



Amended Notice
February 8, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Amended Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (32K562) with Existing Schools The Anna Gonzalez Community School (32K296), Achievement First Bushwick Charter School (84K538), and P053K@I296K (P053K@I296K) in Building K296, Beginning in 2012-2013

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

On December 29, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) proposed to open and site a new middle school, I.S. 562 (32K562, “I.S. 562”), at 125 Covert Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207, in Community School District 32, in Building K296 (“K296”). I.S. 562 would be a new zoned District 32 middle school that would serve students in sixth through eighth grades. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, I.S. 562 will begin enrolling 115-125 students in sixth grade; it would add one grade per year until it is full scale and serves sixth through eighth grades in 2014-2015.

If this proposal is approved, I.S. 562 would be “co-located” in the K296 building with the following schools: The Anna Gonzalez Community School (32K296, “The Anna Gonzalez Community School”), Achievement First Bushwick Charter School (84K538, “Achievement First Bushwick”); an existing charter school managed by the Achievement First network (“AF”), a charter management organization (“CMO”); and 75K369, a District 75 program (75K369, “P053K@I296K”). 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.

On February 7, 2012, the DOE issued an amended Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) to correct an error related to the grades served by P053K@I296K. The amended EIS reflects that P053K@I296K serves students in grades six through eight, not four through eight.

The Anna Gonzalez Community School is an existing zoned middle school that also admits students through three Screened: Academic programs. The school currently serves sixth through eighth grade students. Achievement First Bushwick is an existing charter school that serves students in grades kindergarten through nine, but only serves students in grades kindergarten through four at the K296 building. P053K@I296K is a District 75 (“D75”) program serving students in grades six through eight with intellectual disabilities and autism in 12:1:1 and 6:1:1 settings.

In a separate EIS published on December 19, 2011 the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close The Anna Gonzalez Community School because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, The Anna Gonzalez Community School would no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. One grade would then be phased out in each

subsequent year. During the 2012-2013 school year, The Anna Gonzalez Community School would serve students in seventh and eighth grades. In 2013-2014, The Anna Gonzalez Community School would serve students in eighth grade. The Anna Gonzalez Community School would close after June 2014.

In 2010-2011, K296 had a target capacity of 1,388 students, but the building enrolled a total of 998 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 72%. In the current 2011-2012 school year, the building serves a total of 848 students, yielding a utilization rate of 61%.

In 2014-2015, once The Anna Gonzalez Community School has completed its phase out and I.S. 562 is at full-scale, there will be approximately 748-889 students served in the building, which would yield a projected building utilization rate of approximately 54%-64%. If approved, I.S. 562 would replace the middle school seats that would be lost as a result of the phase-out and closure of The Anna Gonzalez Community School and would provide a new educational option for families in District 32.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

The DOE has provided more detail on its decision to phase-out and close The Anna Gonzalez Community School in the EIS that was posted on December 19, 2011, which can be found on the DOE's website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals.htm>.

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 detailed in the phase-out and closure proposal for The Anna Gonzalez Community School, the DOE has concluded that phasing out The Anna Gonzalez Community School is appropriate due to the school's history of poor performance.

In determining the most optimal way to distribute space to schools, the DOE is proposing to open I.S. 562 in the K296 building in order to create a new middle school option that is intended to better serve the families of District 32. If the proposal to phase out and close The Anna Gonzalez Community School is approved, the space made available by the phase-out of The Anna Gonzalez Community School will be used to house I.S. 562. If the separate phase-out proposal is not approved, the DOE would review the plan to site I.S. 562 in K296 and potentially revise the plan and issue a revised EIS.

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

The EIS can be found on the DOE's Web site:

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

Copies of the EIS are also available in The Anna Gonzalez Community School's, Achievement First Bushwick Charter School's and P053K@I296K's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D32Proposals@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: Toby Shepherd
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D32Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

V. A Joint Public Hearing for this proposal took place on February 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM at The Anna Gonzalez Community School, located at 125 Covert Street, Brooklyn NY 11207. The transcript for this hearing is available at the following link:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/proposal?id=72>

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

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