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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING  
I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington (20K030)  
at Buildings K331 and K940, and Co-  
Location with a District 75 Program  
(75KTBD), at Building K331**

**5/14/2012**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. KARINA CONSTANTINO: Good evening, we  
3 are here this evening for a very pleasant joint  
4 public hearing. This a joint public hearing of  
5 the Department of Education Community Education  
6 Council, and the School Leadership Team for the  
7 proposed grade expansion, re-siting and split  
8 siting, of I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington at  
9 Buildings K331 and K940, and the co-location  
10 with the District 75 Program at Building K331,  
11 beginning in the 2013/14 school year. I am  
12 District 20 Community Superintendent Karina  
13 Constantino. We'd like to thank Principal Phil  
14 Weinberg for hosting this joint public hearing  
15 at the high school of Telecommunication Arts and  
16 Technology. We've asked the District 20  
17 Community Education Council and the School  
18 Leadership Team of I.S. 30 to participate in  
19 this join public hearing. I am joined tonight  
20 by Roland Roberts from the S.L.T. here, and  
21 Laurie Windsor from the C.E.C. This hearing is  
22 being recorded. The purpose of the hearing is  
23 for you to provide comments about the proposal.  
24 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make  
25 sure you are all aware of the opportunity to

1 provide your input. All those who wish to  
2 speak must sign up in the speaker's sign-up  
3 area, located just outside the auditorium. The  
4 sign-up list will close in 15 minutes. Speakers  
5 will be given the floor in the order that they  
6 signed up. All comments are limited to two  
7 minutes. There may be elected officials who  
8 arrive at different times throughout the  
9 evening. If they wish to speak, we'll do our  
10 best to accommodate them at the first opportune  
11 moment. Those who are here at the start of the  
12 public comment segment will be asked to speak  
13 first. All comments will be mentioned in the  
14 analysis of public comment, to be published and  
15 provided to the panel for educational policy the  
16 evening before the panel votes. That vote is  
17 scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, and it will be held  
18 at the William Howard Taft educational campus,  
19 located at 240 East, 172<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Bronx.  
20 IN addition, we welcome any comments and  
21 feedback you may have, at any time before the  
22 panel votes on both proposals. The email  
23 address and phone number where comments may be  
24 made are d20proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the  
25 phone number is (212) 374-0208. Now for the

1 proposal summary, the New York City Department  
2 of Education, the D.O.E., is proposing to  
3 expand, re-site and split site I.S. 30 Mary  
4 White Ovington (20K030), known as I.S. 30, and  
5 existing zone middle school that currently  
6 serves 357 students in sixth through eighth  
7 grades. I.S. 30 also currently offers a  
8 District 20 Superintendents' Program for gifted  
9 and talented students. I.S. 30 is currently  
10 located in Building K940 at 415 Ovington Avenue,  
11 Brooklyn in Brooklyn's Community School District  
12 20, and is the sole school organization in K940.  
13 Under this proposal, I.S. 30 will expand to  
14 serve students in Kindergarten through eighth  
15 grades, beginning in 2013/2014 I.S. 30 sixth  
16 through eighth grades will be re-sited to  
17 building K331 at 7002 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Brooklyn, in  
18 district 20, located approximately 220 feet from  
19 K940. Once this proposal is fully implemented  
20 in 2018/2019, and I.S. 30 is fully phased in,  
21 I.S. 30's kindergarten through second grade will  
22 be sited at K940, and it's third through eighth  
23 grade will be sited at K331. The proposed grade  
24 expansion at I.S. 30 has been submitted by the  
25 Principal of I.S. 30 to the D.O.E.'s Office of

1 New Schools for approval. The proposal  
2 provides that in the 2013/14 school year, I.S.  
3 30 will enroll kindergarten students for the  
4 first time. The school will then add one grade  
5 each year until it reaches full grade scale, as  
6 a school that serves students in kindergarten  
7 through eighth grades in 2018/2019. During the  
8 first three years of this grade expansion,  
9 2013/14 through 2015/2016, the D.O.E. is  
10 proposing to site all grades served by I.S. 30,  
11 kindergarten through second grade, as well as  
12 sixth through eighth grade at K331. Starting in  
13 2016/2017, I.S. 30 will be split sited, and the  
14 kindergarten through second grade students will  
15 be served in K940. Meanwhile, I.S. 30 will  
16 continue to expand with the addition of third  
17 through fifth grades in K331. Thus, when the  
18 expansion is complete in 2018/19, I.S. 30's  
19 kindergarten through second grade students will  
20 be served in K940, while I.S. 30's third through  
21 eighth grade students will be served in K331.  
22 This proposal will provide students in District  
23 20 with an additional elementary school option  
24 beginning in the 2013/14 school year, while  
25 maintaining I.S. 30 as a middle school program

