

Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Lafayette Elementary School

April 12, 2013; 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m.

Location: Clemente High School: 1147 N. Western Ave.

CPS Facilitators:

Elizabeth Cardenas-Lopez , Director of the Department of Language and Culture
Luis Soria, Chief of Schools – Midway Elementary Network

Also in attendance:

Shonda Huery, Chief of Schools – Fulton Elementary Network

CPS Presentation

Luis Soria, Chief of Schools – Midway Elementary Network, welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting. Mr. Soria introduced the court reporter, note-taker, Spanish language interpreter, and CPS / CPD officials in attendance. Mr. Soria then shared the dates, times, and locations of future meetings and provided an overview of the handout distributed to the attendees. Elizabeth Cardenas-Lopez , Director of the Department of Language and Culture described the public comment ground rules and opened the public comment period.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Lafayette Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were approximately 80 community members in attendance and approximately 50 speakers. The speakers ranged from parents, students, and teachers to interested stakeholders. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including the following:

- Concern that Lafayette has a music program but Chopin does not, so students may no longer be able to participate in that program
- How CPS will be able to support students in the autism program through their transition, which will be difficult for all students, but especially those in the autism program
- General lack of planning in preparation for the students to be ready to attend Chopin
- Uncertainty around the future of other programs in Lafayette in addition to the music program, including the art and preK program
- Uncertainty around the future of current partnerships that are important to students at Lafayette, including Chicago Run and City Corp