

Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 28, 2015

Topic: The Proposed Temporary Re-siting and Co-location of One Grade Level of P.S. 330 (24Q330) with P.S. 110 (24Q110) and P.S. Q277 (75Q277) in Building Q315 Beginning in the 2015-2016 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: April 29, 2015

Summary of Proposal

On March 4, 2015, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to temporarily re-site one grade level of P.S. 330 (24Q330, “P.S. 330”) for one year from building Q287 (“Q287”), located at 110-08 Northern Boulevard, Queens, New York 11368 in Community School District 24 (“District 24”), to new building Q315 (“Q315”) located at 43-18 97th Place, Queens, NY 11368. Q315 is currently under construction and will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2015. Q315 is located approximately 1.2 miles from P.S. 330’s main building, Q287. On November 25, 2014, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal to re-site existing elementary school P.S. 110 (24Q110, “P.S. 110”) to new building Q315 where it will be co-located with a new site of existing District 75 school P.S. Q277 (“P277Q@Q315”) beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 330’s kindergarten cohort would be co-located with P.S. 110 and P277Q@Q315 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Several elementary schools in the Corona neighborhood of District 24 in Queens currently enroll more students than their target capacity levels. Where possible, the DOE aims to utilize available space in other local school buildings to alleviate overcrowding. In February 2015, it was determined that P.S. 330 could not accommodate kindergarten students in building Q287 for the 2015-2016 school year. The re-siting and co-location of P.S. 330’s kindergarten cohort with P.S. 110 and P277Q@Q315 is necessary to enroll kindergarten students at P.S. 330 in the 2015-2016 school year. This will help provide a sufficient number of kindergarten seats in District 24, a historically overcrowded district.

DOE offered the following public engagement opportunities regarding this proposal:

- A discussion with District 24 Superintendent Madelene Chan, P.S. 110’s principal and School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representatives, P.S. 330’s principal and SLT representatives, a member from the PEP, and representatives from the Office of District Planning and Office of Space Planning on February 13, 2015. At this meeting, impacted stakeholders had an opportunity to discuss the proposal further, take questions and concerns from both school communities, and determine whether significant logistical or other concerns would prevent the implementation of this proposal if approved by the PEP. Community Education Council (“CEC”) 24 was invited but was unable to attend.
- Two joint public hearings – one held at building Q287 and another held at building Q841. These meetings were open to the public and attendees were encouraged to provide comment on this proposal as part of the public comment portion of the hearing.
- Dedicated phone and email lines to accept public comment at any time following the posting of this proposal until 6:00 p.m. on the day before the PEP meeting. Comments could be submitted in any language by calling 212-374-7621 or emailed in any language to D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov. All comments received at the above noted hearings or through phone or email lines were addressed by the

DOE in this analysis of public comment, which was made available to the public after 6:00 p.m. on the day before the PEP meeting.

- The PEP meeting at which PEP members will vote on several proposals, including this one, prior to implementation of the proposal. This meeting is also open to the public and attendees are welcomed to provide comment on this proposal.
- Information on the joint public hearing and PEP meeting can be found on the DOE website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/April2015SchoolProposals>.

P.S. 110 currently serves students in kindergarten through second grade in building Q841 (“Q841”), located at 48-25 37th Street, Queens, NY 11101, in District 24, and will move to building Q315 before the start of the 2015-2016 school year. P.S. 110 is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade at scale. When it moves to Q315 in the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 110 will serve students in kindergarten through third grade. P.S. 110 will reach full scale in the 2017-2018 school year when it will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade in Q315. P277Q@Q315 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade who have been classified as autistic or intellectually disabled on their Individualized Education Program (“IEP”).

P.S. 110 is an existing un-zoned elementary school that serves students who are overflowed from their zoned schools in the Corona and Elmhurst neighborhoods of District 24. On May 27, 2014, the District 24 CEC approved a plan to create an elementary school zone for building Q315. P.S. 110 will begin to operate as a zoned elementary school in September 2015, serving students residing in the zone approved by the CEC. The change in P.S. 110’s admissions process will alleviate overcrowding at schools surrounding Q315.

P.S. 330 is an existing zoned elementary school that is currently serving students in kindergarten through fourth grade and is phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade at scale in the 2015-2016 school year. In order to serve P.S. 330’s entire student population in building Q287 in the 2016-2017 school year and beyond, the DOE is limiting P.S. 330’s incoming kindergarten enrollment to 50-60 students for the 2015-2016 school year. The DOE will gradually increase P.S. 330’s incoming kindergarten cohorts to 95-100 students as planned by the rezoning approved by the CEC on June 26, 2012.

According to the School Construction Authority (“SCA”), Q315 will have the capacity to serve a total of 1,110 students and includes designed space for a District 75 school. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 110 is projected to serve approximately 350 – 390 kindergarten through third grade students, P277Q@Q315 is projected to serve approximately 36 – 72 kindergarten through fifth grade students, and P.S. 330 is projected to serve approximately 50 – 60 kindergarten students at Q315 in the 2015-2016 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 436 – 522 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 39% – 47%. Thus, the DOE believes that there is sufficient space to accommodate P.S. 330’s kindergarten cohort for the 2015-2016 school year. After the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 330 will no longer serve students in Q315.

