



52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

February 5, 2021

Dear P.S. 163 Families,

New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) recently issued a proposal to temporarily re-site a portion of P.S. 163 to building X236, located at 499 East 175<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10457 in Community School District 9 (District 9), for a three-year period beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

As you know, P.S. 163 is an existing zoned school serving students in grades K-5, currently located in building X163 and Transportable Classroom Units (TCUs) X933 at 2075 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, also in District 9.

### **What is the NYCDOE proposing?**

The NYCDOE is proposing to temporarily re-site P.S. 163's students in grades K-1. A re-siting means that part or all of the school will be located in a different building than the building in which the school is currently located. The New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) has determined it is feasible to construct a replacement building for P.S. 163 on the land currently occupied by TCUs X933 to provide the school with a new facility with increased capacity thereby improving the school's learning environment. The new building will allow P.S. 163 to serve all of its students in one building without the use of TCUs. P.S. 163 currently utilizes four TCUs to accommodate its students. The NYCDOE is committed to removing TCUs from New York City schools to improve learning conditions for students.

Construction is scheduled to begin after the 2020-2021 school year and will require the removal of TCUs X933. Since there is insufficient space in X163 to accommodate P.S. 163's full student body, the NYCDOE is proposing to temporarily re-site grades K-1 to X236 to allow for the construction of the new building. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 163 will serve students at two different sites, X236 and X163, for the duration of the proposal. P.S. 163's new building, X496, is expected to be ready for occupancy beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Once X496 is complete, X163 will be demolished.

On November 11, 2019, the NYCDOE issued a proposal to temporarily re-site a portion of P.S. 163 to X236 for a three-year period beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. This proposal was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) on November 26, 2019. Due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, school construction projects were put on pause, including the removal of TCUs X933 and the design and construction of X496. While these projects are now resumed, the extended pause caused a delay in opening timelines. X496 is now anticipated to be ready for occupancy by September 2024, barring any further COVID-related or other unforeseen delays. This proposal reflects the updated timeline for this project.

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation.

### **If this proposal is approved by the PEP, what does this mean for my child(ren)?**

- P.S. 163's students in grades K-1 will be temporarily re-sited from X163 to X236 for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. X236 is located approximately 0.6 miles away from X163.

- In the 2024-2025 school year, when construction of new building X496 is expected to be complete, P.S. 163 will serve all its students in X496.
- Certain future P.S. 163 students may have their eligibility for transportation impacted depending on where they reside in relation to X236, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-801.
- The NYCDOE does not anticipate that the temporary re-siting of P.S. 163's students in grades K-1 will impact its current or future student admissions, instructional or extracurricular programming. While the enrollment of P.S. 163 is not expected to be impacted throughout the duration of this proposal, in future years, the enrollment of P.S. 163 may increase as X496 will provide additional elementary school capacity.

### **Where can I learn more about this proposal?**

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal has been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2020-2021-pages/march-24-2021-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as it becomes available. Copies of the EIS for this revised proposal are also available in the main office of P.S. 163.

Questions about the proposal can be directed to Valeria Rojas in the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-5159 or via e-mail at [D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

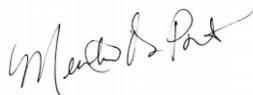
### **How can I provide feedback?**

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation. We anticipate that the PEP will vote on this revised proposal on March 24, 2021 at 6 p.m. via teleconference at <https://learndoe.org/pep/mar24/>. Feedback about this proposal may be shared at the March 24<sup>th</sup> PEP meeting.

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6 p.m. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing. Feedback about this proposal may also be shared at any time by e-mailing [D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov) or by calling 212-374-5159.

The official Notice of Proposal and Joint Public Hearing is attached.

Sincerely,



Meisha Ross-Porter  
Bronx Executive Superintendent