



Notice  
September 12, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New District High School 27Q314 with Existing Schools J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom (27Q226), J.H.S. 297 Hawtree Creek Middle School (27Q297), and P.S. Q233 (75Q233@Q226), a District 75 School, Beginning in the 2014-2015 School Year**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate a new district high school, 27Q314, that will serve students in grades nine through twelve, in building Q226 (“Q226”), located at 121-10 Rockaway Boulevard, Queens, NY 11420 in Community School District 27 (“District 27”), beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. 27Q314 will be co-located in Q226 with J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom (27Q226, “J.H.S. 226”), an existing middle school serving students in grades six through eight, J.H.S. 297 Hawtree Creek Middle School (27Q297, “J.H.S. 297”), a new middle school that opened in September 2013 and will serve students in grades six through eight when it reaches full scale in 2015-2016, and P.S. Q233@Q226 (75Q233@Q226, “P233@Q226”), one site of an existing multi-site District 75 (“D75”) school serving students in grades six through eight.

On March 20, 2013, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved the proposal to co-locate J.H.S. 297 in Q226 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. J.H.S. 297 currently serves sixth grade and will add one grade per year until the school has reached full scale and serves students in sixth through eighth grade in 2015-2016. J.H.S. 297 will grow to serve approximately 315-345 students in sixth through eighth grade in the 2015-2016 school year. J.H.S. 297 currently admits students through the District 27 Middle School Choice Process, using a limited unscreened admissions method, offering priority to students living in the Q226 zone. The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing the approved proposal to open and co-locate J.H.S. 297 in Q226 is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm>. If this proposal is approved, beginning in 2014-2015, J.H.S. 297 will become a zoned middle school serving students residing in the Q226 zone.

J.H.S. 226 is a zoned middle school projected to serve 1,371 students in sixth through eighth grades in Q226 during the 2013-2014 school year.

P233@Q226 is an existing D75 program that serves students with an Individualized Education

Program (“IEP”) classification of multiple disabilities and autism. P233@Q226 is projected to serve approximately 45 students in grades six through eight in the 2013-2014 school year.

Currently, the DOE is planning to reduce the enrollment at J.H.S. 226 over a period of three years beginning in September 2014. Beginning in September 2014, J.H.S. 226 will enroll 295-305 sixth grade students, as opposed to the 415-425 sixth grade students it has enrolled in recent years. This reduction of J.H.S. 226’s enrollment will enable 27Q314 to open in building Q226 and grow to scale. The DOE does not anticipate reducing J.H.S. 226’s enrollment if this proposal to co-locate 27Q314 is not approved.

The proposed opening and co-location of 27Q314 in building Q226 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large and to provide a new high school option in the Q226 building. 27Q314 will be open to students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and will have a limited unscreened selection method with priority for students residing in Queens. According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), Q226 has a target capacity of 2,034 students. In 2013-2014, the building serves approximately 1,524 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 75%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students.

If this co-location proposal is approved, 27Q314 will gradually phase into Q226 while J.H.S. 226 simultaneously scales back its enrollment. 27Q314 will serve students in ninth grade beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and will add one grade level every year until reaching its full grade span of ninth through twelfth grades in the 2017-2018 school year, when it will serve approximately 300-340 students. In 2017-2018, once J.H.S. 226 has completed its enrollment reduction and 27Q314 and J.H.S. 297 have reached full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,600-1,706 students served in Q226, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 79%-84%.

#### *Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process*

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. J.H.S. 297 is currently open to students and residents of District 27 through a limited unscreened admissions method, offering priority to students living in the Q226 zone. If this proposal is approved, the admissions process at J.H.S. 297 will change in September 2014 to be a zoned middle school serving students residing in the Q226 zone. The change in the admissions process at J.H.S. 297 will allow for continued accommodation of Q226 zoned demand and provide an additional option to students and families in the Q226.

As mentioned above, beginning in September 2014, J.H.S. 226 will enroll 295-305 sixth grade students, as opposed to the 415-425 sixth grade students it has enrolled in recent years.

The enrollment reduction of J.H.S. 226 is driven by J.H.S. 226’s performance and demand. J.H.S. 226 received an overall C grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012 for the third consecutive year. Additionally, in 2011-2012, the school received D grades in both Student Progress and School Environment, and a C grade in Student Performance.

At this time, the DOE believes that reducing the enrollment of J.H.S. 226 beginning in September 2014 and providing a new option for high school students in the Q226 building will benefit current and future students at building Q226 and in Queens. The enrollment reduction is intended to provide an opportunity for J.H.S. 226 to concentrate on a smaller cohort of students, and allow for a new high school option to develop in building Q226.

The DOE believes that the District 27 community and Queens as a whole will benefit from having an additional option in the Q226 building.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct30SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of J.H.S. 226, J.H.S. 297, and P233@Q226.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto: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: Dean Guzman  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

October 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.  
Q226 Building  
121-10 Rockaway Boulevard  
Queens, NY 11420

Questions about the proposal should 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.**

October 30, 2013 at 6:00pm

Prospect Heights Campus  
883 Classon Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225