

Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Edward C Delano Elementary School

April 10, 2013; 7:30-9:30p.m.

Location: Al Raby High School, 3545 W. Fulton Boulevard

CPS Facilitators:

Myetie Hamilton, School Support Center Officer

Steve Gering, School Leadership Development Officer

Also in Attendance:

Wanda Washington, Chief, Garfield-Humboldt Network

Tracey Ginwright, Assistant Deputy Chief, Garfield-Humboldt Network

Herald Johnson, Deputy Chief, Garfield-Humboldt Network

Eric Washington, Commander – Chicago Police Department

Ailene Burkoff, Court Reporter

Luretha Phillips, timekeeper

Whitney Hayes, sign language interpreter

Ms. Hernandez, Spanish language interpreter

Ashanti Howard,

Cassandra Gillespie

Sherry Bushre

Susan Ryan

Rhonda Kimbrough

John Bruggers

Maria Trevino

Phyliss Jones

Steven Long

Pedro Soto

Kenneth Mixon

Marcus Brady

Dwayne Marshall

CPS Presentation

Ms. Hamilton introduced herself and co-facilitator Mr. Gering and acknowledged Garfield Humboldt Network leadership, CPD personnel, and principals in the audience. She announced the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the community, acknowledged the note taker who would be sending notes directly to the CEO, and announced the times and locations of the next meeting. Ms. Hamilton briefly described the information contained on the handouts provided to the audience. She then transitioned to Mr. Gering.

Mr. Gering described the protocol for public comment and how to register to speak. He re-acknowledged the note taker and court reporter. He identified the timekeeper. He notified the

audience of available Spanish translation and sign language interpretation. He then began the public comment portion of the meeting.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Edward C Delano Elementary School and welcome students at Genevieve Melody Elementary School and relocate Melody to 3937W Wilcox St, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. The speakers were parents, staff, and community members. Alderman Jason Ervin addressed the audience early on, highlighted his reasons why he was opposed to the closure of Delano, and was followed by a series of speakers. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Alderman Jason Ervin expressed his opposition to the proposal due to distance, the presence of gangs between the two schools, the neighborhood blight, the disruption of the students, the performance of Delano, the probation statuses of Delano and Melody (Delano is closing and not on probation, Melody is welcoming and on probation), the size difference between Delano and Melody (Delano is larger), the loss of teaching staff, and the lack of academic programming added to Melody/Delano (compared to Hefferan and Sumner who received STEM programs).
- Concern was raised about the number of actions in the West Garfield Park area.
- Concern was raised about the safety of the closing schools and combining students from different areas.
- Concern was raised about the Delano being larger than Melody.
- Arguments were raised about the relative performance of the schools considering they are both Level 2. Some participants pointed out Delano having higher Scantron results. One participant claimed that Delano's attendance is better than Melody's.
- Concern was raised about whether after school programs would be maintained after the closure.
- Delano's partnerships with the community, Family Focus, and Al Raby were highlighted as reasons to not close Delano.
- One participant inquired about getting response to the questions that are being asked.
- Several participants aired their thoughts about the board's motivation behind the actions being a "land grab."