



Notice
December 12, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New School P.S. 446 (23K446) with General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631) and General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634) beginning in 2012-2013

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 a new zoned elementary school, P.S. 446 (23K446, “P.S. 446”) in school building K183 (“K183”), located at 76 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 446 would be “co-located” with General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631, “Chappie James”) and Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634, “Chappie James Middle School”) in school building K183 for three school years. 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.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) that was also published in December 2011, the DOE has proposed that Chappie James gradually phase out because of its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. Chappie James is currently a zoned elementary school serving kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a pre-kindergarten program. If that proposal is approved, Chappie James would no longer admit kindergarten students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year and would no longer offer a pre-kindergarten program. Multiple grades would be phased out at Chappie James in the first year of phase-out (2012-2013), and one grade would be phased out in each of the following three years. During the 2012-2013 school year, Chappie James would only serve students in third through fifth grades. Students in kindergarten through second grade would be served at P.S. 446, which will also be located in K183, if this proposal is approved. As planned, all current fifth grade students who meet promotional standards would participate in the Middle School Choice process and transition to middle school for sixth grade enrollment in September 2012. Students who do not meet promotional requirements during the phase-out plan will continue to have access to appropriate courses to support their progress toward promotion at either Chappie James or P.S. 446, depending on the student’s grade level, as described in the “Student Impact” section in Section III. In 2013-2014, Chappie James would serve students in fourth and fifth grades. In 2014-15, Chappie James would serve fifth grade students only. The school would close after June 2015.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 446 would open in K183 as a new zoned district elementary school, serving the same zone as Chappie James, would serve kindergarten through fifth grade and would offer a pre-kindergarten program. In the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 446 would serve 50-60 students in kindergarten, 60-70 students in first grade, and 70-80 students in second grade (including students previously at Chappie James). P.S. 446 would then grow to serve 70-80 third grade students in the 2013-2014 school year and 70-80 fourth grade students in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 446 is expected to reach full scale in 2015-2016 and would serve approximately 396-456 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and in its pre-kindergarten program. Beginning in 2012-2013 and continuing in the following years, P.S. 446 would serve 36 students in a full-day pre-kindergarten program (pending continued funding availability).

P.S. 446 would be co-located with Chappie James and Chappie James Middle School as Chappie James phases out. Once P.S. 446 has completed its expansion and Chappie James has completed its phase-out, P.S. 446 and Chappie James Middle School will be the only schools in K183.

In 2010-2011, K183 had a target capacity to serve 751 students, and the building enrolled 667 students, including pre-kindergarten students, yielding a target building utilization rate of 89%. Currently, 612 students, including pre-kindergarten students, are enrolled in building K183, yielding a target building utilization rate of 81%.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

As detailed in the EIS describing the proposed phase-out and closure of Chappie James, which was posted on December 12, 2011 and is available on the DOE's Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>, the DOE has concluded that phasing out Chappie James is appropriate due to that school's history of poor performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. Chappie James earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, Chappie James earned a D grade.

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. Continuing to allocate space and resources to schools that are unable to significantly improve student performance is neither efficient nor equitable. As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Chappie James with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the Chappie James community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent and historical performance, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of Chappie James—will best serve that school's students and community. Phasing out and closing Chappie James will allow for new school options—including P.S. 446—to develop in the K183 building, which are intended to provide better options for families.

If the proposal to phase out and close Chappie James is approved, the space made available by the phase-out of Chappie James will be used to house P.S. 446. If the separate phase-out

proposal is not approved, the DOE would review the plan to site P.S. 446 in K183 and potentially revise the plan and issue a revised EIS.

If both proposals are approved, the replacement process would be gradual; P.S. 446 would be opened in Chappie James' building and would begin enrolling zoned kindergarten, first, and second grade students in September 2012. Barring unforeseen circumstances and pending funding availability, it would also enroll two sections of a full-day pre-kindergarten program, which would serve 36 students. P.S. 446 would gradually grow as Chappie James' enrollment decreased. P.S. 446 would serve the same zone as Chappie James and would be located in the same building that currently houses Chappie James.

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/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science's and General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science's main offices.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

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: Kim Wong
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

January 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science/General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science
76 Riverdale Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11212

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.

February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217