Amended Notice
January 20, 2011

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Norman Thomas High School (02M620)

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

Norman Thomas High School (02M620) is an existing high school located in building M620 at 111 East 33 Street, New York, NY 10016, within the geographic confines of Community School District 2. It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. On December 20, 2010, the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") describing a proposal to phase out Norman Thomas High School based on its poor performance and the DOE's assessment that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs. The DOE is now issuing an amended EIS, which corrects typographical errors, clarifies the methodology used for calculating utilization rates, and corrects the total baseline allocation of rooms in building M620, but does not revise or modify the proposal itself.

If this proposal is approved, Norman Thomas High School would no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. Current students would be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled in Norman Thomas High School. In cases where students do not complete graduation requirements by June 2014, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students' needs so that they may continue their high school education after Norman Thomas High School completes phasing out.

Norman Thomas High School is located in building M620, and is currently co-located with Murray Hill Academy (02M432, "Murray Hill"). Murray Hill is a new school which currently enrolls only ninth-grade students. Whether or not this proposal to phase out Norman Thomas High School is approved, Murray Hill will continue serving its current students and eventually enroll students in grades 9-12 when it completes its expansion during the 2013-2014 school year. The DOE also plans to propose to re-locate Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language (02M427, "Manhattan Academy") to Building M620. That proposal will be described in a separate Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") to be released in February 2011.

Manhattan Academy is a new school that opened in September 2010 and is currently located in building M503, the UFT Headquarters, located at 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004. It currently enrolls only ninth-grade students and was proposed to phase in to the Norman Thomas Campus last year. A lawsuit prevented this co-location. If the separate proposal concerning Manhattan Academy is approved, Manhattan Academy would be re-located to the Norman Thomas Campus, where it will continue serving its current students and will eventually enroll students in grades 9-12 when it completes its expansion during the 2013-2014 school year.

Additionally, the DOE also anticipates proposing the re-siting and co-location of another existing DOE public school to the M620 building. Similar to Manhattan Academy, the DOE is often

searching for long-term facility solutions for schools that are currently located in temporary sites. While the DOE has yet to finalize the details of a second co-location in M620 for the 2011-2012 school year, this forthcoming proposal, along with the proposal to co-locate Manhattan Academy, will be released in February 2011.

If the proposals to phase-out Norman Thomas and co-locate both Manhattan Academy and the existing school are approved, there would still be sufficient space in the M620 building to co-locate another school beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, once the phase-out of Norman Thomas is closer to completion. Therefore, the DOE may consider the option of opening a new high school in either 2012-2013 or beyond in order to optimally utilize the space in the M620 building.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Amended Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's web site:
http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Feb32011Proposals

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Norman Thomas High School and Murray Hill Academy.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

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: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers St
Email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

January 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Norman Thomas / Murray Hill Academy
111 East 33 Street
New York, NY 10016

Questions about the proposal can 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. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Falstrom at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

February 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217