



Amended Notice
December 22, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631) 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 and close General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631, “Chappie James”), an existing zoned elementary school located at 76 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23, in building K183 (“K183”). Chappie James currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. Chappie James is currently co-located in K183 with General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634, “Chappie James Middle School”), an existing middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grades. The DOE is proposing to phase out and eventually close Chappie James based on its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If this proposal is approved, Chappie James would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would no longer admit new pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students after the end of this school year. Current kindergarten and first-grade students would remain at Chappie James until the end of the 2011-2012 school year and would be assigned to the new zoned elementary school, P.S. 446 (23K446, “P.S. 446”), that would open in September 2012 in the building where Chappie James is located. Current second, third, and fourth-grade students would remain at Chappie James until the end of the school year and then would continue on to the next grade level at Chappie James in September 2012; these students would be able to remain at Chappie James through graduation. Current fifth-grade students would have the opportunity to graduate from Chappie James at the end of this school year and would participate in the Middle School Choice process. These students would enroll in sixth grade at a choice middle school or their zoned middle school.

In an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), posted in December 2011, the DOE has proposed to open and “co-locate” P.S. 446 in K183 with Chappie James Middle School and Chappie James as it phases out. P.S. 446 would serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade when it reaches full scale in K183 in 2015-2016. A pre-kindergarten program would also be offered by P.S. 446 in K183 (pending continued availability of funding). If the proposal to co-locate P.S. 446 in K183 is approved, it would provide a new zoned elementary school option for District 23 families and replace the seats lost by the proposed phase-out of Chappie James. Chappie James is currently co-located in building K183 with Chappie James Middle School.

Background on the DOE's 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 annual 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.¹ 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. A school’s Progress Report and its Quality Review may initially suggest a school should be considered for intervention, but no single criterion leads to a phase-out decision.

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.

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 the school’s students and community. Phasing out and closing Chappie James will allow for new school option to develop in the K183 building that will provide a better option for families.

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 Chappie James’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

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

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

¹ Elementary schools that have average math and English Language Arts (“ELA”) proficiency rates that are higher than the district average, which earn a Well Developed rating on the quality review, or which are receiving a Progress Report for the first time are not considered for phase-out.

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 Elementary School
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