

**Community Meeting for the Proposed School Action to Close Elihu Yale Elementary School**

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

Location: Englewood Campus, 6201 S. Stewart Avenue

**CPS Staff in Attendance:**

Dr. Stephanie Whyte, Chief Health Officer

Kris Tiefenthaler, Officer of Employee Solutions

Ms. Latanya Mcdade, Chief of Schools-Skyway Network

**CPS Presentation:** Ms. Tiefenthaler opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and described the purpose of the meeting and the process and next steps in the plan. In addition, she reviewed the Safe Passage plan for all welcoming schools and encouraged community members to address any issues. Additional information was also made available on the handout in regard to the proposed closure including boundary changes and transitional supports for students. She also introduced the sign language interpreter and Spanish translator present in the room. Dr. Whyte explained the process for giving comments and the upcoming meetings. The upcoming meeting times were also presented to the audience.

**Brief Summary:** The Purpose of this meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Elihu Yale Elementary School into John Harvard Elementary School of Excellence located at 7525 S. Harvard in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. The meeting officially began at 10:00 a.m. CPS officials made a presentation regarding the proposal. There were 20 community members in attendance with 33 speakers. The speakers' comments were focused on student safety for students commuting to Harvard. In addition, commenters stated the current outside partnerships for Yale school are an asset that should be continued. Finally, concerns over special populations of students including STLS and SPED were presented. The speakers' comments also focused on a variety of topics including:

- Concern that partnerships the Yale community has established with organizations will discontinue
- Questioning around the supports and resources provided to the welcoming schools
- Support for small class sizes
- Expressed concern that the students will not be able to continue their academic studies at Yale when transitioning
- Questioning what would happen to teachers and faculty after the closure
- Need more detailed plans around special education supports and resources
- Requests that Yale should receive facilities investments
- Alderman questioned what would happen to the facility after the action
- Frustration over the urban garden that has been a collaborative effort of the Yale community

The public comments were concluded and the meeting was closed at 12:02 p.m.