



Notice
December 22, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (08X650) in Building X650 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 phase out Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (08X650, “Jane Addams”), an existing high school in building X650 located at 900 Tinton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456, within the geographical confines of Community School District 8 (“District 8”). It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The DOE is proposing to phase out Jane Addams based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If this proposal is approved, Jane Addams will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The school will continue to phase out one grade level at a time, and current students will be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled at Jane Addams. In cases where students do not complete graduation requirements by June 2015, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their education after Jane Addams completes phasing out.

Jane Addams is the only school currently located in building X650. In addition, X650 houses a Living for the Young Family Through Education (“LYFE”) program. There is also a Transportable Classroom Unit adjacent to Jane Addams that houses an Alternative Learning Center (“ALC”). The ALC does not use any of the space in building X650, nor does any school in X650 use space in the Temporary Classroom Unit. Thus, the ALC is not co-located with Jane Addams, would not be impacted by this proposal, and is not discussed further throughout this EIS. Jane Addams is a Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) high school that admits students in ninth grade through a screened selection method via the Citywide High School Admissions process. Additional information about CTE programming and the High School Admissions process can be found in Section III.A of this proposal.

If this proposal is approved, Jane Addams will begin phasing out one grade at a time starting in September 2012 and complete its phase-out after the 2014-2015 school year. In two additional Educational Impact Statements (“EISs”), the DOE is proposing to open a new district high school (08X559) and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities II (84XTBD, “HUM II”) in building X650 in September 2012. These

proposals can be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

These schools would grow to full-scale as Jane Addams phases out. The new schools would open with ninth grade, adding one grade annually and reaching full scale in the 2015-2016 school year with a grade span of nine through twelve.

Background on the DOE Decision-Making Process

Schools are identified for possible phase-out for the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor rating on their most recent Quality Review; or (3) they have been identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as Persistently Low Achieving (“PLA”). Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a D or F, or a third consecutive grade of C or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that received a rating of Underdeveloped on their most recent Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools based on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment, which includes attendance and survey feedback from parents, teachers, and sixth- to twelfth-grade students, where applicable. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observe classrooms and talk with students, staff and families. Schools are rated on a four-point scale, with “Underdeveloped” as the lowest possible rating and “Well Developed” as the highest.

In addition, all schools identified by the SED as PLA, regardless of the school’s Progress Report grade and Quality Review score, are considered for more intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out. In December 2010, SED identified 67 PLA schools across the State, including 43 in New York City. High schools are identified as PLA based on the school’s graduation rate and/or their state test performance. Jane Addams received an overall F grade on its Progress Report in 2010-2011, with an F grade on the Student Performance sub-section, an F grade on the Student Progress sub-section, and an F grade on the School Environment sub-section. Jane Addams was identified as a Persistently Low Achieving (“PLA”) school by the State in January 2010. As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Jane Addams, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the Jane Addams community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent 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.

The DOE initiated and completed a similar comprehensive review of Jane Addams during the fall of 2010, after Jane Addams earned a C on its 2009-2010 Progress Report (the school’s fourth year in a row of a C or worse). Upon completion of the review in fall 2010, the DOE believed that, at the time, phase-out was not the appropriate intervention model for the school.

However, in light of the fact that performance at Jane Addams has continued to decline, the DOE believes that Jane Addams does not have the capacity to quickly improve to support student learning. Given the school's declining performance, the DOE now believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of Jane Addams—will address the school's declining performance and longstanding struggles and allow for new school options to develop in building X650 that will better serve future students and the broader community.

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 Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Amanda Cahn
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

January 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers
900 Tinton Avenue
Bronx, NY 10456

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