

**Community Meeting for the Proposal to Co-locate Belmont-Cragin Elementary with  
Northwest Middle School**

April 11, 2013; 5pm-7pm

Location: Prosser High School, 2148 N. Long Ave.

**CPS Staff in Attendance**

Peter Rogers – Chief Financial Officer, Lachlan Tidmarsh – Chief Information Officer, Lynda Williams – Chief of Schools, Fullerton Elementary Network

**CPS Presentation**

Peter Rogers welcomed those in attendance and introduced the meeting. Mr. Rogers provided an overview of the proposal and explained the purpose of the meeting. The meeting rules and procedures were explained. The meeting ended with Peter Rogers addressing concerns regarding safety from Saturday's meeting regarding this proposed action. He shared that Belmont-Cragin security staff will travel with the students to Northwest Middle to support students in the transition to the new building.

**Brief Summary**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to co-locate Belmont-Cragin Elementary, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 75 community members in attendance and 29 comments. The speakers ranged from parents and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Safety and security plan
- Question regarding current lease expiration in 2014 and decision to act now
- Safety at Northwest Middle School
- Perception of high utilization of classrooms and parking lot at Northwest Middle; only five empty classrooms
- Positive culture and climate at Belmont-Cragin will only be sustained if students remain in their own location
- Concern that the co-location would prevent students from attending after school programs
- Desire for CPS to not have to pay rent on a building that needs to be fixed, but concerns regarding sufficient space at Northwest Middle. Request that CPS visit the school to cross check utilization numbers with actual space available for instruction
- Desire to maintain one class per grade school size

- Positive social emotional learning at Belmont-Cragin with parents trained to provide support at home
- Parents do not want their children exposed to a community with a lot of violence
- Concern that CPS is already taking inventory of the things that need to be moved as it appears the decision has already been made
- Concern regarding amount of traffic related to the number of schools in the area
- Question whether Belmont-Cragin will have their own entrance door, exit door, the same principal, a higher budget in the co-shared facility
- Concern that the younger Belmont-Cragin students will see and hear things that are not appropriate at the Northwest Middle facility
- Anxiety felt by Belmont-Cragin students and concern that they will be losing their teachers and friends
- Desire for two offices in the co-shared facility, separate art and library spaces, and space for both staff to hold IEP conferences
- Desire for Belmont-Cragin to have separate science and computer labs and room for their music program in the co-shared facility
- Concern over the distance between Belmont-Cragin and Northwest Middle and the need for security officers to take students from home to school and back home
- Concern that CPS is continuing to take away resources from Belmont-Cragin from full-time gym teacher and art last year to their own building next year (pending Board vote)