



**Notice**  
December 12, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Co-location of New School 27Q362 (27Q362) with P.S. 215 in School Building Q215**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposes to site a new zoned elementary school, 27Q362 (27Q362, “27Q362”) in school building Q215 (“Q215”), located at 535 Briar Place, Far Rockaway, NY 11691, in Community School District 27. If this proposal is approved, 27Q362 would be “co-located” with P.S. 215 in school building Q215 for three school years.<sup>1</sup> In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) that was also published on December 12, 2011, the DOE has proposed that P.S. 215 gradually phase out and eventually close because of its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. P.S. 215 is currently a zoned elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offering a pre-kindergarten program. 27Q362 would be a new DOE zoned elementary school that would continue to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would offer a pre-kindergarten program (pending continued availability of funding).

If the proposal to phase out and eventually close P.S. 215 is approved, P.S. 215 would no longer admit kindergarten students and would no longer offer grades one and two or its pre-kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, after P.S. 215’s kindergarten, first grade, and second grade are phased out, P.S. 215 would serve one less grade in each subsequent year until it completes its phase-out and closes in June 2015. Current students in grades two, three, and four would continue to be served by P.S. 215 and be supported as they progress toward completion of elementary school at P.S. 215. If this proposal is approved, current students in kindergarten and first grade would be served by the new zoned elementary school, 27Q362. A pre-kindergarten program would also be offered by 27Q362 in Q215 (pending continued availability of funding).

27Q362 would open in Q215 as a zoned district elementary school serving the same zone as P.S. 215. In the 2012-2013 school year, 27Q362 would serve 36 students in pre-kindergarten, 100-110 students in kindergarten, 105-115 students in first grade, and 95-105 students in second grade for a total of 336-366 students in pre-kindergarten through second grade. 27Q362 would then grow to serve 441-481 pre-kindergarten through third grade students in the 2013-2014 school year and 546-596 pre-kindergarten through fourth grade students in the 2014-2015 school year. 27Q362 is expected to reach full scale in 2015-2016 when it would serve approximately

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

651-711 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

If both proposals are approved, 27Q362 would be co-located with P.S. 215 as P.S. 215 phases out. Once 27Q362 has completed its expansion and P.S. 215 has completed its phase-out, 27Q362 would be the only school in Q215.

In 2010-2011, Q215 had a target capacity to serve 575 students, and the building enrolled 653<sup>2</sup> students, including pre-kindergarten, yielding a building utilization rate of 114%.<sup>3</sup> In the 2011-2012 school year, 681 students are enrolled in the building, including pre-kindergarten, yielding a building utilization rate of 118%.<sup>4</sup> Once 27Q362 reaches full scale in 2015-2016, it is projected to serve 651-711 students, yielding a utilization rate of 113%-124%. Please note that building capacity and utilization figures are not always a precise indicator of whether a school is under- or over-utilized. Where appropriate, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed walk-through of the building in order to assess the amount of available space in the building.

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

As detailed in the EIS describing the proposed phase-out and closure of P.S. 215, which was posted on December 12, 2011 and is available on the DOE's website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>, the DOE has concluded that phasing out P.S. 215 is necessary due to that school's history of poor performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. P.S. 215 earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report, including D grades in the School Environment and Student Performance sub-sections and an F grade for Student Progress. On its previous Progress Reports, P.S. 215 earned an overall D grade for the 2009-2010 school year and a C grade for the 2008-2009 school year.<sup>5</sup>

Based on those low Progress Report scores—particularly the F grade the school received in 2010-2011—the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 215 with the goal of determining which supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent and historical performance and demand data from the school, 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 P.S. 215—will address the school's longstanding struggles and allow for new school options—including 27Q362—to develop in School Building

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<sup>2</sup> October 31, 2011 unaudited register

<sup>3</sup> All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report ("Blue Book"). Utilization rates referenced for the 2010-2011 school year only include the number of students estimated to be regularly attending the school, and do not include Long Term Absences ("LTAs"), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> The utilization rate reported here may differ from that published in the 2010-2011 Blue Book because the building enrollment figures referenced throughout this document and used in the calculation of utilization rates for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond are based on the unaudited enrollment as of October 31, 2011. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

<sup>5</sup> <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/tools/report/default.htm>.

Q215, which are intended to better serve future students and the broader community.

P.S. 215 is a zoned elementary school. A student's zoned school is determined by his or her home address. For more information about school zoning and related enrollment processes, please visit [www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/elementary](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/elementary)

If the proposal to phase out and close P.S. 215 is approved, the space made available by the phase-out of P.S. 215 will be used to house 27Q362. If the separate phase-out proposal is not approved, the DOE would review the plan to site 27Q362 in Q215 and potentially revise the plan and issue a revised EIS.

If both proposals are approved, the replacement process would be gradual; 27Q362 would be opened in P.S. 215's building and would begin enrolling zoned kindergarten, first, and second grade students in September 2012. Barring unforeseen circumstances, it would also enroll two sections of a full day pre-kindergarten program, which would serve 36 students. 27Q362 would gradually grow as P.S. 215's enrollment decreased. 27Q362 would serve the same zone as P.S. 215 and would be located in the same building that currently houses P.S. 215. The DOE anticipates that 27Q362 would replace the elementary school seats that would be lost as a result of the phase-out and closure of P.S. 215 and would provide a new educational option for families in District 27.

The DOE will also continue seeking community feedback while this proposal is under consideration by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP").

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

The 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 P.S. 215's main office.

## **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: Drew Patterson  
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.**

January 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott  
535 Briar Place  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

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