Notice
January 31, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended: The Proposed Phase-Out of P.S. 174 Dumont (19K174) 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. 174 Dumont (19K174, "P.S. 174"), an existing district school in building K174 ("K174") located at 574 Dumont Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, in Community School District 19 ("District 19"). It currently serves students in grades kindergarten through eight. P.S. 174 currently offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. The DOE is proposing to phase out P.S. 174 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 amended Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") also posted on January 31, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new elementary school (19K557, "New Elementary School") and a new middle school (19K663, "New Middle School") in building K174. That proposal can be found here: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.html.

On January 31, 2013, the EIS was amended to include P.S. 174's most recent Quality Review, which occurred on October 24, 2012 and October 25, 2012.

P.S. 174 currently offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program and serves zoned kindergarten through fifth-grade students, and sixth- through eighth-grade students who are admitted through the District 19 Middle School Choice Process, in which priority is given to continuing fifth-grade students and then to District 19 students using an unscreened admissions method. Unscreened schools randomly select students who apply for admission. Additional information about the District 19 Middle School Choice Process and P.S. 174 admissions is provided in Section III.A of this proposal.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 174 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, at the end of this school year, P.S. 174 will not offer its pre-kindergarten program. In 2013-2014, P.S. 174 will only serve students in third, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grades; in 2014-2015, P.S. 174 will only serve students in fourth, fifth, and eighth grades; in 2015-2016, P.S. 174 will only serve students in fifth grade. P.S. 174 will close in June 2016.

In a separate amended EIS posted on January 31, 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. New Elementary School will also offer pre-kindergarten. Current P.S. 174 kindergarten and first-grade students will be enrolled in New Elementary School next year. Current P.S. 174 pre-kindergarten students will have priority for admissions at New Elementary School next year. At full scale, New Elementary School will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades in 2016-2017 and offer a pre-kindergarten program. 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. 174 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.
P.S. 174 is the only school organization in building K174.

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. Elementary and middle 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, School Environment and, new to the Progress Report in 2011-2012, College and Career Readiness. 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. 174 received an overall D grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012. The school was also designated as 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.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 174, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the P.S. 174 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. 174—will address the school's performance

struggles and allow for new school options to develop in building K174 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 amended 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 amended EIS are also available in P.S. 174 Dumont's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D19Proposals@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: Gabrielle Wyatt
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
574 Dumont Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217