



Notice
March 5, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of Bushwick Community High School (32K564) and the Opening and Co-Location of a New School (32K456) with Roland Hayes Junior High School (32K291) in Building K291 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 Bushwick Community High School (32K564, “Bushwick Community”), an existing transfer high school in building K291 (“K291”), located at 231 Palmetto Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221, within the geographical confines of Community School District 32. Bushwick Community currently serves students between the ages of 17 and 21 who have attended another high school for at least one year. The DOE is proposing to immediately replace Bushwick Community with a new transfer high school (32K456, “New School”) in K291, which will serve students between the ages of 16 and 21 who have attended another high school for at least one year.

If this proposal is approved, Bushwick Community 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.

Bushwick Community is currently co-located in K291 with Roland Hayes Junior High School 291 (32K291, “Roland Hayes”), an existing district middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grades and admits students through the District 32 Middle School Choice Process. 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.

Bushwick Community is a transfer high school and, therefore, does not participate in the Citywide High School Admissions Process. Transfer schools accept students who have been enrolled in high school for at least one year and who choose to make a change. Each transfer school determines admissions criteria individually. Bushwick Community has a rolling admissions policy, accepting students between the ages of 17 and 21 throughout the school year. To enroll, a student must contact a transfer school directly to schedule an intake interview. Students are encouraged to meet with a guidance counselor or visit a Referral Center or a Borough Enrollment Office, where an experienced New York City public school counselor or social worker can explain the available options. Additional information about applying to a transfer school can be found at: <http://www.goingforme.org>.

Additional information about transfer high schools is contained in Section III 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 Bushwick Community and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve the educational quality offered at K291. If this proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including former Bushwick Community staff members 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. By doing this important work to improve student outcomes, the 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 Bushwick Community and incorporate new elements, including new talent, designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of Bushwick Community 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 Bushwick Community High School and Roland Hayes Junior High School.

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: Elaine Gorman
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D32Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

April 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Bushwick Community High School
231 Palmetto Street
Brooklyn, NY 11221

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