1 option. Currently there are no additional  
2 proposed uses for K940 during the 2013/14, 14/15  
3 or 15/16 school years. Any proposed use that  
4 involves a significant change in school  
5 utilization, will be subject of a future E.I.S.  
6 in accordance with Chancellor's Reg. A190. In  
7 addition, I.S. 30 will be co-located in K331  
8 with a District 75 program. K331 is a new  
9 building, and it is expected to become available  
10 for use by December 2013. The District 75  
11 Program at K331 is expected to serve 48 to 72  
12 students. As of this educational impact  
13 statement's publication, the District 75 program  
14 that would be collated with I.S. 30, K331 has  
15 not been identified. Furthermore, it has not  
16 yet been determined whether the District 75  
17 Program will be a new program, or a re-siting of  
18 an existing District 75 Program. Once the  
19 D.O.E. has identified the District 75 Program  
20 that will be located in K331, more information  
21 about the program will be provided in a future  
22 E.I.S. If one is required, pursuant to  
23 Chancellor's Reg. A190. A co-location means  
24 that two or more school organizations are  
25 located in the same building, and may share

1 large common spaces like the auditoriums,  
2 gymnasiums and cafeterias. The D.O.E. strives  
3 to ensure that all students in New York City  
4 have access to a diverse range of high quality  
5 schools at every stage in their education, and  
6 determining the optimal way to distribute space  
7 to schools, the D.O.E. is setting forth this  
8 proposal. While I.S. 30 currently serves  
9 students in sixth through eighth grade in K940,  
10 the space in K331 is more suitable for middle  
11 school students, than its space at K940. For  
12 example, the rooms in K331 are on average larger  
13 than those at K940, and K331 has a student  
14 cafeteria that is approximately 3,115 square  
15 feet large, while K940's multi-purpose room,  
16 which serves as a student cafeteria is  
17 approximately 1,225 square feet. Because it is  
18 a newly constructed facility, no school  
19 organization currently uses space at K331. The  
20 building is projected to have the capacity to  
21 serve 708 students. If this proposal is  
22 approved, in 2018/19 when this proposal is fully  
23 implemented and I.S. 30's third through eighth  
24 grade students will be co-located in K331 with  
25 the District 75 school, the building is

1 projected to serve a total of up to 693 to 777  
2 students, yielding a projected building  
3 utilization rate of 98% to 110%. K940 has the  
4 capacity to serve 338 students. In 2016/17 when  
5 I.S. 30's kindergarten through second grade will  
6 be served in K940, I.S. 30 will enroll 290 to  
7 320 students, yielding a projected utilization  
8 rate of 86 to 95%. Thus the D.O.E. believes  
9 that K331 could serve I.S. 30's third through  
10 eighth grade students and K940 could serve I.S.  
11 30's kindergarten through second grade students,  
12 if this proposal is approved. Thank you, and  
13 the next presenter will be our C.E.C. President  
14 Laurie Windsor.

15 MS. LAURIE WINDSOR: Thank you, good  
16 evening, thank you all for coming. I would like  
17 to recognize a few guests tonight. We have with  
18 us, representing Councilman Gentile, Michael  
19 Fieni. Representing Senator Martin Golden, we  
20 have John Quaglione, and representing Assembly  
21 member Nicole Malliotakis, we have Paul Marrone.  
22 Thank you for coming. I just wanted to say, as  
23 everyone knows, I'm repeating myself, is that  
24 the C.E.C. is in full favor, and has been  
25 advocating for this move for a number of years,

1 and we are excited, overjoyed, and thrilled  
2 that I.S. 30 will have the new building as their  
3 facilities, and have a new facility that they  
4 deserve, so that they can continue doing all the  
5 wonderful work that they do, thank you.

