

Community Meeting Proposal to Co-locate New Noble Street High School and Corliss High School

Monday, April 15, 2013

Location: Chicago Vocation Career Academy – 2100 E. 87th Street

CPS Staff in Attendance:

Mike Rendina, Chief Officer of Public and External Affairs

Jennie Huang, CPS Treasurer

Non CPS:

Captain Ruth Wedster, 4th Officer of the 4th District

CPS Presentation:

Michael Redina opened the meeting and thanked everyone for being in attendance, introduced staff members /roles, provided logistics, and stated the purpose. He stated that CPS officials were there to listen to the concerns and questions of the community. Audience was informed that this was the 2nd community meeting and that the community hearing which will be held on April 20th in Room 1550 from 9:00am until 11:00am. He also reminded audience that all comments made will be given to the CEO, the Board and that the summary of this meeting will also be posted on the website within five (5) days. Additionally, he mentioned that there would be a best effort to post answers to questions via the website. Mr. Redina reviewed the handout that was provided for audience members. More specifically, he referenced the sections which outlined some basic information about co-sharing the space, as well as investments that will be made as a result of the co-location. He also pointed out the information about safety and security, campus sharing and social/emotional supports for students, as needed. He further reminded them that CPS has linked up with 311 to get information to parents, students and the community. Jennie Huang served as facilitator – restating the purpose and the meeting protocols.

Brief Summary:

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the CEO's recommendation to co-locate New Noble Street High School Campus and Corliss High School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were approximately 14 audience members – no children. Meeting began at 5:00pm and concluded at 7:00pm.

Public Comment:

Christopher Goin, Principal Intern

Mr. Goin is a principal intern with the Noble Network and is scheduled to open a new Noble Campus in August of this year. He read a statement which provided data about Noble Street – 10,000 students are in safe, nurturing high schools environments – with high expectations. It is a non-selective public charter high school and Noble focuses on getting students ready for college. He stated that his teachers go over and above the call of duty – trying to meet students' needs. He also mentioned that Noble campuses are 9 of the top 10 selective public high schools in the city and that 90 percent of their

graduates go on to college every year. He also said that because Noble has an ever-growing wait list, the proposed co-location with Corliss gives them a chance to serve more scholars and families in the Pullman community and beyond. Lastly, he stressed that Noble is committed to doing the community engagement work so that it becomes a strong partner for families and the community.

Eva Dervin, teacher

She's been a science teacher at Corliss for 13 years. She's concerned about the division of the space. In 2000, the science labs had pools of water and since 2003/2004, they have all been remodeled. She worried that the space that they [science teachers] have built might be taken away. She also stated that Corliss is a STEM school and believes Corliss should retain that space to continue their good work there. Ms. Dervin went on to say that she's concerned about whether this initiative is the first process of phasing out Corliss. And, if that is the case, she believes that the Corliss staff should be told at the onset instead of getting the news two years down the line. She informed them that Corliss' test scores are not where they should be but the teachers do work very hard.

Deandra Johnson, teacher

She's been a special ed teacher at Corliss for 19 years. She's concerned about the safety, consistency and security of students being in a co-relationship with Noble Street students. Also, she is concerned about the big picture and does not want CPS to play games with them. She wants CPS to be honest so that when they get back to their school and explain to their students what their future is going to look like. Additionally, she was concerned about the programs that are currently in place and how that's going to affect special needs students.

Mandy Edwards, teacher

She's a teacher at Corliss and was concerned about the overall picture. She also concerned that when the charter school puts students out because the students don't meet their expectations, those students will probably end up at Corliss. So instead of Corliss getting selective enrollment status, like Noble Street, they will have to take whatever students – at whatever academic level is in the neighborhood. She believes that this is pitting one school against another. One has selective enrollment and the other has to take whatever is out there. She doesn't believe that this is fair.

Public comment concluded at approximately 6:07 p.m.