



Notice
December 22, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of International Arts Business (17K544) in Building K470 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 phase out International Arts Business School (17K544, “International Arts Business”), an existing high school in the George Wingate Educational Complex, or building K470 (“K470”), located at 600 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11203, within the geographical confines of Community School District 17. It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve, and admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. International Arts Business also offers a Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) pathway. The DOE is proposing to phase out International Arts Business 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, International Arts Business 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, until it completes its phase-out and closes after the 2014-2015 school year. Current students will be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled at International Arts Business. 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 International Arts Business completes phasing out.

International Arts Business is co-located with the School for Human Rights (17K531, “Human Rights”), an existing secondary school that serves students in grades six through twelve, the School for Democracy and Leadership (17K533, “Democracy and Leadership”), an existing secondary school that serves students in grades six through twelve, and the High School for Public Service: Heroes of Tomorrow (17K546, “HS for Public Service”), an existing high school that serves students in grades nine through twelve.

In addition, K470 houses two sites of a multi-side District 75 inclusion program (75K036): P036K@H544K, which serves students in grades nine through twelve in International Arts Business’ general education classes, and P036@Wingate, which serves students in Human Rights’ general education classes.

In another Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), the DOE is proposing to open a new high school, 17K745, in K470 in September 2012. The proposal can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

This school will continue growing to full-scale as International Arts Business phases out. The new school will 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 closure 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 scores, 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; International Arts Business was not identified as a PLA school. High schools are identified as PLA based on the school’s graduation rate and/or their state test performance.

International Arts Business received an overall F grade on its Progress Report in 2010-2011, with a D 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.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of International Arts Business, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the International Arts Business 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.

Following that review, the DOE believes intervention is needed to support current students to graduate and to support new students to progress to graduation. This is due to the fact that performance at International Arts Business has declined over the past three years, and declined dramatically over the most recent school year. In this case, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of International Arts Business

—will address the school’s longstanding performance struggles and allow for new school options to develop in K470 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 International Arts Business’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D17Proposals@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: Lily Haskins
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
International Arts Business
600 Kingston Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203

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