



Date: January 26, 2010

Topic: The Proposed Re-siting of Greenwich Village Middle School to the Broadway Educational Complex and Co-location with the Urban Assembly School of Business for Young Women

Date of Panel Vote: January 26, 2010

---

### **Summary of Proposal**

The Educational Impact Statement on this proposal was posted on the New York City Department of Education's (hereinafter referred to as "DOE") Web site on September 25, 2009. A revised version of the Educational Impact Statement was posted on October 26, 2009 after it had been supplemented with additional information.

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Greenwich Village Middle School (02M896, hereinafter referred to as "GVMS"), an existing school serving students in grades 6-8, will move from its current location in Community School District 2 ("District 2") to the Broadway Education Complex, building M282 ("BEC"), located at 26 Broadway, Manhattan.

GVMS is currently housed at M003, located at 490 Hudson Street, Manhattan in District 2 and is co-located with P.S. 3 Charrette School (02M003, "P.S. 003"), an elementary school serving grades Kindergarten-5, at M003. P.S. 3 will remain in M003 after the GVMS move. The Urban Assembly School of Business for Young Women (02M316, "UA School of Business") is currently housed in M282. UA School of Business is a single-sex school serving grades 9-12; GVMS will co-locate with UA School of Business at M282. M282 has sufficient space to accommodate GVMS and UA School of Business at full organizational capacity. GVMS will continue to serve grades 6-8 at M282. GVMS will be housed in the newly acquired space of M282 and has a capacity of 361.

The move of GVMS will relieve overcrowding in Lower Manhattan elementary schools by making additional space available in M003 for P.S. 003 to serve additional early-childhood and elementary school students. Furthermore, new District 2 middle school seats will be created when GVMS moves to M282.

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

Two public hearings regarding this proposal were held. Both hearings were open to the public, and all interested parties had an opportunity to comment on the proposals. The first hearing was held at the M003 building on October 29, 2009, and the second hearing was held at BEC on November 4, 2009. Six individuals commented at the first hearing and four individuals offered comments at the second hearing. The majority of these individuals expressed opposition to the proposal. Speakers opposed the proposal for the following reasons: (1) concerns about the cost of leasing space at BEC; and (2) the impact of moving GVMS out of the Greenwich Village neighborhood into the Financial District. Several speakers suggested 75 Morton Street as a better location for GVMS. Individuals in favor of the proposal noted the need to relieve overcrowding at P.S. 3 and the benefit of additional middle school seats.

Due to concerns that elected officials and interested individuals in the community may not have been aware of the hearings, two additional hearings were held. The first was held on January 20, 2010 at M003, and the second on January 21, 2010 at M282. There were 7 speakers at the first hearing and 3 speakers at the second. The majority of comments were supportive of the increased elementary and middle school capacity that would result from the proposed move of GVMS, while also expressing strong concerns that Greenwich Village would no longer have a middle school, and that the location chosen for GVMS is very expensive. In addition, speakers were concerned that a great deal of money is being spent to provide facilities for GVMS, but there are no funds available to upgrade facilities at P.S. 3 to better enable that school to serve its anticipated increased enrollment. They expressed the need for capacity upgrades to its cafeteria, playground, and bathrooms.

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

A total of ten written comments regarding this proposal have been received; comments were received from two unidentified individuals, two parents of students at P.S. 3, two parents of students in other District 2 schools, a Greenwich Village resident, a representative of Class Size Matters (“CSM”), the District 2 Community Education Council (CEC), and P.S. 3 School Leadership Team. The majority of those presenting comments expressed opposition to the proposal. Commenters questioned the cost of leasing space at BEC, advocated for moving GVMS to 75 Morton Street, and expressed their belief that GVMS should remain in Greenwich Village. Individuals in support of the proposal expressed a need to relieve overcrowding and serve additional elementary school students at P.S. 3. The CEC supports the proposed relocation in order to alleviate overcrowding, but questions the cost of the new location, and regrets the loss of a middle school in Greenwich Village. The CEC also requests support for principals undergoing a move to ensure a smooth transition to their new site, and suggests creation of a “School Relocation Guidebook.” The P.S. 3 School Leadership Team supported the proposal, but it also regretted the loss of a middle school in Greenwich Village.

The only significant alternative to a move to BEC proposed was 75 Morton Street, a facility owned by New York State.

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

The DOE chose not to accept the alternative proposed by the opposition and will present the proposal as it was posted to the Panel for Educational Policy. The building located at 75 Morton Street is not under DOE control, either by lease or ownership, and could not be ready for a school siting in September 2010. The need to relieve overcrowding in District 2 elementary schools is significant and must be addressed as quickly as possible.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/02182640-D03A-436A-A1CF-BDEF97FF81F4/70143/AmendedEISGVMS3.pdf>