

**Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Robert Emmet Elementary School**

April 15, 2013; 7:30-9:30p.m.

Location: Austin High School Campus: 231 N Pine Ave.

**CPS Facilitators:**

Adam Anderson, Officer, Portfolio Planning and Strategy

**Also in attendance:**

Chandra James, Chief of Schools – Austin North Lawndale Elementary Network  
Commander West from Chicago Police Department

**CPS Presentation**

Adam Anderson, Officer, Portfolio Planning and Strategy, welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting. Mr. Anderson introduced the court reporter, note-taker, Spanish language interpreter, sign language interpreter and CPS / CPD officials in attendance. Mr. Anderson then shared the date, time, and location of future meetings and provided an overview of the handout distributed to the attendees. Mr. Anderson then described the public comment ground rules and opened the public comment period.

**Brief Summary and Public Comment**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal to close Emmet Elementary School in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-230. There were approximately 15 community members in attendance and 3 speakers:

**Bonita Robinson**

Ms. Robinson shared excerpts from an article written by Linda Darling-Hammond that discussed the positive gains in closing the achievement gap before the most recent reform efforts, which has included school closures. She stated that these reforms have not helped to address the achievement gap. She stated that this article has been provided to the Board of Education. Ms. Robinson then recited a poem titled *What Shall I Tell My Children Who are Black*.

**Akeisha Williams, Teacher**

Ms. Williams stated her opposition to the proposed closure and shared recent performance data for Emmet Elementary School, which she stated is higher than a charter school in the area. She also discussed the lack of resources available to the school.

**Latrice Jamison, Parent / LSC Chair**

Ms. Jamison stated her opposition to the proposed closure. She shared that she had attempted to enroll a child at Ellington in the past but was turned away and is not clear why her children will now be able to attend the school. Ms. Jamison also shared recent performance data for Emmet Elementary School.