



Notice  
March 5, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Proposed Closure of J.H.S. 166 George Gershwin (19K166) and Opening and Co-Location of New School (19K338) with The UFT Charter School (84K359) in Building K166 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 J.H.S. 166 George Gershwin (19K166, “J.H.S. 166”), an existing middle school in building K166 (“K166”) located at 800 Van Sicken Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11207, in Community School District 19. It currently serves students in grades six through eight. The DOE is proposing to immediately replace J.H.S. 166 with a new school (19K338, “New School”), a district middle school which will serve students in grades six through eight in K166.

If this proposal is approved, J.H.S. 166 will close at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. All current students who have not been promoted to high school before the start of the 2012-2013 school year will be guaranteed a seat and automatically enrolled in New School.

J.H.S. 166 is co-located with The UFT Charter School (84K359, “UFT Charter”), an existing public charter school that currently serves students in kindergarten through eleventh grade in two separate sites. In one location, building K292 (“K292”), located at 301 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11207, in Community School District 19, UFT Charter serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. In another location, K166, UFT Charter serves students in grades six through eleven, and is phasing in to serve students in grades six through twelve in the building for the 2012-13 school year. Only the second location of UFT Charter, K166, is impacted by the proposed closure of J.H.S. 166 and the proposed opening of New School. K166 also houses two community-based organizations (“CBOs”), Beacon CAMBA and the East New York Campus Satellite (“ENY”), which is an extension of Medgar Evers College. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

J.H.S. 166 is a zoned middle school and currently admits students from the zone. UFT Charter admits students through a charter lottery application process with preference to District 19 residents. New School will admit students through an unscreened choice method, with a priority to students residing in its zone, through the District 19 Middle School Choice Process, which was recently adopted by District 19 and will be implemented for the first time for admission for the 2012-2013 school year. Additional information about these admission processes 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 J.H.S. 166 and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve educational quality in K166. If this proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous, school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including J.H.S. 166 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, the DOE also will maximize New School’s chance of receiving up to \$850,000 in supplemental federal funding under the federal School Improvement Grant (“SIG”) program. New School will build on the strongest elements of J.H.S. 166 and incorporate new elements, including new talent designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of J.H.S. 166 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”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) 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 J.H.S. 166 George Gershwin and the UFT Charter School.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@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: [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

April 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
J.H.S. 166 George Gershwin

800 Van Siclen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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