proposal is in the best interest of students. The DOE has, however, made one change to the proposal. Originally, the proposal said that PAVE could remain in the building until the end of the 2014-2015 school year. After receiving feedback from the public and further consideration, the DOE has changed the proposal to allow PAVE to remain in the building until the end of the 2012-2013 school year, rather than until the end of the 2014-2015 school year. The Educational Impact Statement for the proposal has been updated to reflect this change.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/F0043783-8608-433C-855E-99228622A268/73888/PAVE\\_Final1.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/F0043783-8608-433C-855E-99228622A268/73888/PAVE_Final1.pdf).