Revised Notice
March 20, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Revised Proposed Closure of John Ericsson Middle School 126 (14K126) and the Opening and Co-Location of New School (14K317) with Believe Northside Charter High School (84K693) and Believe Southside Charter High School (84K694) in Building K126 in 2012-2013

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

On March 5, 2012, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement (the "March 5 EIS") describing a proposal to close John Ericsson Middle School 126 (14K126, "Ericsson Middle"), an existing district middle school in building K126 ("K126"), located at 424 Leonard Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222, in Community School District 14. It currently serves students in grades six through eight. The DOE proposed to immediately close Ericsson Middle at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year and replace it with New School (14K317, "New School"), a new district middle school which will serve students in grades six through eight in K126. All current students who have not been promoted to ninth grade before the start of the 2012-2013 school year will be guaranteed a seat and automatically enrolled in New School.

As discussed in the March 5 EIS, the DOE proposed to co-locate New School with two charter high schools currently housed in K126, Believe Northside Charter High School (84K693, "Believe Northside") and Believe Southside Charter High School (84K694, "Believe Southside"). These charter high schools have been phasing in and currently serve students in ninth through eleventh grades. As disclosed in the March 5 EIS, both of these high schools were subject to charter revocation. This revised EIS reflects that, subsequent to the issuance of the March 5 EIS, the New York State Education Department ("SED") notified Believe Northside that it would no longer seek to revoke its charter or certificate of incorporation. However, SED has concluded that it will revoke Believe Southside's charter and certificate of incorporation. Thus, Believe Northside will continue to phase in and will serve students in ninth through twelfth grades as of the 2012-2013 school year, while Believe Southside will close at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Believe Southside's closure does not have an impact on the proposed closure of Ericsson Middle and the proposed opening of New School described herein. This revised EIS also includes typographical corrections. The revised Building Utilization Plan ("BUP") that accompanies this revised EIS reflects changes to the proposed space allocation and shared space schedule as a result of Believe Southside's closure.

K126 also provides space to a community-based organization ("CBO"), the Beacon program, which provides after school services that range from academic support to recreational activities. Neither the original nor revised proposal is expected to impact the CBO. 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.

Ericsson Middle admits students through the District 14 Middle School Choice Process through a screened method. Believe Northside and Believe Southside admits students through the Charter lottery application process.

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 Ericsson Middle and replacing it with New School, the DOE is seeking to expeditiously improve educational quality in K126. If this revised proposal is approved, New School will develop rigorous, school-specific competencies to measure and screen prospective staff – including Ericsson Middle 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, the DOE also will increase 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 Ericsson Middle and incorporate new elements, including new talent, designed to better meet student needs. Thus, the immediate closure and replacement of Ericsson Middle 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 revised Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") and revised 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 John Ericsson Middle School 126, Believe Northside Charter High School, and Believe Southside Charter High School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D14Proposals@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: D14Proposals@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.
John Ericsson Middle School 126
424 Leonard Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222

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