

## **COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE SEXTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

April 9, 2013

Location: Kenwood High School

### **CPS Facilitators:**

Denise Little, John Price, Chief of Burnham Network; John Barker, Chief of Accountability

### **CPS Presentation:**

John Barker reviews the materials in the handouts including boundary maps and transition supports for students. Denise Little provides the community members information regarding the next community meeting and encourages everyone to attend. The team introduces the Spanish translator and opens the public comment period.

### **Brief Summary:**

The purpose of this meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Sexton Elementary School and relocate Fiske Elementary School in the current Sexton facility, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Parents are frustrated that the school will not be as close to their homes
- Parents comment on the positive climate at Sexton and the disappointment students would face if the proposed action was approved
- Claims that the school is very close too receiving a level 1 performance rating
- Concern over losing teachers and administrators
- Many students expressed that they would be devastated if this happens
- Claims that the welcoming school will not be able to support special education students academically and emotionally.
- Parents and teachers state that the staff at Sexton is new and there is a lot of potential for the school to increase enrollment
- Claims that the alderman does not put the interests of the students and does not use the TIFF money appropriately.
- Community does not believe that utilization is a good enough reason to close the schools