6 MS. CONSTANTINO: The next presenter will be  
7 Roland, the president of the School Leadership  
8 Team.

9 MR. ROLAND ROBERTS: My name is Roland  
10 Roberts. As a parent member of the School  
11 Leadership Team and the current P.T.A.  
12 President, I've pushed hard for this move. My  
13 own children, my oldest one, will never see the  
14 inside of the new building. My younger one, if  
15 all goes well, will see the inside for one year.  
16 But I've pushed, not simply because of the  
17 benefit to my own children, but because I  
18 believe it is the right thing for our  
19 neighborhood, which has long been lacking middle  
20 school facilities. And for those of my  
21 neighbors' children as well, who will end up  
22 going there, and currently have what I consider  
23 inadequate facilities in terms of cafeteria,  
24 gym, and just general classroom space. So I am  
25 delighted to see this finally come to fruition,

1 because I see it as the fulfillment of a  
2 promise that the D.O.E. has made really, to take  
3 care of our children and their education.

4 MS. CONSTANTINO: Well we've concluded the  
5 formal presentation. So now we're going to open  
6 up the floor for public comments.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Before we open up for the  
8 sign-up sheet, which was public comments, I  
9 would like to ask if any of the representatives  
10 from the elected officials would like to say  
11 anything at this point from Councilman Gentile,  
12 or Senator Golden or Assembly member  
13 Malliotakis.

14 MR. FIENI: Sure.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. Fieni would like to say a  
16 few words.

17 MR. FIENI: Councilman Gentile just wanted  
18 to say thank you to C.C. 20 and to the  
19 Superintendent for hosting this meeting. He is  
20 really excited about this proposal. He thinks  
21 this will really serve our district children  
22 well, and he's been advocating for this for a  
23 long time, and he is in full support of this  
24 proposal. So thank you.

25 FEMALE VOICE: John.

1 MR. JOHN QUAGLIONE: Just quickly again,  
2 on behalf of Senator Golden who is in Albany,  
3 he's proud of his efforts that supported the  
4 capital plan that brought the dollars down the  
5 New York City, the \$13.1 Billion to build new  
6 schools here on fourth avenue and throughout our  
7 city, and this is a win-win plan for our  
8 district to help alleviate the over-crowding,  
9 and continue to allow I.S. 30 to provide the  
10 excellent education they have been, thank you.

11 MR. PAUL MARRONE: Hi, my name is Paul  
12 Marrone, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Nicole  
13 Malliotakis. Just like the Senator, she is up  
14 in Albany right now. I have a prepared  
15 statement that I just want to read into the  
16 record if that's okay. My name is Paul Marrone,  
17 Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Malliotakis,  
18 whose district encompasses both the current I.S.  
19 30 and building K331. It is our firm belief  
20 that K331 must be a K3 facility. The students  
21 at I.S. 30 currently attend school in wholly  
22 inadequate facilities. I.S. 30 is housed in a  
23 former apartment building that is sorely lacking  
24 in space, serving as an unnecessary obstruction  
25 to providing our school children with the

1 optimum learning environment. The community  
2 was very excited to hear that these students  
3 would finally be afforded a proper learning  
4 space in the new school. We were disheartened  
5 however, to learn that the plan was becoming  
6 unclear. This building must contain the  
7 requisite science lab to ensure that the  
8 children of this community are no longer at a  
9 disadvantage. Assemblywoman Malliotakis  
10 implores that the Department of Education  
11 confirm its decision to split site I.S. 30 at  
12 K331. After so many years of attending school  
13 in improper surroundings, the students of I.S.  
14 30 deserve this opportunity, thank you.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Our first speaker  
16 is June Johnson.

