

NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Proposed Re-siting and Co-location of Unity Center for Urban Technologies (02M500) and the Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language (02M427) with Norman Thomas High School (02M620) and Murray Hill Academy (02M432) in School Building M620

Proposal Summary and Background

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site Unity Center for Urban Technologies (02M500, “Unity”) and the Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language (02M427, “Manhattan Academy”) in school building M620 (“M620” or the “Norman Thomas Campus”), located at 111 East 33rd Street, Manhattan, NY 10016, within the geographical confines of Community School District 2 (“District 2”). If this proposal is approved, Unity and Manhattan Academy would be co-located with Norman Thomas High School (02M620, “Norman Thomas”) and Murray Hill Academy (02M432, “Murray Hill”). A “co-location” means that two or more schools are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Unity, an existing 9-12 school, is currently housed in leased space, located at 121 Sixth Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10013 (“M897”), within the geographical confines of District 2. Manhattan Academy is a new DOE high school that opened in September 2010. The school currently serves ninth-grade, and will add one grade level per year until it serves grades 9-12. Manhattan Academy is temporarily sited in the United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) headquarters, located at 52 Broadway, Manhattan, NY 10004, within the geographical confines of District 2.

Norman Thomas, an existing school, serves students in grades 9-12. Murray Hill is a new DOE high school that opened in September 2010 and is phasing into M620. The school currently serves ninth-grade, and will add one grade level per year until it serves grades 9-12. In addition, M620 houses a District 79 continuing education program which offers evening classes to adults Monday through Saturday.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on December 20, 2010, the DOE proposed to phase out and eventually close Norman Thomas because an extensive review of data and community feedback indicates that the school is unable to turn around. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved the proposal to phase out Norman Thomas at its February 3, 2011 meeting. Thus, the school will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the end of this school year, but would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. Norman Thomas’ enrollment will decrease gradually over the next three years and the school will complete phasing out in June 2014.

If this proposal is approved, Manhattan Academy, which is in its first year of phasing in at its current location, would continue to grow gradually in M620 by adding one grade level every year until the school reaches its full grade span of 9-12 in the 2013-2014 school year. Unity is already at full scale and would continue to serve students in grades 9-12. Unity and Manhattan Academy would be co-located with Norman Thomas as that school phases out. Long-term, Unity and Manhattan Academy would share space only with Murray Hill. Given that the phase-out of Norman Thomas was recently approved, the M620 building has adequate capacity to accommodate Murray Hill as well as Unity and Manhattan Academy at full operational capacity.

Accessing the Full Proposal

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing this proposal can be found on the Department of Education’s website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/NormanThomas>. We encourage you to visit that site often as it will be regularly updated with important dates, answers to community questions, and other information as it becomes available. Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Unity Center for Urban Technologies, Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language, Norman Thomas High School and Murray Hill Academy.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

You may submit questions or comments at any time:

Name: Yoo Jin Cheong
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

In addition, joint public hearings will be held to gather community feedback:

Date: March 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Unity Center for Urban Technologies, 121 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY 10013

Date: March 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004

Date: March 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Norman Thomas High School / Murray Hill Academy, 111 East 33 Street New York, NY 10016

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. Cheong at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

Information about the Panel for Educational Policy Vote on the Proposal

This proposal must be approved by the Panel for Educational Policy before it is implemented. We anticipate that the Panel will vote on several proposals, including this one, on:

Date: March 23, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Brooklyn Technical High School, 29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217