

## **Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close David Kohn Elementary School**

Saturday, April 13, 2013; 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Location: John M. Harlan Community Academy High School, 9652 South Michigan Ave.

### **CPS Staff in Attendance**

Tom Tyrell, Deputy Chief Administrator Officer

Anthony McPhearson, Chief of Staff - Information & Technology Services

Dr. Karen V. Saffold, Chief of Schools - Rock Island Elementary Network

Wendy Thompson, Deputy, Family & Community Engagement

### **CPS Presentation**

Mr. Tom Tyrell welcomed those in attendance and introduced the meeting. Mr. Tyrell gave a brief overview of the CPS safe passage commitment made by CPS and the handout provided to attendees after introducing the panel. Mr. Anthony McPhearson explained the meeting rules and procedures.

### **Brief Summary**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Kohn Elementary, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 25 community members in attendance and 10 speakers. The speakers ranged from parents and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Opposition to the school closing
- One of the welcoming schools is also a Level 3 school
- Students walking seven blocks through Roseland when Kohn students are not allowed to have recess due safety concerns
- Students should be given resources and support to obtain their education within their community
- Frustration that the meeting format was not a question and answer session
- Satisfaction with Kohn teachers and activities at the school
- Students love the before and after school programs
- Strong student-teacher relationships
- Desire for more specific information on which welcoming school each student will be attending
- Having students go to three welcoming schools perceived as unfair
- Question whether teachers and staff will be following the students
- Question why all Kohn students can't go to Langston Hughes to avoid being split up
- Underutilization is not the fault of the students
- Parent mentoring program that could provide assistance