P.S. 110 will continue to phase in to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade through the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, as a result of the re-zoning plan for Q315 mentioned above, P.S. 110’s enrollment will not stabilize until the 2020-2021 school year. In the 2020-2021 school year, P.S. 110 will serve approximately 1,080-1,140 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and P277Q@Q315 will serve approximately 36-72 students.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS which can be accessed here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2014-2015/April2015SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 330’s and P.S. 110’s main offices.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

There were two joint public hearings held for this proposal. The first joint public hearing for this proposal was held on April 13, 2015 in building Q841. Approximately 8 members of the public attended the hearing and three people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 24 Community Superintendent Madelene Chan; Community Education Council 24 (“CEC 24”) member Carl Chiaramonte; Principal of P.S. 110 Karyna Tejada; P.S. 110 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representatives Brandi Passantino and Dionieia Romero; P.S. 330 SLT representative Ronald James; Principal of P.S. Q277 Susan McNulty; P.S. Q277 SLT representative Angela Ponvo; and Annabelle Eliashiv and Sarah Turchin from the DOE.

The second joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held on April 16, 2015 in building Q287. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the hearing and 10 people spoke. Present at the meeting were District 24 Community Superintendent Madelene Chan; CEC 24 member Carl Chiaramonte; District 24 Family Advocate Eleanor McNamee; Principal of P.S. 110 Karyna Tejada; Principal of P.S. 330 LaShawna Harris; and Albery Melo and Drew Patterson from the DOE.

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

1. Carl Chiaramonte, member of the CEC, expressed support for the proposal.
2. Susan McNulty, principal of P.S. Q277, expressed support for the proposal.
3. Dionieia Romero, PTA president and CEC member, expressed concerns about the availability of space within building Q315.
4. Multiple commenters expressed concerns regarding the lack of space in District 24 and wanted long-term solutions for the overcrowding challenges in the area.
5. Multiple commenters expressed concerns about the commuting challenges this proposal would pose, as they would be prevented from being able to give their child sufficient time to get settled in their classrooms and to speak to their teachers.
6. A commenter expressed concern about the bridged classroom structure in P.S. 330 between kindergarten and first grade.
7. Multiple commenters expressed concerns about sibling prioritization within the admissions process.
8. Multiple commenters expressed concern about not having received kindergarten acceptance letters.
9. A commenter expressed concern about busing and asked if busing would be provided to the kindergarten students admitted to P.S. 330, given that kindergarten would be served in building Q315.

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

One written comment was submitted via email:

10. A commenter expressed concerns regarding the distance between building Q315 and P.S. 330’s main building. The commenter also asked why the DOE did not consider using a building closer to P.S. 330 for the temporary re-siting.

No oral comments were received via phone.

Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comments 1 and 2 are in support of the proposal and thus do not require a response.

Comment 3 is in regard to the utilization of space within building Q315.

Building Q315 has sufficient space to accommodate one grade level of P.S. 330 as well as P.S. 110 and P277Q@Q315 in the 2015-2016 school year. Building Q315 has a projected capacity of 1,110 students. P.S. 110 is projected to serve approximately 350 – 390 kindergarten through third grade students, P277Q@Q315 is projected to serve approximately 36 – 72 kindergarten through fifth grade students, and P.S. 330 is projected to serve approximately 50 – 60 kindergarten students at Q315 in the 2015-2016 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 436 – 522 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 39% -47%. This means that the building will be “underutilized”.

Furthermore, per the Citywide Instructional Footprint, which is used to allocate space to all schools based on the number of class sections they program and grade levels of the school, building Q315 has enough classrooms to meet the instructional and administrative needs of all three schools. Thus the DOE believes that there is sufficient space to accommodate P.S. 330’s kindergarten cohort for the 2015-2016 school year.

Comment 4 is in regard to the lack of space in District 24 schools.

The DOE recognizes the need for additional elementary school capacity in District 24, particularly in the part of the district that includes Corona.

The DOE is in the process of implementing long-term solutions to overcrowding in Corona by adding elementary school seats through new construction, including Q315. This building, along with additional planned construction in Corona, will reduce over-crowding. However, the DOE will need to continue to employ short-term solutions each year to accommodate all students in Corona.

Comments 5 and 10 are in regard to commuting challenges and the distance between building Q315 and P.S. 330’s main building.

The DOE explored all viable school options in the immediate surrounding area. Building Q315, which is approximately 1.2 miles away from P.S. 330, was the closest school with enough excess space to accommodate P.S. 330’s kindergarten cohort.

Comments 6 and 8 are not relevant to the proposal and do not require a response.

Comment 7 is in regard to sibling priority within the admissions process.

On May 27, 2014, the District 24 CEC approved a plan to create an elementary school zone for P.S. 330. As a zoned elementary school, P.S. 330 must provide admissions priority to zoned students with verified siblings followed by zoned students without verified siblings, in accordance with Chancellor’s Regulation A-101. If space allows, and if the Office of Student Enrollment deems appropriate based on district needs, offers may be authorized to additional students as outlined by Chancellor’s Regulation A-101. Chancellor’s Regulation A-101 can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>.

Several elementary schools in the Corona neighborhood of District 24 currently enroll more students than their target capacity levels. Where possible, the DOE aims to utilize available space in other local school buildings to alleviate overcrowding. As P.S. 330 was phasing in and growing to scale, it had the capacity to accept students who were overflowed from surrounding schools. However, since P.S. 330 will be at scale in the 2015-2016 school year, there is very limited space to serve out of zone students.

Comment 9 is in regard to transportation.

Busing services are managed by the Office of Pupil Transportation. Kindergarten students who reside more than half a mile from Q315 are eligible for free transportation. The Office of Pupil Transportation will work with P.S. 330's principal to create bus routes if necessary. Additional information about transportation services can be found in Chancellor's Regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes were made to the proposal.