

Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Alexander von Humboldt Elementary School and Ana Roque De Duprey Elementary School

April 13, 2013; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Roberto Clemente High School, 1147 N. Western Avenue

CPS Facilitators:

Elizabeth Cardenas-Lopez, Director of Language and Cultural Education

Theresa Plascencia, Chief, West Side High School Network

Also in Attendance:

Lorenzo Russell, Deputy Chief, Fulton Elementary Network

CPS Presentation

Ms. Cardenas-Lopez introduced herself, Ms. Plascencia, and Mr. Russell. She announced the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the community and acknowledged the note taker who would be sending notes directly to the CEO. She noted that notes from the previous meeting were posted online and announced the time and location of the public hearing. She announced that safe passage routes will be developed with community input. She walked through the information contained on the handouts distributed to the audience. She then introduced Ms. Plascencia.

Ms. Plascencia reiterated the purpose of the meeting, which was to listen to the community. She walked through the protocols for speaking and registering. She announced that Spanish language translation was available. She then began the public comment portion of the evening.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Alexander von Humboldt Elementary School and Ana Roque De Duprey Elementary School and welcome students at Jose de Diego Elementary School, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. Alderman Moreno spoke as well as many members of the community. A recurring theme from the meeting was the proposal to merge Von Humboldt and Duprey in their current building. The speakers' comments are summarized below:

- Alderman Moreno presented a plan that he said that he had presented to CPS before. He indicated his intention to implement the plan to save Duprey and Von Humboldt. He also stated that Duprey and Von Humboldt are schools on the rise.
- One speaker advocated against the closing of Manierre.
- One speaker stated that school closings cause violence.
- One speaker stated that the closing of Duprey and Von Humboldt will cause overcrowding.

- One speaker mentioned that Duprey should not be closed because of its Level 2 status.
- One speaker said that no bullying happens at Duprey.
- One speaker stated that students affected by closures don't have enough options or supports.
- One speaker asserted that research showed that Detroit's school closings increased their deficit.
- Multiple speakers advocated for the merger of Duprey and Von Humboldt and keeping the school under 600 students.
- One speaker raised concern about the safety of children crossing gang lines.
- One speaker brought up her desire to create a partnership with the welcoming school.
- One speaker inquired about how their tax money was being spent.
- One speaker requested early childhood at Casa Central.
- One speaker asserted that CPS is giving money to charter schools.
- The Duprey Principal described Duprey as a family and asked why they do not work with overcrowded schools.