



Notice
March 5, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of Newtown High School (24Q455) and Opening of New School (24Q366) in Building Q455 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 Newtown High School (24Q455, “Newton”), an existing district high school in building Q455 (“Q455”), located at 48-01 90th Street, Queens, NY 11373, within the geographical confines of Community School District 24. It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The DOE is proposing to immediately replace Newtown High School with New School (24Q366, “New School”), a new district high school which will serve students in grades nine through twelve in building Q455.

If this proposal is approved, Newtown High School 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 at and automatically enrolled in New School.

Newtown High School is currently the only organization in building Q455.

Newtown High School offers five Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) programs in two career clusters. Newtown High School admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process through the educational option, screened, audition, and zoned admissions methods. Additional information about CTE programming and the High School Admissions Process is contained in Sections 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 Newtown High School and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve educational quality in building Q455. If this proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous, school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including Newtown High School 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. By improving the quality of teaching and learning in the school, DOE also will increase 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 Newtown High School and incorporate new elements, including new talent, designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of Newtown High School 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 Newtown High School’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

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: D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

April 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Newtown High School
48-01 90th Street
Queens, NY 11373

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