

Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close George Manierre Elementary School

April 15, 2013; 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Lincoln Park High School, 2001 N. Orchard

CPS Facilitators:

Teresa Walter, Curriculum & Instruction Officer

Beth Mascitti-Miller, Early Childhood Education Officer

Also in Attendance:

Felicia Sanders, Deputy Chief of Fullerton Elementary Network

CPS Presentation

Ms. Mascitti-Miller, welcomed those in attendance and introduced the meeting. Ms. Mascitti-Miller gave an overview of the proposal and addressed the issue of safety and safe passage routes and the functions at the welcoming school based on the comments from the first meeting. Ms. Walter, explained the meeting rules and procedures and announced future hearing date. At 5:08 p.m. the meeting was opened for public comment.

Brief Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close George Manierre Elementary School and welcome students at Edward Jenner Elementary Academy of the Arts, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were 92 attendees and 38 speakers. The speakers' comments summarized below:

- One speaker asked for more access to nearby Level 1 schools by enlarging attendance boundaries.
- Concern was raised about safety and students crossing gang boundaries by multiple speakers, including Manierre students. Specifically crossing Division was mentioned as a major boundary. Clybourn was also mentioned as dangerous.
- One speaker complained about gentrification in the neighborhood.
- Multiple speakers complained about Jenner being Level 3 and expressed their intention of not sending their students to Jenner.
- One speaker said that Manierre students should attend nearby Level 1 schools.
- One student said the staff at Manierre was caring and drove her to improve her grades.
- A plan to use Manierre for overcrowding relief was presented.
- Concern was raised about bullying.
- An inquiry into how CPS's budget is allocated was raised.
- One speaker asked what the next steps were.
- One speaker called the process ridiculous.