17 MS. JUNE JOHNSON: Good evening, my name is  
18 June Johnson. I'm a member of Community Board  
19 10. I'm Chairman of the Parks Committee; but I  
20 must say my first love is school affairs. I  
21 worked at Shallow Intermediate School as a  
22 school secretary for 20 years, and for the last  
23 five years, I've served on the Principal's  
24 leadership team at the Seeall Academy, that's  
25 I.S. 180. And in the capacity over the years of

1 seeing children interacting in their schools,  
2 I find it very hard to believe that we would  
3 turn down the children moving from I.S. 30, over  
4 to the new school. So much will be, they'll  
5 just receive so much enrichment being in a  
6 bigger building, where they could experience  
7 having an auditorium, having plays, having a  
8 cafeteria, putting on science fairs. And so I'd  
9 just like to say, seeing children interacting on  
10 a daily basis as a school secretary, and more  
11 importantly, as the nana at I.S. 180, children  
12 need space. They have to express themselves,  
13 and I'm hoping that the D.O.E. approves this  
14 change, thank you.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Our next speaker is Andrew  
16 Ganardis.

17 MR. ANDREW GANARDIS: Thank you very much.  
18 My name is Andrew Ganardis; and I'm a resident  
19 here in Bay Ridge, and a former member of the  
20 Panel for Educational Policy. I just want to  
21 say I'm thankful. I know there has been some  
22 developments lately. I'm thankful that the  
23 Department of Education has now agreed to  
24 support the proposal to co-locate the schools,  
25 and that the children in this community are

1 going to get the seats that were promised to  
2 them originally. We could have been having a  
3 very different meeting here right now, if it  
4 weren't for the hard work of the parents,  
5 Councilman Gentile, and the Community Education  
6 Council. So I want to thank everyone for all  
7 the hard work that went into this meeting and  
8 this agreement. I'm glad the D.O.E. is keeping  
9 its word, but our community had to fight to make  
10 it happen, and it should not have come to this.  
11 Under this mayor, and the department of  
12 education, the voices of parents, and the voices  
13 of the community have been shut out from our  
14 schools. Decisions are being made without any  
15 care for the concerns of those who would be most  
16 affected by them, and that's troubling to me.  
17 So again, I'm thankful that we've been able to  
18 resolve this, but there is still so many other  
19 issues that we need to be resolved. And I'm  
20 hopeful that we can all come together and work  
21 out these problems as they come forward, thank  
22 you.

23 FEMALE VOICE: Ellen Geesen [phonetic] is  
24 not here, Antoine Khaled.

25

1 MR. ANTOINE KHALED: Hello, my name  
2 is Antoine Khaled. I'm a manager of a property  
3 right across the street, and since day one, I'd  
4 been opposing this school for many reasons, but  
5 one, to start with, Councilman Gentile,  
6 originally in all the board meetings, Community  
7 Board 10 had stated that P.S. 170 is over-  
8 crowded, and that we needed an elementary  
9 school. And that's what he stated to Community  
10 Board 10. Especially too, Community Board 10  
11 told me this meeting is relating to problems  
12 from P.S. 331, and it was kind of a lie, because  
13 I've had a lot of issues with the construction  
14 of the school, the way they handled closing the  
15 streets, and dirt, and, you know, all these  
16 issues, but I'd been misinformed. So now I will  
17 just go with the issue at hand. Since day one,  
18 one of the teachers that teaches at I.S. 30 is  
19 here, and she was there from all the Community  
20 Board 10 meetings. And I've always wondered why  
21 she was there, and my feelings was that I.S. 30  
22 wanted to move to the new building. I don't  
23 have any problems with it. My son goes to 102,  
24 but the problem I think, would be is if you  
25 split it. The older kids, compared to the

1 younger kids, should not be mixed together.  
2 Bullying, and just basically, I don't see it,  
3 you know, if I saw six to eight graders in 102  
4 with my son from three up, I would be very  
5 concerned, from the, you know, like say second  
6 grade, to third grade. But that's the only  
7 thing I could say right now with that. The only  
8 other concern I have with the school is that the  
9 construction that they did was originally, when  
10 they knocked the church down, we knew that the  
11 church was old and has asbestos, so they did a  
12 clean up of the asbestos, the School Authority.  
13 But the problem was, there is a lot next to it  
14 that was used, that the church kept for their,  
15 uh, to build the church, to keep their tax  
16 status. And what happened is that that lot was  
17 never cleaned of asbestos, okay. And then, in  
18 between the construction, school authority used  
19 that lot to go from one access to the back part  
20 of the school, dirt, rocks, everything, to fill  
21 in the school. And that lot was never cleaned  
22 up of asbestos. And my concern is, is now the  
23 new lot of the new school is contaminated with  
24 asbestos too. And I've reported it, but  
25 nobody's really, you know something, the one

