



Notice
February 28, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of Herbert H. Lehman High School (08X405) and Opening and Co-Location of New School (08X569) with New High School (08X558), Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology (08X293), and a District 75 Inclusion Program (75X721) in Building X405 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 Herbert H. Lehman High School (08X405, “Lehman”), an existing district high school in building X405 (“X405” or “Lehman Campus”), located at 3000 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461, 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 Lehman with New School (08X569, “New School”), a new district high school serving students in grades nine through twelve in building X405.

If this proposal is approved, Lehman 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 seats and automatically enrolled in New School.

Lehman is co-located with Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology (08X293, “Renaissance”), an existing district high school that serves students in grades nine through twelve; and a District 75 inclusion program (75X721, “D75 inclusion program”). 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. In addition, X405 houses a Young Adult Borough Center, Lehman YABC (X408, “YABC”) and a part-time GED Plus – Learning-to-Work program (X950, “GED Plus – LTW”).

75X721 in X405 is an inclusion program. In an inclusion program, a student with special education needs receives services in a general education classroom along with general education students. Students in the 75X721 program on the Lehman Campus are enrolled in Lehman general education classes based on their Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) recommendations and receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”) from a District 75 Special Education teacher.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in September 2012, the students enrolled in the District 75 Inclusion Program at Lehman will be enrolled in New School general education classes.

Lehman admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through two programs: an educational option admission program, and a zoned admissions program. Renaissance admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through a limited unscreened method. Students are placed in District 75 programs based on their individual needs and recommended special education services. Additional information about the High School Admissions Process is contained in Section III.A of this proposal.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on February 3, 2012, the DOE proposed the opening of a new district high school, 08X558, on the Lehman Campus beginning in 2012-2013. 08X558 is proposed to open with ninth grade and would add one grade level each year until it serves grades nine through twelve at scale. If approved, 08X558 will admit students through a limited unscreened method. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) will vote on this proposal at their meeting on March 21, 2012. The proposal can be found on the DOE’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar212012Proposals.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. By closing Lehman and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve educational quality on the Lehman campus. If this proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous, school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including Lehman 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 to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the school will also maximize New School’s chance of receiving up to \$1,800,000 in supplemental federal funding under the federal School Improvement Grant (“SIG”) program. New School will build on the strongest elements of Lehman and incorporate new elements, including new talent designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of Lehman 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 Herbert H. Lehman High School, and Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology.

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 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Herbert H. Lehman Educational Campus
3000 East Tremont Avenue
Bronx, NY 10461

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