

Public Comment Analysis

Date: June 25, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Re-Siting of P.S. 330 (24Q330) to New Building Q287 (Q287) in the 2013-2014 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: June 26, 2012

Summary of Proposal

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site P.S. 330 (24Q330, “P.S. 330”), an existing elementary school currently located in building Q269 (“Q269”) at 86-37 53rd Avenue, Elmhurst, NY 11373 in Community School District 24, to a new building (“Q287”) located at 111-08 Northern Boulevard, Corona, NY 11368 in Community School District 24. P.S. 330 opened in September 2010 as an overflow site to alleviate overcrowding in District 24 elementary schools, particularly in the Corona/Elmhurst area. Currently, many students are travelling approximately 2.76 miles from Corona to attend P.S. 330. The DOE is proposing to re-site P.S. 330 to a new building opening in Corona during the 2013-2014 school year. This new location will be in closer proximity to the students’ homes and will continue to alleviate overcrowding in Corona. P.S. 330 currently serves 220 students in grades kindergarten and first, and will serve students in grades kindergarten through five when it reaches full-scale in the 2015-2016 school year.¹ A “re-siting” means a school will be located in a different building than the building it is located in currently.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 330’s current students will be re-sited to building Q287 for the 2013-2014 school year. P.S. 330 is expected to serve kindergarten through second grades in 2012-2013, and then add an additional grade each year until it reaches full scale in the 2015-2016 school year. In 2015-2016, when P.S. 330 completes its expansion and achieves full scale, it will serve approximately 570-630 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.² However, because P.S. 330 opened as an unzoned school to alleviate overcrowding in Corona, its founding cohort is larger than what is projected for each incoming class moving forward. Once the first grade cohort articulates to sixth grade during the 2016-2017 school year, enrollment is expected to stabilize by 2017-2018 with approximately 540-600 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/2011-2012/June2012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 48.

¹ 2011-2012 Audited Register.

² All projections referenced for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond reflect the forward promotion of cohorts by grade using the 2011-2012 Audited Register for the base year.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing was held at P.S. 330 in building Q269 on June 18, 2012. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 130 members of the public attended the hearing, and three people spoke. Present at the meeting were Community School District 24 Superintendent Madelene Chan; District 24 Community Education Member Connie Partinico; P.S. 330 Principal Lashawna Harris; P.S. 330 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) Members Carrie To and Jacqueline Leven; and Emily Ades from the Department of Portfolio Management.

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

Comment 1: CEC Member Connie Partinico commented that CEC 24 supports the proposal to re-site P.S. 330 to the new building.

Comment 2: The PTA President-elect of P.S. 330, Sulay Tapia, spoke on behalf of the parents and students at P.S. 330 and expressed full support for the move. She commented that this proposal is in the best interest of the children and that it is positive for the district because it will help alleviate overcrowding. Ms. Tapia expressed that the new location is a good match for the school since it is closer to the students’ homes, and the P.S. 330 students will have improved facilities such as a gymnasium and air conditioning.

Comment 3: The President of the Presidents Council, Joanne Berger, commented that she is in agreement with the proposal and that she is happy that the children will not have to travel so far from home to school after P.S. 330 is re-sited. Ms. Berger expressed that the DOE should continue to pursue additional sites and build more schools in District 24 to help alleviate the overcrowding in the district, particularly in the Corona/Elmhurst area.

The DOE received no comments at the joint public hearing which did not directly relate to the proposal.

The DOE received no written and/or oral comments through its dedicated phone line and e-mail for this proposal.

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

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

Comment 3 raised the issue of creating more capacity to alleviate overcrowding in the district. Building Q287 is the first of several new construction projects in District 24. There are 6 additional funded projects in the current capital plan with an anticipated completion date of September 2015. These new sites will add additional capacity and will help alleviate overcrowding in the district. Four of these projects are in the Corona/Elmhurst neighborhood.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.