

Public Comment Analysis

Date: December 19, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Temporary Re-siting of One Grade Level of an Existing School, P.S. 170 Ralph A. Fabrizio School (20K170) in Building K940 Beginning in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: December 20, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to temporarily re-site the kindergarten grade of P.S. 170 Ralph A. Fabrizio School (20K170, “P.S.170”), from its current location in the main building of K170 and its adjacent transportable classroom units (K954, “TCUs”) to building K940 for a three-year period starting in the 2013-2014 school year.¹ A “re-siting” means students will attend classes in a different building than the one students have attended in previous years. P.S. 170 is an existing, zoned elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades, split-sited in K170 and its adjacent TCUs, located at 7109 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209, in Brooklyn’s Community School District 20.² If this proposal is approved, P.S. 170 kindergarten students would be temporarily re-sited to school building K940, located at 415 Ovington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209, also in Brooklyn’s Community School District 20, for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years.

Several elementary schools in the Dyker Heights neighborhood of District 20 in Brooklyn currently enroll more students than their target capacity levels. P.S. 170 in particular is very overcrowded. In 2012-2013, P.S. 170 is projected to serve 952 students in building K170 and in the adjacent TCUs.³ This yields a projected combined utilization rate of 157%.⁴ Where possible, the DOE is planning new construction to alleviate overcrowding. In this case, P.S. 170’s TCUs are planned to be removed and replaced with a permanent annex with the capacity to serve approximately 240 students.⁵ The construction of the annex is anticipated to take three years. During this time, a portion of P.S. 170 students will need to be temporarily re-sited due to the construction.

¹ For the purposes of this EIS, the DOE has projected that all kindergarten students will be re-sited to building K940 for the duration of the proposal; however, the leadership of P.S. 170 may decide to serve fewer students or a portion of the kindergarten in K940 during the period of the re-siting.

² A student’s zoned school is determined by his or her home address. For more information about school zoning and admissions processes for zoned elementary schools, please visit the DOE website’s School Search function at <http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch>.

³ Based on 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

⁴ All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on capacity data from the 2011-2012 Blue Book and enrollment data from the 2012-2013 budgeted enrollment projections. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools.

⁵ Anticipated capacity is determined by the School Construction Authority, but may change based on the way the school leadership establish programming for the new facility.

On May 14, 2012, the Panel for Educational Policy approved the expansion, re-siting, and split-siting⁶ of I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington (20K030, “P.S./I.S. 30”), an existing zoned middle school currently serving grades six through eight.⁷ Under the approved proposal, P.S./I.S. 30 will expand to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades. Beginning in 2013-2014, P.S./I.S. 30’s sixth through eighth grades will be re-sited from building K940, where they are currently located, to building K331 (“K331”), a new building that is expected to become available for use by September 2013. During the first three years of P.S./I.S. 30’s expansion (2013-2014 through 2015-2016), all grades served by P.S./I.S.30 will be sited at K331. Beginning in 2016-2017, P.S./I.S. 30 will begin serving students across two sites, serving kindergarten through second grade students in K940. Once the proposal is fully implemented in 2018-2019, and P.S./I.S. 30 is fully phased in, P.S./I.S. 30’s kindergarten through second grade students will be sited at K940 and its third through eighth grade students will be sited at K331.

P.S./I.S. 30 is expected to serve kindergarten through second grade students in K940 beginning in September 2016. There are currently no plans for the use of K940 from September 2013, when two grades of P.S./I.S. 30 are re-sited from K940, until September 2016. If this proposal is approved, beginning in September 2013 P.S. 170 will begin serving kindergarten students in K940 and continuing to serve first through fifth grade students in K170. P.S. 170’s kindergarten students would be temporarily sited in K940 until the K170 annex is available for use in September 2016.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), building K940 has the target capacity to serve a total of 314 students. If this proposal is approved, the projected enrollment in 2013-2014 of P.S. 170 at K940 would be approximately 170-180 kindergarten students, yielding a building utilization rate of 54-57%.⁸

This proposal is contingent on the completion of the P.S. 170 annex by September 2016. As noted, currently, the DOE plans to move P.S. 170’s kindergarten students to the new permanent site adjacent to building K940 after the 2015-2016 school year. If P.S. 170’s new site is not ready at that time, the DOE would issue a separate EIS describing an alternate siting plan for P.S. 170’s kindergarten.

In addition, if the DOE proposes the co-location of an additional organization in K940 during this time, a separate EIS would be issued describing this proposed co-location.

Copies of the EIS describing the proposed temporary re-siting are available in the main office of P.S. 170. It is also available on the DOE’s website at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>.

Summary of Comments Received

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held on November 27, 2012 at K170. Participants had the opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 20 members of the public attended the hearing, and two people spoke. Present at the meeting were Community School District 20 Superintendent Karina Costantino; District 20 Community

⁶ A “split-site” means that a single organization serves some grade levels in one building and other grade levels in another building.

⁷ The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) is available here: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0ECC2CA0-BC6E-4612-AFFC-FDDCF20AB12A/123020/20K030ResiteEIS_vFINAL1.pdf.

⁸ Based on 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

Education Council (“CEC 20”) President Laurie Windsor; Principal Zhen (Tony) Wu of P.S. 170; CEC 20 members Sylvia La Cerra and Yin Ping Cheng; Angela Koutelos, representing P.S. 170’s School Leadership Team (“SLT”); SLT members Dianne Gounardes, Rasha Soliman, Clemencia Saleeby, Ruby Kotsarus, and Theresa Mulkerrins; and Gabrielle Wyatt from the Division of Portfolio Planning.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing on November 27, 2012:

1. Laurie Windsor, CEC 20 President, stated the Council was in full support of the new construction at P.S. 170 and the temporary re-siting of students.
2. Angela Koutelos, representative of the SLT, stated the SLT was supportive of the proposal and the new annex.

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

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

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.