



## **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: April 16, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Grade Expansion of a District 75 Program (75R373) from K-5 to K-8 at New Building R071 Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: April 17, 2013

## **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand P373R@PS48 (75R373<sup>1</sup>, “P373R@PS48”), a District 75 (“D75”)<sup>2</sup> school opening in 2013-2014 in new building R071 (“R071”) located at 1050 Targee Street, Staten Island, NY 10304 in Community School District 31. On June 26, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal to re-site, expand, and co-locate<sup>3</sup> P.S. 48 William C. Wilcox (31R048, “P.S. 48”), an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades, with P373R@PS48, a new D75 school that was to initially projected to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade in R071 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.<sup>4, 5</sup> This is a proposal to implement a grade expansion whereby P373R@PS48 would expand to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade when it opens in the 2013-2014 school year in R071.

In an effort to provide D75 families with greater access to middle school options in Staten Island and to align P373R@PS48 with P.S. 48’s grade span in R071, the DOE is proposing to expand P373R@PS48 to serve kindergarten through eighth grades. This proposed grade expansion offers D75 students programming on a

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<sup>1</sup> P373R currently serves students in six sites: (1) P373@21R; (2) P373R@22R; (3) P373@Robert Randall School; (4) P373@R058; (5) P373R@College of Staten Island; and (6) P373R@Academy of Innovative Learning.

<sup>2</sup> D75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, or are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired and/or multiply disabled. D75 provides services to students in a variety of settings, including elementary, middle, and high schools, students’ homes, hospitals, and agencies. These programs are located at more than 310 sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Syosset, New York. Please visit the DOE Web site for additional information about D75 programs at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/default.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building, often sharing large common spaces like the auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria.

<sup>4</sup> The details of the proposal concerning the re-siting and grade expansion of P.S. 48 can be found on the DOE’s Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/June2012Proposals.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> At the time of that EIS, the District 75 program had not been identified and was referenced as 75RTBD with a grade span of kindergarten through fifth grades.

kindergarten through eighth grade continuum. If this proposal is approved, starting in the 2013-2014 school year, P373R@PS48 will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades.<sup>6</sup>

Building R071 is a new building currently under construction by the School Construction Authority (“SCA”), and the space was designed to house P.S. 48 and a D75 school. The expansion of P373R@PS48 is contingent upon the completion of this new building. Because it is a newly constructed facility, no school organization currently uses space at R071. The building is projected to have the capacity to serve 844 students.<sup>7</sup> P373R@PS48 is projected to serve approximately 62-72 students in grades kindergarten through eighth in the 2015-2016 school year. P.S. 48’s kindergarten through fifth-grade students will be re-sited to R071 for the 2013-2014 school year with the sixth grade cohort. During the 2013-2014 school year, these organizations will serve approximately 720-800 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 85%-95%.<sup>8</sup> In the 2015-2016 school year, when P.S. 48 has reached full-scale serving students in grades kindergarten through eight and pre-kindergarten,<sup>9</sup> there will be a total of approximately 910-1,010 students yielding a projected building utilization rate for both organizations of 108%-120%.

This proposed grade expansion does not change the planned enrollment or space requirements for P373R@PS48, which was based on the SCA’s reported D75 designed seat capacity in R071.

The details of this proposal have been released in an 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 P.S.48 and P373R.

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<sup>6</sup> The State Education Department (“SED”) allows for a three year range in each D75 class so P373R@PS48 may serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade starting in 2013-2014, while P.S. 48 will not serve their full scale of kindergarten through eighth grades until the 2015-2016 school year.

<sup>7</sup> Reported by School Construction Authority (“SCA”) in the Program of Requirements (“POR”).

<sup>8</sup> All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2011-2012 Blue Book and enrollment data from the charter headcount as of October 1, 2012 or the 2012-2013 Audited Register (as of October 26, 2012), which do not include Long Term Absences (“LTAs”), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 26, 2012. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

<sup>9</sup> Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 48 will also serve two sections of half-day pre-kindergarten and it is anticipated that P.S. 48 will continue to serve pre-kindergarten beyond the 2013-2014 school year pending available funding and seat demand.

## **Summary of Comments Received**

Joint public hearings regarding the proposal were held at P.S. 48 on April 3, 2013 and at P373R on April 9, 2013. At the hearings, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 16 members of the public attended the hearing at P.S. 48 and 2 people spoke. Present at that meeting were District 31 Community Superintendent Erminia Claudio; District 31 Community Education Council (“CEC 31”) Members Michael Reilly and Franca Okeiche; Jacqueline Mammolito, Principal of P.S. 48; Ilene Goldstein-Harnett, Principal of P373R; Maria Cuffaro representing the P373R School Leadership Team; Susan Lauria, Marie Vendith, Lori Aiello, Christine Murphy, Beth Cohen, Kristine Nuzzle, Susan Irlaveli, Stephanie Mininni and V. Piccone representing the P.S. 48 School Leadership Team; and Emily Ades from the Office of Portfolio Management. Approximately 4 members of the public attended the hearing at P373R and there were no speakers. Present at that meeting were District 31 Community Superintendent Erminia Claudio; CEC 31 Members Michael Reilly and Franca Okeiche; Ilene Goldstein-Harnett, Principal of P373R; Maria Cuffaro and Briana McNamara representing the P373R School Leadership Team; and Emily Ades from the Office of Portfolio Management.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearings on April 3, 2013 and April 9, 2013 on the proposal:

**Comment 1:** Michael Reilly, CEC 31 member, expressed support for the proposal. He stated that the CEC is in favor of the expansions of P.S. 48 and P373R.

**Comment 2:** Lori Aiello, President of the Parents Association and SLT member expressed support for the proposal. She welcomed the D75 school and commented that they are looking forward to joining forces to educate their children.

The DOE received no written comments through its dedicated e-mail and no oral comments through its dedicated phone line for this proposal.

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

**Comments 1 and 2** expressed support for the proposal and do not require a response.

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

No changes have been made to this proposal.