

Community Meeting for the proposal to Close Henson Elementary School

April 11, 2013; 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m.

Location: Manley High School, 2935 W. Polk Street

CPS Staff in Attendance

Tracey Martin-Thompson - Chief Officer of Strategic School Supports,
Stephanie Donovan - Chief of Staff of Strategic School Supports

CPS Presentation

Tracey Martin-Thompson introduced CPS staff in attendance. She explained the meeting rules and procedures. She reviewed the handout of the map of school actions.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Henson Elementary School, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 134 community members in attendance and 31 speakers. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including:

- Frustration that CPS was not preventative in supporting failing schools
- Increase in reading and math data (ISAT)
- Students have made more than expected gains on NWEA
- Concern over safety/security in regards to a student's commute
- High regard for principal Hobson who has made community connections and has facilitated experiences that have increased student achievement in one year
- Henson has a variety of programs that makes it a high quality school
- Recent receipt of a \$150,000 grant for resources/programs
- Claim that the district has put propaganda on the website and does not state the facts
- Students have already been at schools that have closed and do not want this to happen again
- Claim that CPS is specifically targeting African American communities and has a racist agenda
- Concern about the current Pre-K population at the school