

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