



Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

### **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: April 16, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Co-Location of a District 79 program (79M645) with Existing Schools Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research (08X332) and Banana Kelly High School (08X530) in Building X039 Beginning in 2013-2014

Date of Panel Vote: April 17, 2013

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### **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open a new site for an existing District 79 program, The School of Cooperative Technical Education (79M645, “Co-op Tech”), in building X039 (“X039”), located at 965 Longwood Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459 in Community School District 8 (“District 8”) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. If this proposal is approved, Co-op Tech will be co-located in building X039 with Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research (08X332, “Holcombe Rucker”) and Banana Kelly High School (08X530, “Banana Kelly”), two existing district high schools serving students in grades nine through twelve.

As part of District 79 Alternative Schools and Programs, Co-op Tech provides part-time programming in which students receive rigorous technical instruction combined with meaningful career development opportunities and support services. Co-op Tech offers Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) classes, industry-recognized assessments and certifications, and work-based learning opportunities. Co-op Tech’s shared instructional model allows students to attend an academic program for a half-day at the school in which he or she is enrolled and attend Co-op Tech’s CTE classes for the other half of the day. All students participating in Co-op Tech’s program remain on register at their home school and will receive their diploma from their home school, provided they satisfy the applicable graduation requirements.

Co-op Tech serves a vast array of students, many of whom face significant obstacles, need additional supports to succeed in their current academic setting, or require alternative pathways to attain a high school or General Educational Development (“GED”) diploma. Aged 16 to 21, Co-op Tech students attend a wide range of secondary programs tailored to meet their individual needs. Students attend traditional high schools, GED programs, and/or drug treatment facilities. In addition, some students are re-entering the community from correctional and involuntary settings, possess an Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) or IEP diploma, or are post-graduates. The average length of participation for these students can vary from one semester to one year depending on their current educational plan.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), X039 has a target capacity of 1,050 students. During the 2012-2013 school year the building is serving 710 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 68%. In 2013-2014, when Co-op Tech is co-located in building

X039, it is projected that there will be 770-862 students served in X039, for a building utilization rate of 73%-82%.

The details of this proposal are described in an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/April2013Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Holcombe Rucker and Banana Kelly.

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

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at the X039 building on April 4, 2013. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing, and 1 person spoke. Present at the meeting were: High School Community Superintendent Carron Staple; Holcombe Rucker’s School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Representatives: Principal Sharif Rucker and Eric Adesah; Banana Kelly SLT Representatives: Principal Charlette Pope, Tatom Ross, Marcellies Storal, Joahan Suarez, and Tatom Suarez; and Ashley Davies and Stephanie Crane from the DOE’s Division of Portfolio Planning.

Members of the District 8 Community Education Council were invited to participate and confirmed their availability, but did not attend the hearing.

### **The following questions, comments, and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:**

1. Joahan Suarez, a representative from the Banana Kelly SLT, inquired about the availability of space for a new program in the building, what constitutes excess space, and where the program will be placed in the building.

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

2. One commenter asked if additional staff will be sent to this new location from the Co-op Tech’s main campus.

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

Comment 1 concerns the designation of “excess space” in the X039 building and where the Co-op Tech program will be located in the building if the proposal is approved.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), X039 has a target capacity of 1,050 students. During the 2012-2013 school year, the building is serving 710 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 68%. This means that the building is underutilized.

The allocation of classroom, resource, and administrative space is guided by the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) which is applied to all schools in the building. The DOE seeks to fully utilize all its building capacity to serve students. Using the Footprint (described more below) to guide space allocations for the co-located organizations, there is “excess space” in the building. “Excess space” refers to space in excess of the baseline number of rooms allocated to each school according to the Footprint.

The Footprint is the guide used to allocate space to all schools based on the number of class sections the school programs and the grade levels of the school. The number of class sections at each school is determined by the Principal based on enrollment, budget, and student needs; there is a standard guideline of target class size (i.e., number of students in a class section) for each grade level. At the middle school and high school levels, the Footprint assumes every classroom is programmed during every period of the school day except one lunch period. The full text of the Instructional Footprint is available at [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011_FINAL.pdf).

Given that building X039 is underutilized and there is excess space in the building, the DOE believes there is adequate space to co-locate Co-op Tech in the building. The exact location of the Co-op Tech program has not yet been determined. The Office of Space Planning will work with the leadership of Banana Kelly and Holcombe Rucker to determine the placement of the program in the building.

Comment 2 inquires as to whether current staff from Co-op Tech's main campus will be assigned to the new program in the X039 building if this proposal is approved.

Co-op Tech may assign teachers from its main campus, and will likely also need to hire additional staff to accommodate the opening of a new site in X039.

The number of new positions created to serve the District 79 students will be determined based on annual enrollment projections available in advance of Co-op Tech's opening in X039 in September 2013. The hiring process for Co-op Tech will be consistent with the procedures set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the DOE and UFT.

#### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to this proposal.