Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Sexton Elementary School
April 13, 2013; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Kenwood Academy, 5015 S. Blackstone Ave.

CPS Staff in Attendance
Ginger Ostro, CPS Budget Director
John Price, Chief of Burnham Park Network
Michael McGehee
Valeria Olds
Tamesha Carter
Margaux Mooney

CPS Presentation
Ginger Ostro, CPS Budget Director welcomed those in attendance and introduced John Price, Chief of the Burnham Park Network. She acknowledged the presence of Alderman Cochran. She said that they were there on behalf of the CEO to listen to comments and concerns. She noted that there was a court reporter, note taker, Spanish translator and sign language interpreter. She stated that this was the second meeting for this action and that answers to questions asked will be posted on the CPS website. The final public hearing will be on April 22nd at 8:00pm. It will be at the CPS Central Offices on 125 S. Clark Street. She highlighted some of the information related to the safety concerns that had been expressed at the previous meeting. Then she briefly walked people through the other parts of the handout. Finally, she went over the ground rules for the morning before opening the meeting up for public comment.

Brief Summary:

The purpose of this meeting was to receive public comment on the proposal to close Austin O. Sexton School into John Fiske Elementary in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were about 25 people in attendance with about 12 speakers. The speakers' comments focused on a variety of topics including:

- High regard for Sexton Principal who has brought many new programs to the school
- Attendance at the school has been improving significantly
- Staff is very focused on college and career ready lesson plans and activities
- Claim that CPS is not listening and has already made decisions on which schools to close
- Concern around the safety measures that need to be put in place to protect student safety
- Parents questioned how long these additional supports and resources would be in place for and how this is decided
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