



Notice
October 11, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Re-Siting of One Grade Level of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475) to Building Q475 in the 2014-2015 School Year

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site the ninth grade of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475, “Richmond Hill”) from its current location at building Q636 (“Q636”), located at 94-25 117th Street, Queens, NY 11418 in Community School District 27 (“District 27”), to building Q475 (“Q475”) and temporary classroom unit (“TCU”) Q944, located at 89-30 114th Street, Queens, NY 11418, in District 27 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Richmond Hill currently serves a portion of its ninth grade at building Q636, and currently serves the remainder of its ninth grade as well as its tenth through twelfth grades at building Q475. In addition, Q475 houses Partnership with Children, a community based organization (“CBO”). A “re-siting” means students will attend classes in a different building than the one they attended the previous year.

If this proposal is approved, Richmond Hill’s ninth grade in Q636 will be re-sited to Q475 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. The DOE plans to open a new district high school in building Q636 in the 2014-2015 school year. The DOE anticipates that the new high school would have a limited unscreened admissions method, with priority to students residing in Queens. The new high school would open with ninth grade, adding one grade annually until it reaches full scale in the 2017-2018 school year in building Q636. At this time, the DOE does not plan to site any other school organizations in Q636. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the new district high school would be the only school organization in Q636.

Currently, the DOE is planning to reduce the enrollment at Richmond Hill over a period of four years beginning in September 2014. By 2017-2018, enrollment at Richmond Hill will decrease by approximately 420-460 students so that it will serve approximately 1,580-1,620 students at scale in ninth through twelfth grades. The enrollment reduction is intended to provide an opportunity for Richmond Hill to concentrate on a smaller cohort of students, and allow for a new school option to develop in building Q636. If this proposal is not approved, the DOE will reassess its plans for the long term use of building Q636.

According to the 2012-2013 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), building Q475 has the capacity to serve a total of 2,165 students. In 2013-2014, Richmond Hill is projected to serve approximately 1,784 ninth through twelfth-grade students in building Q475.

This yields a projected utilization rate of approximately 82%. This means that the building is “under-utilized” and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal to re-site Richmond Hill’s ninth grade to Q475 is approved, in 2014-2015, Richmond Hill is projected to serve approximately 1,980 – 2,020 ninth through twelfth-grade students in Q475, yielding a projected building utilization rate of approximately 91% - 93%.

Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making 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. The opening of a new district high school in building Q636 is intended to provide an additional option to students and families in District 27 and in Queens at large. As mentioned above, the DOE is planning to gradually decrease Richmond Hill’s enrollment by approximately 420-460 students over a period of four years, which is intended to allow for a new school option to develop in building Q636.

The enrollment reduction of Richmond Hill is driven by Richmond Hill’s performance and demand. Richmond Hill received an overall C grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012, and received an overall D grade in 2010-2011, and an overall C grade in 2009-2010. Additionally, in 2011-2012, the school received a C grade in Student Progress and Career and College Readiness, and an F grade in Student Performance and Environment. Moreover, enrollment at Richmond Hill overall has decreased by 35% since 2008-2009, with a 33% decrease in ninth-grade enrollment from 1,173 ninth-grade students in 2008-2009 to 789 ninth-grade students in 2013-2014, indicating declining demand for the school. Applicant demand for Richmond Hill is low, particularly demand for the Choices Academy Program to which students apply as part of the High School Admissions Process. For the 2013-2014 school year, there were 1.4 applicants per seat available in this program, as compared to the Citywide average of 8.1 applicants per seat in high schools, with only 22% of all applicants to the program ranking it as their first choice.

At this time, the DOE believes that reducing the enrollment of Richmond Hill beginning in September 2014 and providing a new option for high school students in the Q636 building will benefit current and future students at Richmond Hill and in Queens. The enrollment reduction and re-siting is intended to provide an opportunity for Richmond Hill to concentrate on a smaller cohort of students in a consolidated location, and allow for a new school option to develop in building Q636.

The DOE believes that the District 27 community and Queens as a whole will benefit from having an additional option in the Q636 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/2013-2014/Nov26SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of Richmond Hill High School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D27Proposals@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: Dean Guzman
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Building Q475
Richmond Hill High School
89-30 114th Street
Queens, NY 11418

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 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
The High School of Fashion Industries
225 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011