

Public Comment Analysis

Date: March 22, 2016

Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-Location of a New Site of an Existing District 75 School P.S. K140 (75K140) with P.S. 026 Jesse Owens (16K026) and Madiba Prep Middle School (16K681) in Building K026 Beginning in 2016-2017

Date of Panel Vote: March 23, 2016

Summary of Proposal

On February 4, 2016, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate a new site of P.S. K140 (75K140), an existing District 75 school, in building K026 (“K026”), to be called “P140K@K026,” beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. K026 is located at 1014 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 in Community School District 16 (“District 16”). A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces such as the auditorium, gymnasium, library, and cafeteria. If this proposal is approved, P140K@K026 will be co-located with P.S. 026 Jesse Owens (16K026, “P.S. 26”), an existing district elementary school currently serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a full-day pre-kindergarten (“Pre-K”) program, and Madiba Prep Middle School (16K681, “Madiba Prep”), an existing district middle school currently serving students in grades sixth through eighth. K026 also currently houses the District 16 Superintendent’s office.

Building K026 also currently houses Frederick Douglass Academy IV Secondary School (16K393, “FDA IV”), however, per a previously approved EIS, FDA IV will be re-sited to building K057, located at 125 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. A “re-siting” means that students will attend classes in a building different from the building in which they currently attend classes. The proposal to re-site FDA IV to K057 was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy on December 16, 2015. More information about the proposal to re-site FDA IV to K057 can be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/December2015SchoolProposals>.

Based on a projected increased need for District 75 seats across the borough, the District 75 Placement Office is seeking to increase its capacity to serve students who have been classified as having autism, intellectual disabilities and/or multiple disabilities who reside in Brooklyn. Since the 2012-2013 school year, District 75 enrollment has grown by over 1,300 students citywide. If this proposal is approved, the DOE will open a new site for an existing District 75 school, P140K@K026, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. P140K@K026 will serve a range of students across kindergarten through fifth grade who are classified as autistic, intellectually disabled or multiply disabled under an Individualized Education Program (“IEP”). P140K@K026 is projected to serve nine sections of students in self-contained sections in 8:1:1 or 6:1:1 classroom settings (ratio of students: teacher: paraprofessional). Students are placed in District 75 programs based on their individual needs and recommended special education services, and are referred to District 75 during a period that extends into summer. Students may be served in this program throughout the course of their education.

If approved, this proposal will add approximately 54-72 District 75 self-contained seats in K026 for District 75 elementary school students who are classified as autistic, intellectually disabled or multiply disabled on their IEPs. These additional seats are necessary to meet the increased demand for District 75 self-contained programming in Brooklyn.

The details of this proposal have been released in the EIS which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/March232016SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 26, Madiba Prep, and P.S. K140.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

The DOE held a Joint Public Hearing regarding this proposal at the K026 building on March 9, 2016. At that meeting, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on this proposal. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the hearing and there were 7 speakers. Individuals present at the meeting included: Acting District 16 Superintendent, Rahesha Amon; District 75 Superintendent, Ketler Louissaint; Community Education Council 16 (“CEC 16”) President, NeQuan McLean; Madiba Prep Principal, Sharon Stephens; Madiba Prep School Leadership Team (“SLT”) members, Jean-Claude Dorelus and Doris Twine; P.S. 26 Assistant Principal, Nola Spence; P.S. 26 SLT member, Marta Torres; P.S. K140 Principal, Roderick Palton; and from the DOE, Jyoti Folch and Greg Whitten.

1. CEC 16 President, NeQuan McLean, commented that CEC 16 is excited to welcome this District 75 program to District 16 and to offer an additional District 75 program for students to remain close to home in District 16. Additionally, CEC 16 is open to supporting the placement of any additional District 75 programs in District 16 in the future.
2. Marta Torres, P.S. 26 SLT member, commented that she agrees with the proposal and thinks that the District 75 program is a great idea for building K026.
3. Jean-Claude Dorelus, Madiba Prep SLT member, commented that he is in favor of the proposal.
4. Roderick Palton, P.S. K140 Principal, commented that he is in favor of the proposal and that, if the proposal is approved, he is excited to continue his collaboration with District 16 schools.
5. Sharon Stephens, Madiba Prep Principal, commented that she is favor of the proposal and feels that this will present an exciting opportunity for K026 that will help to develop children more holistically with greater tolerance, understanding, and compassion for others.
6. Nola Spence, P.S. 26 Assistant Principal, commented that she speaks on behalf of herself and Principal Cynthia Celestine, who was out sick, in saying that she is in approval of this proposal and excited about the idea of the District 75 program joining the K026 community.
7. Ketler Louissaint, District 75 Superintendent, commented that he is excited for and in favor of the proposal, and that he knows that the District 75 students in the program will be welcomed and well taken care of.

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, Significant Alternatives, Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comments 1-7 all stated support and excitement for the proposal.

The DOE appreciates the enthusiasm and support for this proposal that all commenters expressed, and looks forward to offering a new District 75 program in District 16 at the K026 building if this proposal is approved.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.