



Notice
January 18, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New High Schools 25Q240 and 25Q241 with Flushing High School (25Q460) in Building Q460 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 open and co-locate two new district high schools, 25Q240 and 25Q241, in school building Q460 (“Q460”) located at 35-01 Union Street, Flushing, NY 11354 within the geographical confines of Community School District 25 (“District 25”). The proposed new high schools, 25Q240 and 25Q241, will offer rigorous academic programming that will prepare students for post-secondary education and careers. If this proposal is approved, 25Q240 and 25Q241 will be co-located in building Q460 with Flushing High School (25Q460, “Flushing”), an existing high school serving students in ninth through twelfth grade. In addition, building Q460 houses a Young Adult Borough Center (“YABC”) program and a Learning to Work (“LTW”) Program. 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.

In consultation with the school’s leader, cluster, network support, and community, the DOE is planning to reduce the enrollment at Flushing over a period of four years beginning in September 2013. By 2016-2017, enrollment at Flushing will decrease by approximately 842-882 students so that it will serve 2,150-2,190 students at scale in ninth through twelfth grades. This reduction of Flushing’s enrollment will create space for 25Q240 and 25Q241 to open in building Q460 and grow to scale. The DOE does not anticipate reducing Flushing’s enrollment if this proposal to co-locate 25Q240 and 25Q241 is not approved.

The proposed opening and co-location of 25Q240 and 25Q241 in building Q460 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large. 25Q240 will be open to students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and will have a limited unscreened selection method giving priority to students residing in Queens. 25Q241 will offer Chinese bilingual programming in accordance with community need based on parent choice. The school will be open to New York city residents, with a priority to Queens students or residents. Fifty percent of the incoming ninth-grade students will be English Proficient students and fifty percent will be Chinese (Mandarin) speakers who are English Language Learners as

per DOE guidelines.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), building Q460 has a target capacity of 2,031 students. In 2012-2013, the building serves approximately 3,032 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 149%.

If this co-location proposal is approved, 25Q240 and 25Q241 will gradually phase into Q460 while Flushing simultaneously scales back its enrollment. The new schools will serve students in ninth grade beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and will add one grade level every year until the schools reach their full grade span of ninth through twelfth grades in the 2016-2017 school year, each school serving approximately 420-460 students. In 2016-2017, once Flushing has completed its enrollment reduction and 25Q240 and 25Q241 have reached full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 2,990-3,110 students served in Q460, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 147%-153%. Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation.

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 co-location of 25Q240 and 25Q241 in building Q460 is intended to provide additional options to students and families in District 25 and in Queens. As mentioned above, the DOE is working closely with the Flushing leadership to gradually decrease the school’s enrollment by approximately 842-882 students over a period of four years.

Flushing has struggled to meet performance targets for several years. In 2011, the DOE applied to the SED to place the school into the Transformation model, one of the four federally-approved intervention models. Based on later evidence that the school was not equipped to significantly improve student performance, in April 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy voted to implement the closure and replacement of Flushing. A lawsuit prevented the DOE from following through with those plans.

The school received overall D grades on its Progress Reports in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, after receiving a C in 2009-2010. Additionally, in 2011-2012, the school received F grades in both Student Progress and Student Performance, a D grade in School Environment, and a C grade in College and Career Readiness. Flushing was also identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as a Priority school, defined by SED as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state. In August 2012, SED identified Priority schools across the State, including 122 in New York City. High schools are identified as Priority based on the school’s graduation rate.

As a result of Flushing’s poor performance, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Flushing in the fall of 2012, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and

interventions would best benefit its students and the Flushing community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent historical performance and demand data from the school, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

The DOE also solicited community feedback via phone and email, including creation of a dedicated Web page for this purpose at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=290>.

At this time, the DOE believes that reducing the enrollment of Flushing beginning in September 2013 and providing two new options for high school students in the Q460 building will benefit current and future students at Flushing and in Queens. The enrollment reduction is intended to provide an opportunity for Flushing to improve by narrowing its focus to fewer academic programs and a smaller number of students, and allow for new school options to develop in building Q460.

The DOE believes that the District 25 community and Queens as a whole will benefit from having additional options in the Q460 building. The DOE will also continue to seek and review community feedback while this proposal is under consideration by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”).

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 Flushing’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D25Proposals@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: Jillian Roland
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D25Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

February 22nd, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Flushing High School
35-01 Union Street
Queens, NY 11354

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.

March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217