



Notice

September 12, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New High School (26Q315) with Martin Van Buren High School (26Q435) in Building Q435 Beginning in 2014-2015

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and co-locate 26Q315, a new district Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) early college and career high school, in school building Q435 (“Q435”) located at 230-17 Hillside Avenue, Queens, NY 11427 within the geographical confines of Community School District 26 (“District 26”). CTE programs integrate academic study with workforce skills in specific career clusters. Students receive instruction in an industry-related area and have the opportunity to graduate high school with industry-specific competencies and skills that lead to postsecondary education, further industry training and/or entry into the workforce. The early college program is designed to give students the opportunity to earn an Associate’s degree free of charge, and to put them on a postsecondary pathway potentially leading to career-track employment within the Computer Science and Business Technology industry. The proposed new high school, 26Q315, will offer CTE programming in the Computer Science and Business Technology career cluster, as described in more detail below, as well as early college programming. If this proposal is approved, 26Q315 will be co-located in building Q435 with Martin Van Buren High School (26Q435, “Van Buren”), an existing high school serving students in ninth through twelfth grade. Additionally, there is a community based organization (“CBO”), A.C.E. Program, and a District 75 (“D75”) Hearing Education Services (“HES”) program located in Q435. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

If this proposal to open and co-locate 26Q315 in Q435 is approved, students will have access to a new educational option in Queens. Through a six-year program, students will have the opportunity to earn a CTE-endorsed Regents diploma, Associate’s degree, and industry-recognized credentials. Students will also engage in a progressive sequence of work-based learning experiences informed by industry partners. Students at CTE/early college programs seamlessly earn credits so that they can graduate within a six-year period having earned both a CTE-endorsed Regents diploma and a related Associate’s degree.

CTE/early college programs provide students with a career-focused educational experience that prepares them for career-track employment within their field of study. Each CTE/early college high school program is developed and administered in close collaboration with the college that awards the Associate's degree and a high-profile employer that will offer a range of related work experiences throughout the program, and first-in-line hiring consideration for qualified students who complete the early college program.

26Q315 will be an early college/CTE school with a focus on careers in the Computer Science and Business Technology industry, partnered with SAP AG and the Queensborough Community College ("QCC"). QCC is one of twenty-three colleges within The City University of New York ("CUNY") school system, sharing CUNY's mission to preserve academic excellence and extend higher educational opportunity to a diversified urban population. QCC is dedicated to providing general, liberal arts, career education and continuing education programs, relevant to the needs, interests and aspirations of students of all ages. 26Q315 will partner with SAP AG, a multinational software corporation that makes enterprise software to manage business operations and customer relations. SAP AG, with regional offices around the world, is the leader in the market of enterprise applications in terms of software and software-related service.

26Q315 students will have the opportunity to complete an Associate's degree at QCC at no cost to themselves or their families. Additionally, the partnerships supporting 26Q315 facilitate access to career opportunities with some of New York City's most prominent and successful companies, in sectors of sustained employment demand. In addition to the lead industry partner, 26Q315 will build a network of strategic partnerships to offer opportunities related to its industry focus to all students.

Over the course of the program, students will complete internships and take off-site classes at QCC. During their fifth and sixth years in the program, most students will likely not be in the M052 building the majority of the time.

The proposed co-location of 26Q315 in building Q435 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 another option in the Q435 building and in Queens. Van Buren is currently the only school in Q435.

26Q315 will be open to students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and will have a limited unscreened selection method giving priority to students residing in Queens.

Currently, the DOE is planning to reduce the enrollment at Van Buren over a period of four years beginning in September 2014. Details of the year-by-year reduction are included in Section III.B below. By 2017-2018, enrollment at Van Buren will decrease by approximately 420-460 students so that it will serve 1,585-1,625 students at scale in ninth through twelfth grades. The enrollment reduction is intended to provide an opportunity for Van Buren to concentrate on a smaller cohort of students, and allow for new school

options to develop in building Q435. The DOE does not anticipate reducing Van Buren's enrollment if this proposal to co-locate 26Q315 is not approved.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report ("Blue Book"), building Q435 has a target capacity of 2,318 students. In 2012-2013, the building serves approximately 2,136 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 92%.

If this co-location proposal is approved, 26Q315 will gradually phase into Q435 while Van Buren simultaneously scales back its enrollment. The new school will serve students in ninth grade beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and will add one grade level every year until the school reaches its full grade span of ninth through fourteenth grades in the 2019-2020 school year, serving approximately 630-690 students. In 2019-2020, once 26Q315 has reached full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 2,215-2,315 students served in Q435, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 96%-100% using the DOE's standard calculations. However, this standard rate is likely overstated because it includes 150-170 students in grades thirteen and fourteen.

As noted above, these students will primarily complete their studies at off-site locations and will only occasionally be in the Q435 building. Because building use by students in grades thirteen and fourteen cannot be fully estimated at this time, the utilization rates in this EIS conservatively assume that those students will be served in Q435, like all other students enrolled at 26Q315. This utilization estimate also overestimates enrollment and utilization in that it presumes that all incoming ninth-grade students will exercise their option to enroll in grades thirteen and fourteen. Therefore, the DOE expects that utilization in the fifth and sixth years of this proposal will be on the lower end of all projected ranges.

The DOE supports parent choice and strives to ensure that all families have access to high-quality schools that meet their children's needs. CTE programs position students to complete high school and advance to higher education and career-track employment. The DOE believes in the importance of CTE education and supports the opening of a new high school in the Q435 building which will offer CTE programming in computer science and business. The DOE is proposing to bring new CTE opportunities to Q435 to serve the City's families and connect students with an early college educational option that will give students the opportunity to earn an Associate's degree free of charge; the co-location of 26Q315 will help meet this goal.

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 office of Martin Van Buren High School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D26Proposals@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: Emily Ades
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D26Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212 374-7621

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

Wednesday, October 23, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Building Q435
230-17 Hillside Avenue
Queens, NY 11427

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
6:00pm
Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225