

Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Goodlow and Relocate Earle

April 9, 2013; 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Lindblom H.S., 6130 S. Wolcott Avenue

CPS Staff in Attendance: Anthony McPhearson, Chief of Staff for ITS, Aarti Dhupelia, Deputy Chief of Staff, Teresa Walter, Curriculum and Instruction Chief, Adrian Willis, Chief of Schools, Englewood-Gresham.

CPS Presentation: Ms. Dhupelia opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and described the purpose of the meeting and the process that will be followed. Community members were asked to reference the handout they received in regard to how this action would benefit the affected schools and students including, but not limited to, technology and facility upgrades. Additional information was also made available on the handout in regard to the proposed closure. An explanation was also given regarding where parents and community members could locate more information on this proposal. Mr. McPhearson explained the process for giving comments and the two minute limit for each speaker.

Brief Summary: The purpose of this meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Goodlow and welcome the students at Earle, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. The meeting officially began at 5:00 p.m. CPS officials made a presentation regarding the proposal. There were about 100 community members in attendance when the meeting began for public comment with 51 speakers. Alderman Tony Folks spoke first and expressed her fight to keep her current schools open and the need to ensure a safety plan during the transition. The rest of the speakers ranged from parents and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speakers' comments were focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Concerns regarding the safety of students during the transition
- Testimonials showing support for the current students, administration, and staff at Goodlow
- Request for an explanation of certain data points regarding impacted schools
- Objections regarding any schools closing
- Concerns regarding the name of the school being changed
- Expressions of support for reallocation of money to needy schools
- Clarifications concerning the timing with respect to transition of students and the need for community involvement in the effort to transition students
- Supports for students with special needs