Amended Notice
June 5, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 340 (10X340) to a K-5 School in 2014-2015

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

P.S. 340 (10X340, "P.S. 340") is an existing zoned elementary school located in building X340, at 25 West 195 Street, Bronx, NY 10468, in Community School District 10 ("District 10"). It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grades and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 340 is currently the only school located in building X340.

On May 2, 2013 the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") issued an Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") describing a proposal to implement a "grade truncation," meaning that the school will no longer enroll sixth-graders after the 2013-2014 school year. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2013-2014 school year, all fifth- and sixth-grade students who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 340. During the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 340 fifth- and sixth-grade students will participate in the District 9 and 10 Middle School Choice Process. In September 2014, P.S. 340's current fifth- and sixth-grade students will enter middle school elsewhere as sixth- and seventh-graders, respectively. Beginning in September 2014, P.S. 340 will only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades and will continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program (subject to continued funding and demand).

This amended notice provides a new location for the vote by the Panel for Educational Policy on this proposal. This proposal will be voted on at the June 19, 2013 the Panel for Educational Policy meeting now taking place at **Prospect Heights Campus, located at 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.**

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 340 students already have the option to apply to middle school during their fifth-grade year. However, P.S. 340 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are limited to those schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. There are several middle schools in Districts 9 and 10 that rarely have seventh-grade seats open because those seats become available only if sixth-grade students leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 340 through sixth grade have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

Moreover, P.S. 340 students who start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering middle school a year later than most of their classmates. They remain in their new middle school for only two years before moving on to high school, leaving them with less time to adjust to a new school environment and new academic expectations before facing another transition and adjustment. Multiple transitions in such close succession can have

the effect of depersonalizing the school experience at a time when adolescents tend to need the most personal and supportive environments. Having students start middle school through multiple entry grades (sixth and seventh) is also challenging for middle school teachers from an instructional perspective and for the middle schools as a whole.

The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to high-quality schools at every stage of their education. Having elementary schools that end in different grades (i.e., K-5 versus K-6) creates unequal levels of access to middle school for students based simply on the year they exit elementary school, as well as unnecessary administrative challenges for both the K-6 elementary schools and the middle schools that receive their students through multiple entry grades. P.S. 340 is one of three schools in District 10 that serve students in kindergarten through sixth grades. In a separate Educational Impact Statement that can be found at http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/June2013Proposals.htm, the DOE, in collaboration with the school administration, is also proposing to truncate the sixth grade of one of the other two schools, P.S. 360 (10X360, "P.S. 360"), for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. Collectively, these proposed grade truncations will help standardize the middle school application and entry grades in District 10, giving all P.S. 340 and P.S. 360 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout the District. This proposal is being initiated at the request of P.S. 340 leadership.

Changing P.S. 340's grade span from K-6 to K-5 will reduce the school's enrollment by approximately 35-45 sixth-grade students, freeing up additional space that P.S. 340 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc). This will be particularly useful for P.S. 340, since it has seen an increase in its kindergarten enrollment in each year since the 2009-2010 school year.

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/June2013Proposals.htm.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S.340.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D10Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Jean-Pierre ("JP") Jacquet

Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D10Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

The joint public hearing for this proposal was held on Monday, June 3, 2013, but additional comments and questions about this proposal can continue to be directed to D10Proposals@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-5159.

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

June 19, 2013 at 6:00pm

Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225