**Notice**
February 27, 2012

**Dennis M. Walcott**
*Chancellor*

# The Proposed Closure of Banana Kelly High School (08X530) and the Opening and Co-Location of a New High School (08X563) with Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research (08X332) in Building X039 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 close Banana Kelly High School (08X530, "Banana Kelly"), an existing district high school in building X039 ("X039"), located at 965 Longwood Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459, within the geographical confines of Community School District 8. It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The DOE is proposing to immediately replace Banana Kelly with New School (08X563, "New School"), a new district high school serving students in grades nine through twelve in building X039.

If this proposal is approved, Banana Kelly will close at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. All current students who have not graduated before the start of the 2012-2013 school year will be guaranteed a seat and automatically enrolled in New School.

Banana Kelly is co-located with Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research (08X332, "Holcombe L. Rucker"), an existing district high school serving students in grades nine through twelve. In addition, building X039 houses multiple community-based organizations ("CBOs"), Children's Aid Society, Morris Heights Health Center, BuildOn, and Elevate NY. Banana Kelly and Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research currently use gym space at the Police Athletic League building ("PAL Longwood") located at 991 Longwood Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459. New School would also use gym space there.

Banana Kelly admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through the educational option admissions method. Holcombe L. Rucker admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through the limited unscreened admissions method. Additional information about the High School Admissions Process is contained in Section III.A of this proposal.

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. By closing Banana Kelly and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve educational quality in building X039. If

this proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous, school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including Banana Kelly staff who apply to work at New School. Based on these criteria, and in accordance with the staffing requirements in Article 18-D of the DOE's existing contract with the United Federation of Teachers ("UFT"), New School will put in place a process aimed at hiring the best possible staff, thus immediately improving teacher quality and, by extension, improving the quality of learning. New School plans to develop new programs and school supports that are intended to improve student outcomes. Doing this important work will improve the quality of teaching and learning in the school. DOE also will maximize New School's chance of receiving up to $800,000 in supplemental federal funding under the federal School Improvement Grant ("SIG") program. New School will build on the strongest elements of Banana Kelly and incorporate new elements, including new talent designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of Banana Kelly with New School should give students access to a higher-quality educational option while they continue to attend school in the same building.

**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/April2012Proposals.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of the Banana Kelly High School and the Holcombe L. Rucker School of Community Research.

**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: Elaine Gorman
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.**

April 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Banana Kelly High School

965 Longwood Avenue
Bronx, NY, 10459

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.**

April 26, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.
Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11225