



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of
UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL
1971-72 + 2011-12

New School Shy on Plans for Science, C of C Charges

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The Chamber of Commerce today criticized the proposed plans for the \$10 million University City High School. It said the plans fail to contain what it feels are adequate science and math facilities.

The school, scheduled to open in the fall of 1970, is to occupy a 14-acre tract at 36th and Filbert sts. It will serve 3,000 students, 75 percent of them from West Philadelphia. The rest will be drawn from all over the city by the special science and math curriculum.

The nature of the school—whether it should be comprehensive or devoted exclusively to math and science—has been in dispute ever since plans were proposed more than a year ago.

Residents Disagree

The Chamber of Commerce wants a school oriented toward math and science, similar to the Bronx High School of Science in New York. West Philadelphia residents want a comprehensive high school.

In adopting the final plans the Board compromised. The school will offer a comprehensive curriculum as well as specialized math and science courses.

In a letter to Board President Richardson Dilworth, Dr. Paul A. McKim, vice president of commerce and industry in the Chamber, said the plans failed “to capture the full potential of the concept of a science and math curriculum.”

He said there was inadequate floor space for science and math and that the division of space indicated a “limited offering of science and math” with marine science not even mentioned. He called this “incomprehensible” in the view of the growing emphasis on oceanic research.

He also criticized certain design features and the lack of “any consideration of possible connections to the University City Science Center, Drexel Institute of Technology and the new Presbyterian-University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

School officials said the board “had tried to develop a high school that hopefully meets both needs.”

One official said that the chamber “can’t seem to understand that there are people living in West Philadelphia.”

NEW SCHOOL CITY ON PLANS For Science, C of C Charges

By JOHN T. GILLESPIE
Of The Bulletin Staff

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