



Notice  
January 11, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (23K668) with Existing Schools Riverdale Avenue Community School (23K446), General D. Chappie James Elementary School (23K631), and General D. Chappie Middle School (23K634) in Building K183 Beginning in 2013-2014**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to co-locate a new middle school, 23K668 (“23K668”), in building K183 (“K183”) located at 76 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23 (“District 23”). If this proposal is approved, 23K668 will be co-located in K183 with General D. Chappie James Middle School (23K634, “Chappie James Middle School”), Riverdale Avenue Community School (23K446, “Riverdale Community”) and General D. Chappie James Elementary School (23K631, “Chappie James Elementary School”). Riverdale Community is an existing zoned elementary school serving kindergarten through second grade and that is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and also offers a pre-kindergarten program. Chappie James Elementary School is an existing elementary school that is currently serving students in third through fifth grade. Chappie James Middle School is an existing middle school serving students in grades six through eight. 23K668 will serve students in sixth through eighth grade at full scale and will admit students through the Middle School Choice Process. If this proposal is approved, 23K668 will begin enrolling sixth grade students in 2013-2014 and will add one grade per year until it is at full scale and serves students in sixth through eighth grade in 2015-2016.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), published in January 11, 2013, the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close Chappie James Middle School because of its low performance and inability to improve quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, Chappie James Middle School will no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. One grade will then be phased out each subsequent year. During the 2013-2014 school year, Chappie James Middle School will serve students in seventh and eighth grade and, in 2014-2015, it will only serve students in eighth grade. Chappie James Middle School will close after June 2015.

Chappie James Elementary School is in the process of phasing out and currently serves students in third through fifth grades. Chappie James Elementary School will close following the 2014-2015 school year.

On November 16, 2012, the District 23 Community Education Council (“CEC”) approved “unzoning” the middle schools located in the district. Thus, beginning in 2013-2014 fifth grade students will apply for middle school for the 2014-2015 school year through the “Middle School Choice Process” and there will no longer be any zoned middle schools in the district.

Thus, if this proposal is approved, 23K668 will be a District 23 choice middle school that would serve students in sixth through eighth grades. In the 2013-2014 school year, 23K668 will first offer priority to fifth grade students attending or currently zoned to Chappie James Elementary School and will then fill remaining seats through the District 23 Middle School Choice Process. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, 23K668 will be a choice middle school and will no longer offer priority to students who reside in the zone.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), K183 has a target capacity of 760 students, but in 2012-2013, the building is serving only 534 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 70%.

If this proposal and the proposal to phase out Chappie James Middle School are approved, in 2015-2016, once Chappie James Middle School has completed its phase-out and 23K668 is at full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 571-661 students served in K183, thereby yielding a estimated building utilization rate of approximately 75%-87%.

If both proposals are approved, 23K668 will replace the middle school seats that will be lost as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure of Chappie James Middle School and will provide a new educational option for families in District 23.

### *Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process*

The DOE has provided more detail on the decision to phase out and close Chappie James Middle School in a separate EIS, which can be found on the DOE’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

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 co-location of 23K668 in building K183 is intended to provide an additional option to students and families in District 23 and Brooklyn.

## **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/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Chappie James Middle School, Chappie James Elementary School, and Riverdale Avenue Community School.

### **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D23Proposals@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: Stephen Demers  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208.

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

February 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.  
Chappie James Middle School  
76 Riverdale Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11212

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.

### **VII. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.**

March 11, 2013 at 6:00pm  
Brooklyn Technical High School  
29 Fort Greene Pl  
Brooklyn, NY 11217