1 thing I noticed, they haven't done one thing,  
2 the school authority, at all my requests, and  
3 they just blocked the street just a couple of,  
4 two weeks ago, and I called the Department of  
5 Transportation, and they said yes, we'll come  
6 and check it out in the day between one to 10  
7 days. And then I spoke to the inspector, and  
8 the inspector says well, I can look at your  
9 video, but I can't do anything about it, because  
10 I need to see it myself and take pictures. But  
11 it was too late. One of the tenants in the  
12 building next to me when I was outside, wanted  
13 to drive onto the sidewalk, of my sidewalk, so  
14 they could go around the truck, so they could go  
15 to work, and I had a big fight with it. And I  
16 have all this video tape. We put surveillance  
17 cameras since day one, due to that. We knew  
18 they weren't going to be doing the right job.  
19 So that's another concern. I would look into  
20 the asbestos. But I would recommend that P.S.  
21 331 that was initially, they requested it, you  
22 know, because all the schools are overcrowded,  
23 the elementary school, and I think it was a big  
24 lie, because I knew originally that they were  
25 going to change it, and I've even asked Steve

1 Gonzales and Jerry La-La [phonetic] from the  
2 School Authority when, uh, one of the students  
3 that went to the school stated, oh, yeah, they  
4 told us we're going to go over there, before  
5 anybody even mentioned it. And I brought it up  
6 to their attention. Oh, we don't know anything  
7 about it. Two weeks later I heard on the radio,  
8 school Chancellor is thinking about building 15  
9 new middle schools. And voila, now you have  
10 P.S. 331 being proposed, you know, half and half  
11 middle school and elementary. But I would  
12 recommend that it would just go into a middle  
13 school, and leave it at that. I don't think the  
14 children mixed together, it would be  
15 appropriate, thank you.

16 FEMALE VOICE: Last speaker, Carol Heeraman.

17 MS. CAROL HEERAMAN: Thank you, good evening  
18 everyone. I'm Carol Heeraman, the Principal of  
19 I.S. 30. Thank you all for coming out this  
20 evening. I must first say that I.S. 30 family  
21 is so grateful for this opportunity to give our  
22 students everything that they do deserve.  
23 Currently as a middle school, as one of the  
24 presenters who just spoke had said, we don't  
25 have a cafeteria. We don't have a gym. We

1 don't have an auditorium. And all these  
2 accessible facilities definitely are needed for  
3 I.S. 30's students. One of the things that the  
4 gentleman just mentioned about a K-Eight, the  
5 school going from an elementary to a K-Eight  
6 school, understand that, I think District 20 and  
7 Ms. Constantino can definitely speak to this,  
8 that District 20 is probably one of the  
9 districts in the city that has the largest  
10 growth of K-Eight schools in the city. I think  
11 we have like six to seven K-Eight schools, of  
12 which Ms. Constantino had provided a sub-  
13 committee of Principals, where we meet monthly  
14 to discuss our issues, and to discuss our best  
15 practices in a K-Eight instructional program.  
16 So let me just say that we are putting forth our  
17 best effort, our best practices, to ensure that  
18 there will be no bullying in our K-Eight  
19 schools, that there will be safety and security  
20 of every single one of our students in our K-  
21 Eight programs.

22 MALE VOICE: Can I say some thing to that -  
23 - ?

24 FEMALE VOICE: No, no, - - public comment.

25 MS. HEERAMAN: Okay, okay, thank you.

1 MS. CONSTANTINO: So again, the speaker  
2 list, as it exists, is exhausted for people that  
3 are present. Again, we welcome any comments and  
4 feedback you may have at any time, before the  
5 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this  
6 proposal at its May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 meeting. The  
7 email address and phone number where comments  
8 may be made, are D20Proposals, D being capital,  
9 P being capital, @schools.nyc.gov. That's  
10 D20Proposals@schools.nyc.gov. And that phone  
11 number is (212) 374-0208, once again, (212) 374-  
12 0208. Thank you for your participation this  
13 evening. This joint public hearing is now  
14 closed.

15 [END RECORDING]  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature *Maura A. Brand*

Date: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012