



Notice
January 22, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-Out of P.S. 73 Thomas S. Boyland (23K073) 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 phase out P.S. 73 Thomas S. Boyland (23K073, “P.S. 73”), an existing district school in building K073 (“K073”) located at 251 McDougal Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233, in Community School District 23 (“District 23”). P.S. 73 currently serves students in grades kindergarten through eight and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. The DOE is proposing to phase out P.S. 73 based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on January 22, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new elementary school (23K559, “New Elementary School”) and a new middle school (23K664, “New Middle School”) in building K073. That proposal can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.html>.

P.S. 73 currently serves zoned kindergarten through fifth grade students. It also serves sixth through eighth grade students, and gives priority for admission for sixth-grade to continuing fifth-grade students. P.S. 73 offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 73 will be phased out gradually over the next several years and will no longer admit new kindergarten, first-grade, second-grade, or sixth-grade students at the end of this school year. Additionally, after the end of this year, P.S. 73 will not offer its pre-kindergarten program. In 2013-2014, P.S. 73 will only serve students in third, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grades; in 2014-2015, P.S. 73 will only serve students in fourth, fifth, and eighth grades; in 2015-2016, P.S. 73 will only serve students in fifth grade. P.S. 73 will close in June 2016.

In a separate EIS posted on January 22, 2013, the DOE has also proposed to open New Elementary School and New Middle School in the same building next September. The proposal can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.html>. New Elementary School will serve kindergarten, first, and second grades next year and will add one grade per year over the next three years. Current P.S. 73 pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first-grade students will be enrolled in New Elementary School next year in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. New Elementary School will also offer pre-kindergarten. At full scale, New Elementary School will serve students in

kindergarten through fifth grades in 2016-2017 and offer a pre-kindergarten program. New Elementary School, like all District 23 elementary schools, will enroll students through the District 23 Elementary School Choice Process. Additional information about the District 23 Elementary School Choice process is provided in Section III.A of this proposal. New Middle School will serve sixth grade when it opens and will add one grade per year over the next two years. Current P.S. 73 fifth-grade students will be given priority for admissions at New Middle School next year only. At full scale, New Middle School will serve students in sixth through eighth grades in 2015-2016. New Middle School will enroll students through the District 23 Middle School Choice process. Additional information about the District 23 Middle School Choice Process is provided in Section III.A of this proposal.

Background on the DOE Decision-Making Process

Schools are identified for possible phase-out for any of the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor score on their most recent Quality Review; or (3) they have been 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. Middle and Elementary schools are identified as Priority schools based on the school’s state test performance. Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a grade of D, F, or a third consecutive C grade or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that receive a rating of Underdeveloped on the Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools on a scale of A through F based on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observing classrooms and talking with students, staff, and families. Schools are rated on the following four-point scale: “Underdeveloped” (the lowest possible rating), “Developing,” “Proficient,” and “Well Developed” (the highest possible rating).

P.S. 73 received an overall F grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012 and an overall C grade for the previous two years. The school was also designated a Focus school, defined by SED as among the lowest-performing schools in the state based on its results with certain high-needs student groups. The school was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2012-2013, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 73, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the surrounding 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.

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of P.S. 73—will address the school’s performance struggles and allow for new school options to develop in building K073 that the DOE believes will better serve future students and the broader community.

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 P.S. 73 Thomas S. Boyland’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to 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
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
251 McDougal Street
Brooklyn, NY 11233

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