Notice
February 5, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended Educational Impact Statement: The Proposed Phase-Out of General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634) 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 General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634, "Chappie James Middle School"), an existing unscreened choice middle school in building K183 ("K183") located at 76 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23 ("District 23"). Chappie James Middle School currently serves students in grades six through eight. The DOE is proposing to phase out Chappie James Middle School 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 11, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new district middle school, 23K668, in building K183. That proposal can be found here: http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm.

The Educational Impact Statement for the proposed phase out of General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science has been amended to update the eligibility status of General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science for School Improvement Grant funding. The amended information is provided in a Notice of Amendment for Section V of the Educational Impact Statement and does not substantially revise the proposal.

If this proposal is approved, Chappie James Middle School will no longer admit new sixth-grade students at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. The school will continue to phase out one grade level each year, until it closes following the 2014-2015 school year. Current students will be served and supported as they progress towards the completion of middle school while remaining enrolled at Chappie James Middle School. Current and future Chappie James Middle School eighth-grade students will be supported through the Citywide High School Admissions Process as they apply to a high school. There may be students who do not meet promotional standards and are required to repeat a grade that the school will no longer serve. These students will be enrolled in 23K668 in the grade the student is repeating.

Chappie James Middle School currently admits students through the Middle School Choice Process. Chappie James Middle School first admits students who apply to the school and who

reside in the Chappie James Elementary School zone, or attend Chappie James Elementary School and then admits students through the Middle School Choice Process using an unscreened selection method if space remains. In unscreened programs, students who apply are randomly selected. If this phase-out proposal is approved, Chappie James Middle School would no longer admit sixth grade students.

Chappie James Middle School is co-located with Riverdale Avenue Community School (23K446, "Riverdale Community") and General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631, "Chappie James Elementary School"), two existing zoned elementary schools.

Riverdale Community currently serves kindergarten through second grade students and is in the process of phasing in to serve additional grades. Riverdale Community also offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. At full scale in the 2015-2016 school year, Riverdale Community will serve students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade and will offer a pre-kindergarten program.

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

In a separate proposal, the DOE is proposing to replace the seats lost by this phase-out by opening and co-locating a new middle school, 23K668, in K183 beginning in September 2013. If both proposals are approved, 23K668 will be at full scale in the 2015-2016 school year, when it serves students in sixth through eighth grade.

Background on the DOE's 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 221 Priority Schools across the State, including 122 in New York City. 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).

Chappie James Middle School received an overall D grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012 for the third consecutive year. The school received a "Developing" on its most recent Quality Review in 2011-2012 indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning. The school was also designated a Priority School by SED in 2012-2013.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Chappie James Middle School, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the Chappie James Middle School 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 Chappie James Middle School—is appropriate given the school's performance struggles and to allow for new school options to develop in K183 that 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 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

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 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