

Public Comment Analysis¹

Date: April 16, 2013
Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New District Transfer School
Research and Service High School (16K669) with Boys and Girls High School
(16K455) in Building K455 Beginning in 2013-2014
Date of Panel Vote: April 17, 2013

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and co-locate Research and Service High School (16K669, “Research and Service High School”), a new district transfer high school that will serve students in ninth through twelfth grade in building K455 (“K455”), located at 1700 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11213, in Community School District 16 (“District 16”). Research and Service High School would open in 2013-2014 with ninth through twelfth grades. Transfer schools are small, academically rigorous high schools designed to reengage over-age, under-credited students. If this proposal is approved, Research and Service High School will be co-located in K455 with Boys and Girls High School (16K455, “Boys and Girls”), an existing high school that accepts students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through zoned and screened admissions method.

Building K455 also contains the Boys and Girls Young Adult Borough Center (16K959, “YABC”), a General Educational Development Plus program (79Q950, “GED Plus”), and a United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) Chapter office. Next year, there will also be a School-Based Health Center (“SBHC”) located in K455. Young Adult Borough Centers (“YABCs”) are evening academic programs designed to meet the needs of high school students who might be considering dropping out because they are behind or because they have adult responsibilities that make attending school in the daytime difficult. Students graduate with a diploma from their home school after they have earned all of their credits and passed all of the required exams while attending the YABC. More information about YABCs can be found at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/ECC31A4F-9112-4FB7-9CBA-D01DC696F315/128549/YABC_Brochure_v3.pdf. GED Plus programs help students earn their GEDs and prepare them for college and career options. GED Plus programs are offered to students who are 18-21 years old and are available as full-time or part-time programs. More information about GED Programs is available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District79/SchoolsProgramsServices/default.htm>.

Research and Service High School would accept students 16 years of age and older who have attended another New York City public high school for at least one year, and are behind in high school or at risk of dropping out. Each transfer school determines admissions criteria individually. Detailed information about Research and Service High School’s admissions criteria can be found in Section III.A of this proposal.

Research and Service High School will open during the 2013-2014 school year and will serve approximately 130-170 students in grades nine through twelve. In each of the two subsequent years, the school will enroll approximately 50 additional students. Research and Service High School is expected to reach full scale in terms of enrollment in 2015-2016, when it will serve approximately 230-270 students

¹ On April 8, 2013 and April 9, 2013, the Brooklyn phone line was not able to receive messages. The e-mail address was operational during the 48-hour period and the DOE has not received any feedback that the public attempted to submit comments via the phone line during that time.”

in grades nine through twelve.

Research and Service High School is also expected to offer a Learning to Work (“LTW”) program. The goal of LTW is to assist students in overcoming obstacles that impede their progress toward a high school diploma and lead them toward rewarding employment and educational experiences after graduation. LTW offers academic and student support, career and educational exploration, work preparation, skills development, and internships. LTW will be an integral component of the academic program at Research and Service High School. LTW is not a separate program.

The DOE has identified building K455 as an under-utilized building. Building K455 has the capacity to serve 3,389 students, but in 2012-2013, Boys and Girls is currently enrolling 1,114 students in ninth through twelfth grade. This yields a building utilization rate of approximately 33%, which demonstrates that the building is “under-utilized” and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal is approved in 2015-2016, building K455 would serve 1,325-1,405 students from Research and Service High School and Boys and Girls, collectively, which yields a projected utilization rate of 39%-41%. Thus, building K455 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed co-location.

The DOE acknowledges that if this proposal is approved, building K455 will still be considered under-utilized after the full phase-in of Research and Service High School. The DOE plans to issue a separate proposal to open and co-locate an additional new school option in building K455 for the 2014-2015 school year. A separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) will be issued for this proposal.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held on April 4, 2013 at K455. Participants had the opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 3 members of the public attended the hearing, and no people spoke. Present at the meeting were Brooklyn High School Superintendent Karen Watts; Bernard Gassaway, Principal of Boys and Girls; Christopher Smith, LaVonne Gaustin, Stanley Kinard, and Dordy Jourdain of the School Leadership Team; and Carrie Marlin from the Department of Education. District 16 Community Education Council (“CEC 16”) sent the CEC 16 Administrative Assistant Tiekeshia Pierre to the hearing.

The following comments and remarks were made or submitted at the Joint Public Hearing on April 4, 2013:

There were no remarks made at the Joint Public Hearing.

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

There were no written or oral comments received.

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

No issues were raised therefore no analysis is necessary.



Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.