Department of Education

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Notice
October 1, 2010

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 104 The Bays Water School (27Q104) to a K-5 School

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

P.S. 104 The Bays Water (27Q104, "P.S. 104") is an existing elementary school located at 26-01 Mott Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY 11691, in Community School District 27. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. This is a proposal to implement a "grade truncation," meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2010-11 school year.

Under this proposal, at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 104. In September 2011, these students will enter middle schools as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 104 will serve students only Kindergarten through fifth grade and offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 104 students will move on to middle school for sixth grade.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school at every stage of their education. Having elementary schools that terminate in different grades (i.e., K-5 versus K-6) creates unequal levels of access for students based simply on the year they exit elementary school.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 27, giving P.S. 104 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 27, and in particular their peers on the Rockaway Peninsula.

Currently, P.S. 104 students who wait until seventh grade to enter middle school are limited to their zoned middle school or those unzoned, choice middle schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. These choice schools rarely have open seventh-grade seats, which become available only in the rare cases when sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 104 through sixth grade currently have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

Additionally, P.S. 104 students who start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering middle school a year later than most of their classmates, and they remain in their new middle school for only two years before again transitioning to high school.

52 Chambers Street • Room 320 • New York, NY 10007
Telephone: 212-374-0209 Fax: 212-374-5588

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

The Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/11162010PEP

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

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: Debra Wexler
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 104 The Bays Water School
26-01 Mott Avenue
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

There will be no question and answer period. Questions about the proposal can be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

November 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217