



Community Meeting For the Proposal to Close Benjamin Banneker Elementary School and Relocate
Benjamin Mays Elementary School
April 10, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Location: Harper High School, 6520 S. Wood

CPS Facilitators:

Leonard Moody, Internal Audit Officer

Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Early Childhood Education Officer

CPS Presentation

Leonard Moody, Internal Audit Officer for CPS, welcomed those in attendance and introduced the meeting. He presented an overview of the materials available to meeting attendees, and provided information about subsequent meetings. He reviewed the meeting's purpose, rules and procedures. He presented the dates and locations of upcoming meetings and hearings. He then opened the meeting for public comment.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Banneker Elementary school and relocate Mays Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 38 community members in attendance and approximately 20 speakers. The speakers included parents, teachers, community members, students and representatives from community organizations. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- The enrollment trends of Banneker
- The academic performance of both schools
- Concern about disrupting the progress of both schools; the belief in the community that the students deserve to not be disrupted by school closures
- Concern about how students feeling demoralized by their schools closings
- The capital investments in school facilities
- Community's objections to the proposal
- Requests that CPS reconsider their proposal
- Concern that CPS is more worried about their financial position than the well-being of its students
- Concern about student safety and crossing busy streets in a violent community
- Concerns about the causes of declining enrollment
- Capital improvements to the facility; community questions about why the facility didn't receive upgrades before a proposal
- Concern about the instability in the Englewood community