

Community Meeting to Close Goldblatt Elementary School

Location: Al Raby High School - April 10, 2013

5:00 – 7:00 pm

CPS Staff Attendance:

Myetie Hamilton, Steven Gering, Wanda Washington, Chip Johnson, Tracey Ginwright, Ashanti Howard, Gussandra Gillespie, Sherry Bushre', Susan Ryan, Rhonda Kimbrough, John Bruggers, Maria Trevino, Phyllis Jones, Stephen Long, Pedro Soto, Kenneth Mixon, Marcus Brady, Dwayne Marshall, Ms. Hernandez-Spanish Interpreter, Whitney Hayes- Sign Language Interpreter, Jamela Johnson, Ailene Burkoff-Court Reporter and Commander Eric Washington-Chicago Police Dept.

CPS Presentation:

Myetie Hamilton opened the meeting at 5:01 pm. She introduced her co-facilitator and all principals in the room. She stated the procedures for the meeting and announced the next dates and times of the next community meetings. She notified the participants that there was a court reporter and note taker present at the meeting. She then explained the CPS handout containing information pertinent to the school actions. Then she turned the meeting over to Steve Gering. Public Comments began at 5:07 pm.

Brief Summary:

The purpose of this community meeting is to discuss the proposal to close Goldblatt Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. CPS officials stated the purpose for today's meeting, introduced the CPS staff at the meeting, and reviewed the handouts provided to the community. The speaker comments focused on a variety of concepts including:

- Discussed the staff's hardworking nature and ability to reach performance goals
- Concern over rival gangs and crime present in the community
- Concern that the district is focusing more on cost-saving strategies rather than students' true interests
- Questioned where the TIF funding was going
- High regard for principal at the school
- Claim that 300 properties have gone unsold and 17 have been sold while 24 are still on the market. Brought up that there are many schools that have been vacant and due to this there have been high crime rates