

Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 22, 2016

Topic: The Proposed Grade Truncation of Brooklyn School for Global Studies (15K429) in Building K293 from a 6-12 School to a 9-12 School Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: March 23, 2016

Summary of Proposal

On February 5, 2016, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) describing a proposal to truncate the grades served by Brooklyn School for Global Studies (15K429, “Global Studies”) from a secondary school to a high school beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. Global Studies currently serves students in grades seven through twelve in building K293 (“K293”), located at 284 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, in Community School District 15 (“District 15”). If this proposal is approved, Global Studies would phase out its middle school grades such that it would serve students in grades 8-12 in 2016-2017 and grades 9-12 in 2017-2018 and beyond. Global Studies is currently co-located with School for International Studies (15K497, “International Studies”), a secondary school serving students in grades six through twelve; Success Academy Charter School – Cobble Hill (84K129, “SA-Cobble Hill”), an elementary school currently serving students in grades kindergarten through four and serving one section of full-day pre-kindergarten (“Pre-K”), which will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and pre-kindergarten at scale; and P.S. 368 (75K368), one site of an existing multi-sited District 75 program, serving students in grades nine through twelve. 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.

Although Global Studies’ current grade span is 6-12, due to an error, students who were admitted to Global Studies for sixth grade for the 2015-2016 school year were enrolled at International Studies and other district schools. To minimize disruption, sixth grade students were not transferred back to Global Studies’ roster for the 2015-2016 school year. As such, Global Studies does not serve any sixth grade students in the current school year. Rather, Global Studies currently serves students in grades seven through twelve. If this proposal is approved, in the 2016-2017 school year, Global Studies will serve students in grades eight through twelve, and grades six and seven will be truncated. The following school year, Global Studies will complete the truncation of its middle school grades, serving only students in grades nine through twelve as of the 2017-2018 school year.

This proposal was developed in collaboration with the Brooklyn High Schools Superintendent and Global Studies’ school leadership, who believe that the truncation of Global Studies’ middle school grades will benefit the Global Studies and District 15 communities by allowing the school to focus its programming, resources, and recruitment more specifically on high school grades.

If this proposal is approved, Global Studies will no longer serve sixth- and seventh-grade students after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, and will no longer serve eighth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year. Current students in grade seven who are eligible for promotion, as well as any current eighth-grade students who do not meet promotional requirements, will continue to be served at Global Studies as eighth-grade students in the 2016-2017 school year. If students do not meet promotional requirements and must repeat a grade that is no longer served by Global Studies, those students will be offered a seat at another middle school in District 15 or their zoned middle school district (if different). Current seventh- and eighth-grade students will continue to have priority to enroll in Global Studies’ high school. There are a sufficient number of seventh-grade and eighth-grade seats in District 15 to accommodate any Global Studies students who are required to repeat the seventh grade in the 2016-2017 school year or the eighth grade in the 2017-2018 school year. Similarly, there are

a sufficient number of middle school seats in District 15 to accommodate any future middle school students who would have been served at Global Studies.

The details of this proposal have been released in the EIS and BUP which can be accessed here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/March232016SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Global Studies, International Studies, SA – Cobble Hill, and P.S. 368.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

The DOE held a Joint Public Hearing regarding this proposal at the K293 building on March 14, 2016. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on this proposal. Approximately 16 members of the public attended the hearing. There were 4 speakers. Individuals present at the hearing included: Brooklyn High Schools Superintendent, Karen Watts; District 15 Community Superintendent, Anita Skop; Citywide Council for District 75 (“CCD75”) 1st Vice President and P.S. 368 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) member, Celia Green; Citywide Council for High School (“CCHS”) representative, Marianne Russo; Global Studies Principal and Global Studies SLT member, Dawn Meconi; Global Studies SLT member, Joseph Powell; P.S. 368 Principal, Joycelyn Nedd; and Albery Corona, Brandon Bloomfield and Greg Whitten from the DOE. Representatives from International Studies and Community Education Council 15 confirmed their availability but did not attend the hearing, whereas SA – Cobble Hill confirmed their availability but instead sent a Success Academy network representative to attend the hearing. Representatives for New York City Councilman Steven Levin and the New York City Comptroller’s Office were also in attendance but did not make comments.

Below is a summary of the comments received at the Joint Public Hearing:

1. District 15 Community Superintendent, Anita Skop, commented that she is here to support the truncation and that she supports the decision of Global Studies to focus more fully on high school students. She stated that she feels this proposal will enable Global Studies to better serve high school students and that this proposal is good for students.
2. CDC75 1st Vice President and P.S. 368 SLT member, Celia Green, commented that she is in favor of this proposal and feels that this proposal is well thought out regarding its impact on students.
3. CCHS representative, Marianne Russo, commented that she believes this proposal will allow Global Studies to better focus on the needs of high school students and that she is in support of the proposal.
4. Global Studies SLT representative, Joseph Powell, commented that he is a former student of Global Studies, and that he is in support of the truncation of the middle school grades to allow the school to best serve students in its high school grades.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

The DOE received zero (0) voicemails through the dedicated phone number for this proposal.

The DOE received zero (0) emails through the dedicated email address for this proposal.

Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comments 1-4 all stated support for the proposal.

The DOE appreciates the support for this proposal that all commenters expressed and looks forward to supporting all school organizations in K293 through the process of Global Studies’ grade truncation, if this proposal is approved.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.