

**Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Ignance Paderewski Elementary Learning Academy**

April 9, 2013; 7:30-9:30p.m.

Location: Manley High School: 2935 W Polk St

**CPS Facilitators:**

Robert Boik, Chief of Staff for Operations

Susan Kajiwarana-Ansai, Officer of Professional Learning

**Also in Attendance:**

Steve Zrike, Chief of Schools for Pilsen-Little Village Network

**CPS Presentation**

Morin Morgan, Principal of Manley High School, welcomed those in attendance to his school. Robert Boik, Chief of Staff for Operations, welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting. Mr. Boik introduced the court reporter, note-taker, Spanish language interpreter, and CPS / CPD officials in attendance. Mr. Boik then shared the dates, times, and locations of future meetings and provided an overview of the handout distributed to the attendees. Susan Kajiwarana-Ansai, Officer of Professional Learning, introduced Alderman Munoz and invited him to speak. After Alderman Munoz' comments, Ms. Kajiwarana-Ansai described the public comment ground rules and opened the public comment period.

**Brief Summary**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Paderewski Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were approximately 15 community members in attendance. Alderman Munoz of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward was the first speaker and was followed by approximately 10 speakers, with a limited number of those speakers commenting twice. The speakers ranged from parents, alumni, and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Concern with the ability of the two welcoming schools, Cardenas and Castellanos, to enroll all of the students from Paderewski given their current enrollment and space available
- Belief that the Paderewski building is in good shape and should not be closed
- Concerns regarding the safety of students traveling to new schools, specifically those that will need to cross Cermak round to attend the designated welcoming schools
- Belief that their school is more utilized than the numbers state, specifically given that all classrooms on the first and second floors are being used