



**Further Amended  
Revised Notice**  
April 11, 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) 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 and Building Utilization Plan (the “March 5 EIS” and the “March 5 BUP”) 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.

On March 20, 2012, the DOE issued a revised EIS and revised BUP, which reflect that, subsequent to the issuance of the March 5 EIS and BUP, the New York State Education Department (“SED”) decided to 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. The revised EIS also includes typographical corrections. The revised BUP reflects changes to the proposed space allocation and shared space schedule as a result of Believe Southside’s closure.

On March 29, 2012, the DOE issued an amended revised EIS, which corrects the admissions process of Ericsson Middle and New School and clarifies the status of the District 14 magnet grant, in which Ericsson Middle takes part.

**This further amended revised notice provides a summary of public comments that were received prior to the DOE’s issuance of the revised EIS and BUP on March 20, 2012, as well as a summary of all the changes made to the revised EIS and revised BUP.**

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. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the item.**

The March 5 EIS and March 5 BUP have been revised to reflect that Believe Southside will close at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year.

The revised EIS contains the following changes:

- Removed Believe Southside’s projected enrollment from calculations of projected building utilization in 2012-2013;
- Clarified that Believe Southside will close at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year;
- Clarified that Believe Northside will remain open and complete its phase-in to serve students in ninth through twelfth grades;
- Corrected typographical errors.

The revised BUP contains the following changes:

- Removed Believe Southside’s projected enrollment from calculations of projected building utilization in 2012-2013;
- Clarified that Believe Northside will remain open and complete its phase-in to serve students in ninth through twelfth grades;
- Clarified that Believe Southside will close at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year;
- Adjusted the proposed space allocations to reflect Believe Southside’s closure at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year;
  - In the March 5 BUP, New School was to receive 18 total full-size classrooms, and Believe Northside was to receive 21 total full-size classrooms;
  - In the revised BUP, New School is to receive 26 total full-size classrooms, and Believe Northside is to receive 33 total full-size classrooms;
- Adjusted the proposed shared space schedule to reflect Believe Southside’s closure at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year.

Additionally, as discussed above, on March 29, 2012, the DOE issued an amended revised EIS, which corrects the admissions process of Ericsson Middle and New School and clarifies the status of the District 14 magnet grant, in which Ericsson Middle takes part.

### **III. Summary of all public comment received to date.**

An information session regarding schools proposed for turnaround was hosted by the Brooklyn Borough President at Brooklyn Borough Hall on March 12, 2012. The DOE attended that meeting to provide information to community members and answer questions.

The following comments and questions concerning the proposal were made at the information session:

1. How would Ericsson Middle’s magnet grant be affected by the proposal? Would the other schools that have the magnet grant be affected by the proposal?
2. The previous principal negatively impacted Ericsson Middle.

### **IV. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.**

The amended revised EIS and revised 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 amended revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in the main offices of Ericsson Middle, Believe Northside Charter High School, and Believe Southside Charter High School.

### **V. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

**VI. 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](mailto:D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

Please note that the joint public hearing for this proposal has taken place on the date indicated below. A transcript of this hearing will be available on the DOE's Web site at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/proposal?id=172>.

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 VI above.

**VIII. 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