Second Amended Notice
October 13, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 117 J.Keld Briarwood School (28Q117) to a K-5 School

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

P.S. 117 J. Keld Briarwood School ("P.S. 117") is an existing zoned elementary school located in building 28Q117, at 85-15 143rd Street Queens, NY 11435, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 117 is currently the only school located in building 28Q117.

This is a proposal to implement a "grade truncation," meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth grade students after the current 2011-2012 school year. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, all fifth and sixth grade students who meet promotional standards would graduate from P.S. 117 and participate in the Middle School Choice Process. During the 2011-2012 school year, P.S. 117 fifth grade students would participate in the Middle School Choice Process and would move on to middle school to enter sixth grade in the 2012-2013 school year. In September 2012, P.S. 117 fifth and sixth grade students who have graduated from P.S. 117 would enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in September 2012, P.S. 117 would only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program (subject to funding and demand). This change is supported by the P.S. 117 principal.

On October 3, 2011, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") describing a proposal to truncate P.S. 117. The DOE has now published an amended EIS, which corrects the percentage of students receiving integrated co-teaching ("ICT") or self-contained ("SC") services.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 117 students already have the option to apply to middle school as fifth graders. However, P.S. 117 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are limited to those schools that still have available seventh grade seats. In particular, there are several un-zoned choice middle schools in District 28 that rarely have open seventh grade seats because seats become available only if sixth grade students leave the school. As a result, students who would remain at P.S. 117 through sixth grade if this proposal is not implemented would have fewer opportunities to enter those choice middle schools than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

This proposed grade truncation will provide P.S. 117 students access to the same range of middle

school options as their peers throughout District 28. In addition, it addresses problems that exist for middle school students and the middle school as a whole when students start middle school through multiple entry grades (sixth and seventh).

Further, the proposal addresses some disadvantages that students may be experiencing while they remain at P.S. 117 for sixth grade after their grade size has been reduced by the number of students who exercised the option to enter middle school in sixth grade. Also, by entering middle school in sixth grade rather than seventh grade, students at P.S. 117 will have more opportunities to take advantage of the enriching, high-school preparatory experiences offered at middle schools.

Finally, changing P.S. 117's grade span from K-6 to K-5 would reduce the school's enrollment by approximately 164 students, freeing up additional space that P.S. 117 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.). P.S. 117 is also overcrowded, and truncating P.S. 117's sixth grade will reduce the building's utilization rate and alleviate overcrowding.

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/Nov2011Proposals.htm

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 117's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D28Proposals@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: Rebecca Rawlins
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 6:00 PM
P.S. 117 J.Keld Briarwood School
85-15 143rd Street Briarwood, NY 11435

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.
November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Avenue
Queens, NY 11106