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December 21, 2011

Chancellor Dennis Walcott
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Walcott,

In the spirit of cooperation and compromise, I am writing to you today to call for PS 331 to become a PS/IS as it was originally planned and announced by the Department of Education.

As of the last few months, we are hearing from School Construction Authority that a science lab, which is a necessary requirement for an intermediate school is no longer in the plans. This is concerning as it was originally relayed to me that the school would contain a science lab. It was also announced to the entire community that the children currently in IS 30 would become a part of the proposed PS/IS 331.

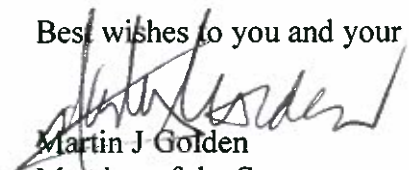
In this day in age, there is no justifiable reason why we cannot come together and make this plan work. Our middle school students deserve the best, and by moving them from their current location (a former apartment building) and into a brand new facility, we can accomplish this.

I know all too well how crowded are schools can get, and in the interest of not affecting our net gain of seats, I ask your office to study the possibility of making the current location of IS 30 an early learning school. Such an arrangement would alleviate the need for more early learning in South Brooklyn, as well as provide a 'feeder school' for the soon to be completely PS/IS 331.

My hope is that the Department of Education continue to do what it is best at, putting children and the communities they live in first. The above mentioned would bring this about further in the District 20 community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy new year,


Martin J. Golden
Member of the Senate