

Resolution Regarding the Revised Proposed Re-Siting of a Portion of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475) from Building Q636 to Building Q475 During the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 School Years, and the Temporary Co-location of a Portion of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475) with Epic High School – North (27Q334) in Building Q636 for the 2014-2015 School Year

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-h(2-a), the Chancellor prepared an educational impact statement (“EIS”), published and filed on October 11, 2013, on the proposed re-siting of one grade level of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475, “Richmond Hill”) to building Q475 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year (the “Original Proposal”); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g(8), the Panel for Educational Policy (the “Panel”) undertook a public review process for review and comment on the Original Proposal; and

WHEREAS, such review process included notice of the Original Proposal via the Department of Education’s (the “Department’s”) internet website and circulation of the notice of the Original Proposal to all community superintendents, community district education councils, community boards, and school based management teams; and

WHEREAS, such notice further included: a) a description of the purpose and substance of the Original Proposal; b) information regarding where the full text of the Original Proposal could be obtained; c) the name, office, address, email, and telephone number of the Department representative from whom information concerning the Original Proposal could be obtained; d) the date, time, and place of any hearing on the Original Proposal; e) the date, time, and place of the meeting of the Panel at which the Panel was to vote on the Original Proposal; and f) information on how to submit written or oral comments regarding the Original Proposal; and

WHEREAS, such notice and public review process commenced on October 11, 2013, at least forty-five days in advance of the November 26, 2013 meeting of the Panel at which the Original Proposal came before the Panel for a vote; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-h(2-a), the Chancellor held a joint public hearing on the Original Proposal with the District 29 Community Education Council and the impacted school leadership team, at which all interested parties had an opportunity to present comments or concerns on the Original Proposal; and

WHEREAS, following the public review and comment period, the Panel made available to the public, including via the Department’s internet web site, an assessment of all public comments concerning the Original Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the assessment of public comments included a summary and analysis of the issues raised and any significant suggested alternatives; a statement of the reasons why any significant alternatives were not incorporated into the Original Proposal; a description of any changes to the Original Proposal as a result of the public comments; and information as to where the full text of any approved proposal may be obtained; and

WHEREAS, the Panel approved the Original Proposal on November 26, 2013;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-h(2-a)(d-1), upon further consideration of public input, the Chancellor substantially revised the Original Proposal and prepared and published a revised EIS on May 23, 2014 (the “Revised Proposal”) to reflect that a portion of Richmond Hill consisting of approximately 200 students will be served in Q636 during the 2014-2015 school year, and will be temporarily co-located with new high school Epic High School – North (27Q334, “Epic North”), and that all Richmond Hill students will be served in Q475 by the 2015-2016 school year;

WHEREAS, the revised EIS includes a) an updated room count for main building Q475, which reflects planned construction that will increase the capacity of that building over the next two years; b) an updated allocation of rooms for Richmond Hill in main building Q475 and the temporary classroom units; c) the allocation of rooms between Richmond Hill and Epic North in Q636 for the 2014-2015 school year; d) additional information about the implementation of the enrollment reduction at Richmond Hill; e) updates based on the most recent enrollment and performance data for Richmond Hill; f) information about the impact of recent amendments to Commissioner’s Regulation 100.3 on admissions policies; and g) updated information about the state approval status of Richmond Hill’s career and technical education programs;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g(8)(b), the Panel undertook a public review process for review and comment on the Revised Proposal; and

WHEREAS, such review process included notice of the Revised Proposal via the Department’s internet website and circulation of the notice of the Revised Proposal to all community superintendents, community district education councils, community boards, and school based management teams; and

WHEREAS, such notice further included: a) a description of the purpose and substance of the Revised Proposal; b) identification of all substantial and non-substantial revisions to the Original Proposal; c) a summary of all public comments received on the Original Proposal following the initial public notice; d) information regarding where the full text of the Revised Proposal could be obtained; e) the name, office, address, email, and telephone number of the Department of Education representative from whom information concerning the Revised Proposal could be obtained; f) date, time, and place of any hearing on the Revised Proposal; (g) the date, time and place of the meeting of the Panel at which the Panel will vote on the Revised Proposal; and (h) information on how to submit written or oral comments regarding the Revised Proposal; and

WHEREAS, such notice and public review process commenced on May 23, 2014, at least fifteen days in advance of the June 24, 2014 meeting of the Panel at which the Revised Proposal came before the Panel for a vote; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2014, the Department issued an amended notice which provided updated information regarding the date of the Panel vote on the Revised Proposal, as well as

updated contact information for the Department office representative from whom information may be obtained regarding the Revised Proposal; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law 2590-h(2-a)(d-1), the Chancellor held a joint public hearing on the Revised Proposal with the impacted school leadership team and to which the District 29 Community Education Council was invited, at which all interested parties had an opportunity to present comments or concerns on the Revised Proposal; and

WHEREAS, following the public review and comment period, the Panel made available to the public, including via the Department's internet web site, an assessment of all public comments concerning the Revised Proposal and provided a link to those for the Original Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the assessment of public comments included a summary and analysis of the issues raised and any significant suggested alternatives; a statement of the reasons why any significant alternatives were not incorporated into the Revised Proposal; a description of any changes to the Revised Proposal as a result of the public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor recommends that the Panel approve the Revised Proposal; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Panel to approve the Revised Proposal; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g, the Panel for Educational Policy hereby approves the revised proposed re-siting of a portion of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475) from building Q636 to building Q475 during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, and the temporary co-location of a portion of Richmond Hill High School (27Q475) with Epic High School – North (27Q334) in building Q636 for the 2014-2015 school year.