



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Public Comment Analysis

Date: May 22, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Grade Expansion, Re-siting, and Split-siting of I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington (20K030) at Buildings K331 and K940 and Co-location with a District 75 Program (75KTBD) in Building K331 Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: May 23, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand, re-site, and split-site I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington (20K030, “I.S. 30”), an existing zoned middle school that currently serves 357 students in sixth through eighth grades. I.S. 30 also currently offers a District 20 Superintendent’s program for gifted and talented students. I.S. 30 is currently located in building K940 (“K940”) at 415 Ovington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209, in Brooklyn’s Community School District 20 (“District 20”) and is the sole school organization in K940. Under this proposal, I.S. 30 will expand to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades. Beginning in 2013-2014, I.S. 30’s sixth through eighth grades will be re-sited to building K331 (“K331”) at 7002 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209 in District 20, located approximately 220 feet away from K940. Once this proposal is fully implemented in 2018-2019, and I.S. 30 is fully phased in, I.S. 30’s kindergarten through second grade will be sited at K940 and its third through eighth grade will be sited at K331.

The proposed grade expansion at I.S. 30 has been submitted by the principal of I.S. 30 to the DOE's Office of New Schools (“ONS”) for approval. The proposal provides that in the 2013-2014 school year, I.S. 30 will enroll kindergarten students for the first time. The school will then add one grade each year until it reaches full grade scale as a school that serves students in kindergarten through eighth grades in 2018-2019. During the first three years of this grade expansion, 2013-2014 through 2015-2016, the DOE is proposing to site all grades served by I.S. 30, kindergarten through second grade as well as sixth through eighth grade, at K331. Starting in 2016-2017, I.S. 30 will be split-sited and the kindergarten through second grade students will be served in K940. Meanwhile, I.S. 30 will continue to expand with the addition of third through fifth grades in K331. Thus, when the expansion is complete in 2018-2019, I.S. 30’s kindergarten through second grade students will be served in K940, while I.S. 30’s third through eighth grade students will be served in K331. This proposal will provide students in District 20 with an

additional elementary school option beginning in the 2013-2014 school year ,while maintaining I.S. 30 as a middle school option.

Currently, there are no additional proposed uses for K940 during the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, or 2015-2016 school years. Any proposed use that involves a significant change in school utilization will be the subject of a future EIS in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-190.

In addition, I.S. 30 will be co-located in K331 with a District 75 program. K331 is a new building, and it is expected to become available for use by September 2013. The District 75 program at K331 is expected to serve 48-72 students. As of this Educational Impact Statement's ("EIS") publication, the District 75 program that would be co-located with I.S. 30 in K331 has not been identified. Furthermore, it has not yet been determined whether the District 75 program will be a new program or a re-siting of an existing District 75 program. Once the DOE has identified the District 75 program that will be located in K331, more information about the program will be provided in a future EIS, if one is required pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-190. A "co-location" means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building, and may share large, common spaces like the auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a diverse range of high-quality schools at every stage of their education. In determining the optimal way to distribute space to schools, the DOE is setting forth this proposal.

While I.S. 30 currently serves students in sixth through eighth grade in K940, the space in K331 is more suitable for middle school students than its space in K940. For example, the rooms in K331 are, on average, larger than those at K940, and K331 has a student cafeteria that is approximately 3,115 square feet large while K940's multipurpose room, which serves as the students' cafeteria, is approximately 1,225 square feet.

Because it is a newly constructed facility, no school organization currently uses space at K331. The building is projected to have the capacity to serve 708 students. If this proposal is approved, in 2018-2019 when this proposal is fully implemented and I.S. 30's third through eighth grade students will be co-located in K331 with a District 75 school, the building is projected to serve a total of up to 693-777 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 98%-110%.

K940 has the capacity to serve 338 students. In 2016-2017, when I.S. 30's kindergarten through second grade will be served in K940, I.S. 30 will enroll 290-320 students, yielding a projected utilization rate of 86%-95%.

Thus, the DOE believes that K331 could serve I.S. 30's third through eighth grade students and K940 could serve I.S. 30's kindergarten through second grade students, if this proposal is approved.

Copies of the EIS describing this proposal are available in the main offices of I.S. 30. They are also available on the DOE's Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/May2012Proposals.htm>.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held on May 14, 2012, at building K485, which is located at 350 67 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. The High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology (20K485) currently serves students in ninth through twelfth grade at building K485. The hearing was held at building K485 because K940 does not have a sufficiently large meeting area in which to hold the hearing. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 19 members of the public attended the hearing, and 7 people spoke. Present at the meeting were the Chancellor's Designee, Community School District 20 Superintendent Karina Costantino; District 20 Community Education Council ("CEC") president, Laurie Windsor; Principal of I.S. 30, Carol Heeraman; and I.S. 30 School Leadership Team ("SLT") representative, Roland Roberts. Representatives of New York City Council Member Vincent J. Gentile, New York State Senator Martin J. Golden, and New York Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis also attended the hearing.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

1. The CEC president expressed support for the proposal and stated that the community is excited that I.S. 30 will be in a new facility by the 2013-2014 school year.
2. The SLT representative expressed support for the proposal and stated that the proposal will benefit the I.S. 30 community in the years to come.
3. A representative of Council Member Gentile stated that the Council Member Gentile supports the proposal.
4. A representative of State Senator Golden stated that State Senator Golden is in favor of the proposal because it may help alleviate overcrowding at nearby schools.
5. A representative of Assembly Member Malliotakis stated that Assembly Member Malliotakis is in favor of the proposal because I.S. 30 is currently in an inadequate facility that lacks spaces like a cafeteria, gymnasium, or auditorium.
6. Multiple speakers supported the proposal.
7. A speaker opposed the proposal for the following reasons:
 - a. The co-location of middle school students with elementary school students creates safety concerns for elementary school students.
 - b. K331 is potentially contaminated because soil that was not tested for asbestos contamination from an adjacent lot was used in construction of K331.
8. Principal Heeraman supported the proposal and stated that K940 does not have an auditorium, a cafeteria, or a gymnasium, which I.S. 30 students need.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

The DOE has not received any written or oral comments regarding this proposal.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

- Comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 support the proposal, and therefore do not need to be addressed further.

- Comment 7(a) expressed concern about the sharing of space between elementary school students with middle school students.

Roughly half of DOE schools share space in a building. Because of co-locations, facilities can be used more efficiently while simultaneously allowing for additional high-quality options for New York City families. Due to space limitations, it is not unusual for varying grade levels to be co-located together. There are many buildings Citywide with multiple grade levels served in the same building, where the schools are functioning and co-existing successfully.

Additionally, pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-414, every school/campus is mandated to form a School Safety Committee, which is responsible for developing a comprehensive School Safety Plan that defines the normal operations of the site and what procedures are in place in the event of an emergency. The School Safety Plan is updated annually by the Committee to meet the changing security needs, changes in organization and building conditions and any other factors; these updates could also be made at any other time when it is necessary to address security concerns. The Committee will also address safety matters on an ongoing basis and make appropriate recommendations to the Principal(s) when it identifies the need for additional security measures.

- Comment 7(b) expressed concern about a possible asbestos contamination in K331.

According to the School Construction Authority, abatement of all asbestos containing materials in the soil located in the areas around where the demolished school and church buildings were located was included in the scope of work during K331's construction.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes were made as a result of this proposal.