

Community Meeting on the proposed closure of William H. King Elementary

April 11, 2013; 5:00pm-7:00pm
Whitney Young High School
211 S. Laflin

CPS Staff in Attendance

Myeti Hamilton, Paul Osland, Shonda Huery Hardman, Lorenzo Russell, Wanda Washington, Tracey Ginwright, Amabel Crawford Lauren McClellan, Dana Brink, Rhonda Kimbrough, Lorena Montenegro, Lilia Chavez, Cherrie Berris-Lake, Enrique Ortiz-Spanish Trans., Julie Iverson-Timekeeper, Efren Castaneda-Safety & Security, Phyllis Jones-note taker.

Meeting started 5:31 due to a re-location of the meeting. The gym was occupied.

CPS Presentation:

Myeti Hamilton stated the reason for the meeting. She then introduced CPS staff and their roles and responsibilities. She then called attention to the CPS Handout and explained the information of each page. She announced dates and times for the next set of meetings pertaining to this action. Additional information was read which addressed the procedures that will be implemented, in direct response, to the many questions about safety. Every welcoming school will have safe passage, additional security, new safety and security support. She then turned the meeting over to Paul Osland to facilitate the Public comment portion of the meeting.

Brief Summary:

The purpose of this community meeting was to discuss the proposal to close King Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. Students at King will be welcomed at Jensen Elementary School. An overview of the proposal was presented and the meeting rules and procedures were explained. The meeting was then opened for public comment. The speakers' comments discussed a variety of topics including:

Public Comment started at 5:40pm

- Concern that CPS's strategy is to abandon large areas of the Westside
- Concern that students will have to travel through a dangerous route and does not think that CPS has the capacity to keep students safe
- Distrust in CPS particularly around facility investments. Jensen did not have air conditioning and now they will receive this and more investments
- Frustration over the fact that CPS is not investing in schools that they are closing. These schools deserve a chance to succeed
- Questioned how the mobility rate is considered in all of this



- Claim that 17 properties of been sold/leased while 24 other buildings are still on the market and in disrepair