

### **Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Manierre Elementary**

April 10, 2013 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Lincoln Park High School, 2001 N Orchard St.

#### **CPS Staff in Attendance**

Dr. Markay Winston – Officer of Diverse Learners Support and Services, Teresa Walter - Curriculum & Instruction Officer, Lynda Williams - Chief of Schools, Fullerton Elementary Network, Dr. Shonda Hardman - Chief of Schools- Fulton Elementary Network

#### **CPS Presentation**

Dr. Winston welcomed those in attendance and introduced the meeting. Dr. Winston presented an overview of the proposed closure as per the handouts given to those in attendance. Dr. Winston went through each page of the handouts. Teresa Walter explained the meeting rules and procedures.

#### **Brief Summary**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Manierre Elementary, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 65 community members in attendance and 44 comments. The speakers ranged from parents and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Positive trends in student achievement in reading and math over past three years
- Pre-K grant in partnership with Erickson Institute through third grade; Manierre has demonstrated the most positive trends across the eight schools with partnerships
- Through the Erickson partnership, the Woodcock –Johnson was administered and students scored a 93 during the fall session and moved to 98 at the end of the school year
- Coaching and professional development leading to improvement in student growth
- Teachers using different strategies and models to analyze student work, especially in math, driven by Erickson partnership
- Increase in enrollment
- Chicago Police Department Police Commander does not yet have a safety plan to share
- Teacher engagement
- Improvement in student performance since the principal arrived
- Concern over crossing Division St. with heavy traffic, gangs and family feuds
- Parent and student concerns with feeling safe at Jenner Elementary; Manierre student stated she has been jumped on by Jenner students
- Greater concern for student's safety, education and distance from home than A/C or laptops

- Dissatisfaction at moving to another Level 3 school – question why students are not being welcomed by Skinner or Pritzker. Concern that Jenner is not a better school
- Child Parent Center support provided to families (for example, skill development for teen parents)
- Manierre teacher identifying a student with dyslexia and helping the student learn to read
- Belief that there will be a need for greater DCSF involvement
- Belief that Jenner has lower test scores than Manierre
- Concern that students will not be able to participate in sports at Jenner
- Suggestion that Manierre share classrooms with Lincoln Elementary to address utilization
- Suggestion that Manierre have a new STEM program to attract new students from the changing community
- Objection to closing schools before the release of the ten year education facilities master plan
- Concern that the budget set aside for safety plans is insufficient
- Concern that CPS and CPD will not have enough personnel to provide sufficient safety
- Concern that Manierre students will be impacted psychologically as a result of going from neighborhood to neighborhood
- Concern over displacing teachers and parents losing jobs
- Teachers and assistants taking time to work after hours with families
- Manierre alum that was accepted to Lincoln Park's IB program and will be attending DePaul
- Compliments on the new principal and his efforts to walk the community and meet with community members
- Population growth of the area and the need for a neighborhood school
- Question regarding the money from increased property taxes and the lottery and where it has been used
- New library
- Concern about space for day care in the consolidated school
- Concern that there is already a volatile situation between Manierre and Jenner as CPS had to separate the basketball leagues
- Franklin Elementary has a waiting list. Suggestion that Manierre become Franklin II and Jenner become Franklin III to support the housing development in the neighborhood
- Increase in NWEA scores
- Fundraising efforts that support a free 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation