

**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
The Hearing to take Public Comment)	Daniel J. Kelley
On the Proposal to Close)	Hearing Officer
Francis Parkman Elementary School)	April 2013
)	

**Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation
To the Chief Executive Officer
Regarding the Proposal to Close
Francis Parkman Elementary School**

INTRODUCTION

On April 19, 2013, at 8:00 p.m., the undersigned, an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois, convened as hearing officer, a public hearing at 125 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois to receive comment from interested persons regarding the proposed closure of Francis Parkman Elementary School. A Certified Shorthand Reporter transcribed the hearing. Notice of this hearing was sent to parents and/or guardians on March 21, 2013.¹ Notice of this hearing was also provided to administrators, staff, faculty and local school council members on March 21, 2013.² Notice of this hearing was sent to the State Senator, State Representative and Chicago City Council Alderman representing the district in which Parkman Elementary is located. A summary of the proposed school action was published in the Chicago Sun Times on April 3, 2013.³ Preceding the public hearing, the CEO of Chicago Public Schools conducted two community meetings, one on April 9, 2013, and the second on April 13, 2013. Both meetings were held at Dunbar High School, 3000 South King Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

The public hearing was conducted pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-230, and Procedures for Public Hearings on Proposed School Closure, Consolidation, Co-Location, Phase-Out, or Reassignment Boundary Change. The Hearing Officer is charged with preparing a written report summarizing public comments and documents received at the hearing and determining whether the CEO complied with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/34-230 and the Chief Executive Officers Guidelines for School Actions.

¹ See Tab 1.

² See Tab 2.

³ See Tab 6.

RELEVANT STATUTES

105 ILCS 5/34-18 (2012) (“Powers of the Board”), effective July 13, 2012.⁴

105 ILCS 5/34-200 (2012) (Defines “School Closing” and “School Action”) effective July 13, 2012.⁵

105 ILCS 5/34-225 (2012) (“School Transition Plans”) effective November 30, 2012.⁶

105 ILCS 5.34-230 (2011) (“School Action Public Meetings and Hearings”) effective August 22, 2011.⁷

105 ILCS 5/34-232 (2012) (“Proposed School Action Announcement and Notice; 2012-2013 School Year”) effective November 30, 2012.⁸

PERTINENT CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy for the 2011-2012 School Year (Section 302.6A; Board Report 10-0728-PO4).⁹

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual Review and Establishment of School Attendance Boundaries (Section 703.2; Board Report 05-622-PO1).¹⁰

Chicago Public Schools Space Utilization Standards (issued December 28, 2011).¹¹

Guidelines for School Actions, 2012-2013 School Year.¹²

Chicago Public Schools Office of the Chief Executive Officer Procedures for Public Hearings on Proposed School Closure, Consolidation, Co-Location, Phase-Out, or Reassignment Boundary Change.¹³

⁴ See Tab 7.

⁵ See Tab 8.

⁶ See Tab 9.

⁷ See Tab 10.

⁸ See Tab 11.

⁹ See Tab 12.

¹⁰ See Tab 13.

¹¹ See Tab 14.

¹² See Tab 15.

EXHIBITS

On April 19, 2013 the Chicago Board of Education Law Department tendered, and the Hearing Officer received into the record, the CEO's compiled Exhibit 1, a binder of documents in support of the proposed school action.

A. NOTICES OF HEARING

1. Notice to Parents / Guardians. (*See* Tab 1).
 - a. Notice letter to Parents/ Guardians of Students at Francis Parkman Elementary School dated March 21, 2013.
 - b. Draft Transition Plan for the Proposed Closure of Francis Parkman Elementary School.
2. Notice to School Personnel, Local School Council Members and Board Members. (*See* Tab 2)
 - a. Notice letter to Administrators, Faculty, Staff, and Local School Council Members dated March 21, 2013.
 - b. Draft Transition Plan for the Proposed Closure of Francis Parkman Elementary School.
3. Affidavit of Jeff Broom, Performance Data Analyst at the Chicago Board of Education. (*See* Tab 3).
 - a. Re: Notice to Parents / Guardians sent by Lowitz & Sons, Inc. on March 21, 2013.
4. Affidavit of Leonard Langston, Chief of Staff for Public and Community Affairs at the Chicago Board of Education. (*See* Tab 4).
 - a. Re: Notice to State Senator; State Representative; Chicago City Council Alderman. (*See* ¶ 48).
5. Affidavit of Jason Van Patten, Director of Web Services at the Chicago Board of Education. (*See* Tab 5).
 - a. Re: Notice Published on <http://cps.edu/qualityschools/Pages/qualityschools.aspx> on March 21, 2013. (*See* ¶ uu).

¹³ *See* Tab 16.

6. Public Notice of Hearing and Community Meetings by Newspaper Publication in the Chicago Sun-Times on or about April 3, 2013.

B. RELEVANT LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS (TABS 7-16)

C. DOCUMENTS AND WRITTEN EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PARKMAN ELEMENTARY

17. Stenographic Report of Proceedings for the Hearing held on April 9, 2013 at Dunbar Vocational High School, 3000 South King Drive, Chicago, Illinois.
18. Summary of Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Parkman Elementary School held on April 9, 2013.
19. Stenographic Report of Proceedings for the Hearing held on April 13, 2013 at Dunbar Vocational High School, 3000 South King Drive.
20. Summary of Community Meeting for the Proposal to Close Parkman Elementary School held on April 13, 2013.
21. Written Statement of Benjamin Felton, Portfolio Planner for the Chicago Public Schools.
22. Enrollment History PowerPoint Slide.
23. Current and Proposed Attendance Area Boundaries.
24. Written Statement of Adrian Willis, Chief of Schools for the Chicago Public Schools, Englewood-Gresham Elementary Network.
25. Performance Policy –

2012 Elementary School Performance Policy Report – Francis Parkman Elementary School (School Id. 610114).

2012 Elementary School Performance Policy Report – Jesse Sherwood Elementary School (School Id. 610173).

SUMMARY OF THE HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE PARKMAN ELEMENTARY

BOARD PRESENTERS

Benjamin Felton

Portfolio Planner for the Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Felton reported that the targeted enrollment efficiency range of the Parkman facility is between 456-684 students. As of the 20th day of attendance for the 2012-2013 school year, the enrollment of Parkman was 231 students. Mr. Felton explained that the CEO of the Chicago Public Schools has proposed that Parkman's students be welcomed by Jesse Sherwood Elementary School. Accordingly, if the plan were to be approved the resulting students coming from Parkman to Sherwood would not cause Sherwood to exceed its enrollment efficiency range.

Mr. Felton stated that causing the 231 students from Parkman to join the 312 students at Sherwood will result in a total enrollment of 523 students. Sherwood's efficiency standard is between 456-684 students. 523 is within the enrollment efficiency range.

Adrian Wilson

Chief of Schools for the Chicago Public Schools, Englewood-Gresham Elementary Network.

Mr. Wilson stated that Parkman fits the criteria of the Chief Executive Officer's Guidelines for School Actions because it is underutilized based upon the CPS Space Utilization Standards. Mr. Wilson further stated that based upon the CPS Performance Policy, Parkman received a Level 3 rating (poorest on CPS scale) based on its performance during the 2011-2012 school year, while Sherwood received a Level 2 rating.

If the proposal to close Parkman is approved, the students will receive additional support at Parkman during the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year and at Sherwood next year. Mr. Wilson stated that the CPS Office of Safety and Security has worked with the Chicago Police Department, Department of Family and Support Services, local community groups and faith partners, elected officials, and other sister agencies to develop a plan for the safe transition of students.

Students will also receive additional academic support, including the following:

1. A Principal Transition Coordinator will be assigned to help the Parkman principal maintain Parkman's academic rigor for the remainder of the school year.
2. Sherwood administration will receive comprehensive, student specific data on all transitioning students to allow staff to proactively identify individual student needs and prepare to meet those needs.

3. Principals will receive discretionary resources to provide direct academic support to students.

Mr. Wilson further stated that students will also receive social and emotional support in order to help them adjust to the new school environment. Specifically, the following will be provided to students:

1. CPS will help school staff members facilitate intervention groups aimed at helping student's transition.
2. CPS will help staff members implement restorative practices to encourage peer-to-peer problem solving.
3. Groups of students in need of more individualized attention will be provided with access to highly structured interventions.
4. CPS will provide resources to Sherwood leadership to implement culture-building activities.

Finally, Mr. Wilson concluded that Parkman is underutilized and the combined enrollment of Parkman and Sherwood at the 245 West 57th Street facility will not exceed the facility's enrollment efficiency range.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

On April 22, 2013, Jennifer L. Chan, Assistant General Counsel of the Chicago Board of Education tendered, and the Hearing Officer received into evidence written comments in the matter of the Proposed Closure of Parkman Elementary School. These documents were either hand delivered to the CPS Law Department or sent to qualityschools@cps.edu.

Cynthia Smiley

Date: April 22, 2013

Please keep Parkman Open!

Carla Smith

Date: April 22, 2013

Parkman is a school on the rise. Parkman is the heart of the community. Students drastically improved their NWEA winter scores in reading and math.

Veronica Anthony

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Anthony is the School Clerk at Parkman and been with Parkman for 23 years. She is also a product of the Chicago Public Schools. She stated that she believes in the mission / vision of the school, making emphasis on the fact that all children can learn. She felt confident that if given the opportunity, Parkman will continue in the quest to educate our children.

John Evans

Date: April 22, 2013

Mr. Evans is a teacher at Parkman. He stated that he believes the small class sizes at Parkman are beneficial to the students at Parkman. He stated that Parkman should remain open in order to ensure that there will not be a break in the educational process of the students.

Stephanie Bradley

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Bradley is a middle school teacher at Parkman. She stated that the students of Parkman took great pride last year in bringing up their scores and competing with other schools in their district and envisioned next year as the year they would increase their scores to be a level 2 school. She stated that the students have lost their enthusiasm for learning because they know that their school is likely to close.

Ms. Bradley states that there are concerns about safety and crossing gang territories. She stated that she does not believe that the students should be casualties of war in order to get back at the teachers for going on a seven day strike.

Myriam Alcabes Lindenfield

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Alcabes is a kindergarten teacher at Parkman. She stated that it takes her about 1 hour to get to school every day from her north side home. She noted that her students are eager to learn and that their Dibbles scores increased from 55% at the beginning of the school year to an expected 80% at the end of the year.

She stated it is her belief that Parkman will be a level two school at the end of the year. Further, Ms. Alcabes stated that Parkman is a safe environment and that she wishes to retire from Parkman in 20 years.

Victoria Salud

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Salud is a teacher at Parkman, having held that position for the past four years. She stated that she believes that CPS is taking the wrong direction in closing Parkman. She noted that there was never a Board meeting at Parkman prior to the announcement of its potential closure.

She stated that she believes the school closing list is affecting only low income minority population.

Jo Johnson

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Johnson is the Professional School Counselor and Case Manager at Parkman. Ms. Johnson notes the success that Parkman has had with the CHAMPS and Second Step programs. She stated that the safety of the students crossing Garfield Boulevard is concerning. She also stated that Parkman has an Early Childhood Special Education program that allows parents to keep their children at Parkman rather than send them back to their home schools.

T. Butler

Date: April 22, 2013

T. Butler is a staff member of Parkman, having held that position for five years. He stated that Parkman is a school that strives for academic excellence under the leadership of Principal Bellephant. He stated that the students are pushed beyond the measureable standards and still accomplish the goals that have been set for them. He stated that Parkman is a place of stability for the students there and a place that feels like home to many of its students. He pointed out that Parkman is only five points from becoming a level 2 school.

Jada Bell

Date: April 22, 2013

Ms. Bell is the Speech Pathologist at Parkman. She stated that it will be a great loss to have the students moved to different schools throughout the city. She stated that she has seen teachers who are dedicated to building the overall confidence of Parkman students.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Alderwoman Dowell

Alderwoman Dowell stated that the draft transition plan is severely lacking in detail with regards to how CPS intends to keep students safe. She stated that Parkman's student

population has increased by two percent from last year and based upon CPS student metrics, Parkman has improved over the past three years and if they were given the opportunity to continue to improve, they'd be a level 2 school in 2013-2014.

She said that there is no way to guarantee student safety as Parkman and Sherwood are eight-tenths of a mile away from one another and between the dividing line for the Mickey Cobras and the Gangster Disciples.

Finally, Alderwoman Dowell stated that by closing Parkman, the students at Parkman will lose the ability to receive services from the neighboring Illinois Eye Institute at the Princeton School.

Student A

Student A stated that going to Sherwood will result in her crossing a major intersection into unsafe neighborhoods. Student A has been at Parkman since kindergarten.

Student B

Student B stated that Parkman has allowed her to overcome a lot of challenges. Student B has been at Parkman since kindergarten.

Student C

Student C stated he wanted to graduate from Parkman and join the Navy.

Ms. Frankie Humphreys

Ms. Humphreys stated she is concerned with sending kids into another neighborhood because of gang and drug activity. It doesn't matter what age the children are.

Ms. Carla Garnes-Smith

Ms. Garnes-Smith stated that Parkman is a school on the rise. Parkman had the highest TRC and double scores in our network. Please hear the voices of the community and keep Parkman open.

Student D

Please save my school. I love Parkman.

Student E

I am learning a lot and how to do math. This is the best school I ever had.

Student F

I like my teacher, I am learning new things, I can read very well. I love Parkman best.

Ms. Glenda Leacman

Ms. Leacman is the parent of Student A. She stated that she believes that everything is being decided by the wealthy. She referenced presidential candidates and the tragedy in Boston. Ms. Leacman asked that CPS put our children first.

Mr. Kelly Griggs

Ms. Griggs is the parent of two Parkman students. She stated that Parkman is a guiding light in the community and that the students feel safe and comfortable at Parkman. She acknowledged that Sherwood is a good school, but expressed concern about the area that surrounds Sherwood. Ms. Griggs believes that the schools (and specifically the students) are fixing themselves, without the need for outside intervention from CPS.

Student G

Student G stated that she feels uncomfortable walking and attending Sherwood.

Student H

Student H stated that Parkman should be kept open because he / she likes the school the way that it is and that the students are making their grades.

Yvonne Brown

Ms. Brown is the parent of a Parkman first grader. She stated that her daughter left preschool reading on a first grade level and is now doing the work of a second grader. She stated that the teachers at Parkman push the students to the next level and that Parkman's scores are rising and rising.

Student I

Student I stated that she feels safe at Parkman. She stated that she believes the violence rate with kick up because people do not care about how parents, siblings and family members feel when they hear in the news about a killing.

Ms. Carla Montgomery

Ms. Montgomery stated that she noticed that all or a majority of the schools that are closing are in District 13. She stated that there is a younger generation teaching the morals and values the young people of today. She stated that she believes that closure of

Parkman will result in more black on black crime and that there will not be enough police to hold the community.

Student J

Student J is an eighth grader at Parkman. She stated that Parkman means a lot to her because when she entered eighth grade she was reading at a fourth grade level. Through hard work and determination she is now reading at a seventh grade level. Student J is an honor roll student. Student J expressed concern about the safety of traveling to Sherwood and noted that some of her classmates had previously been physically assaulted at a gas station on 55th.

Student K

Student K is an eighth grader at Parkman. She stated that she has many fond memories of her time at Parkman and noted a specific dance and trip to a museum. Student K expressed concern about crossing 55th Street because of the gang activity and pleaded to keep Parkman open for safety of the children.

Student L

Student L stated that he was sad that Parkman was closing.

Ms. Sonja Bellephant

Ms. Bellephant is the principal of Parkman Elementary and has been since August 2008. She stated that Parkman students rarely commit acts of discipline or misconduct. She stated that Parkman's learning environment has been completely transformed as a result of the partnership with Chicago Cares, Turner Construction Company and the commitment of parents, former students and community members who volunteered to help paint classrooms and hallways.

Ms. Bellephant stated that the staff at Parkman is all entirely new, as of August 2008. 85% of the previous staff retired or moved on after Ms. Bellephant's first year. Today, 80% of Parkman's staff have advanced degrees and the teacher attendance rate at Parkman is 95.9% percent. She stated that at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, Parkman students were keeping pace with all schools in the Pershing network.

During Parkman's last testing session 73 percent of students met their targets in reading and 69 percent met their targets in math. She stated that 76% of kindergarteners, 73% of first graders and 76% of second graders are at or above grade level in reading.

Parkman has adopted two programs in the 2012-2013 school year that have drastically reduced the amount of misconduct that result in suspensions. The suspension rate has dropped nearly 50% at Parkman. Parkman has also adopted a monthly shadow day, allowing the parents the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and view instructional

practices. As a result of this program, there has been an overall 75% increase in parental involvement.

Ms. Bellephant pointed out that Parkman's total points on the performance measure is 45 percent, while Sherwood's stands at just 52%. She noted that Parkman is on target to outperform the current percentage points of Sherwood. Ms. Bellephant also pointed out that there is a very real fear amongst students, parents, teachers and the administration for the safety of the students that cross Garfield Boulevard.

Student N

Student N noted that she feels unsafe walking and attending Sherwood. Student N stated that Parkman implements a program called Second Step, allowing students to become problem solvers not problem starters.

Student O

Student O stated that Parkman is where all of his friends go to school. Save Parkman.

Student P

Student P stated that she loved her teachers and principal. She doesn't want to leave.

Ms. Tunyona Frazier

Ms. Frazier is the LSC Chairperson at Parkman Elementary. She expressed concern that CPS proposal to close Parkman will result in families and children being uprooted. Ms. Frazier stated that she is not a member of the community in which Parkman sits, however, she takes two buses to get her daughter to Parkman because she is pleased with how her daughter is doing at Parkman. She stated that she is concerned about potential violence that will result if students are forced to attend Sherwood.

Student Q

Student Q is a second grader at Parkman. She doesn't want to transfer to another school. She wants to graduate from Parkman.

Student R

Student R is an eighth grader at Parkman. She stated that Parkman should stay open because of its great teachers and because of the children who need stability in their lives. She stated that Parkman is a stable environment.

Ms. Anya Holmes

Ms. Holmes is the parent of a student at Parkman. She stated that she and her daughter feel safe attending Parkman and that causing students to join Sherwood will result in overcrowding and less accessibility to teachers. She stated that the teachers and the principal at Parkman are very accessible, whereas at Sherwood they are not.

Student T

Student T stated that she has friends at Parkman and wants to graduate from Parkman with those friends.

Student U

Student U is a third grader at Parkman. He stated that the teachers at Parkman are very supportive and willing to help the students. He stated that closing Parkman will result in the tearing down of his dreams. He wants to graduate from Parkman.

Student V

Student V stated that she is a very good student. Her best subject is math, but her favorite subject is writing. She attributes her good grades to the small class sizes at Parkman and that they tailor lessons to individualized lesson planning. She also stated that Parkman should remain open because it provides a good and safe learning environment.

Ms. Makeda Muhammed

Ms. Muhammed is the parent of two students at Parkman. She stated that her six-year-old came to Parkman unable to speak and through the efforts of Parkman's staff he is now able to carry on a conversation. Her other child was removed from Sherwood because he was being bullied. He is now practically a B student at Parkman. Ms. Muhammed stated that she thought Ms. James has done a tremendous job and she feels safe for her children to attend Parkman.

Ms. Muhammed pointed out that her own research suggests that the ratio of student to teacher in other areas of the state was between 13 to 15 students in a classroom. She stated that she doesn't see anything wrong with the low student to teacher ratios at Parkman.

Student W

Student W is a third grader at Parkman. He stated that the teachers and principal at Parkman mean a great deal to the students there. He noted that the students feel safe and secure at Parkman.

Student X

Student X noted that Sherwood is the same school that turned away his mother because there was not enough room for his sister in preschool. He noted that sending students to Sherwood will result in more black on black crime.

Student Y

Student Y is a third grader at Parkman. He noted that he is concerned about crossing dangerous territories. He stated that he values the education that he is receiving at Parkman and that he is emotionally connected to Parkman.

Student Z

Student Z is a third grader at Parkman. He noted that Parkman is the third school that he's been at and that he likes Parkman because the staff knows his name. He stated he wants to graduate from Parkman and go onto high school.

Mr. Larell Young

Mr. Young is a former graduate of Chicago Public Schools and a parent of children at Parkman. He stated that it is safe at Parkman and that sending young males to Sherwood will result in increased violence in the neighborhoods. He stated that he is presently in college in Iowa and that he is not worried about his two children at Parkman while he's away because of the teachers and staff there.

Student AA

Student AA is a fourth grader at Parkman. He stated that he loves Parkman and the teachers and faculty at Parkman push him to the limit to be the best.

Student BB

Student BB is a seventh grader at Parkman. She stated that closing Parkman will result in students joining gangs or other groups for school protection and safety. She expressed concern about crossing different gang territories. Student BB pointed out that generations of families have gone to Parkman and gone on to be successful members of the community.

Student CC

Student CC is a seventh grader at Parkman. She stated that she travels a long way to get to Parkman and that she does so because she feels safe at Parkman. She stated that she believes that the Board of Education sees monetary value in the property of Parkman and places emphasis on that over the education of its students.

Ms. Anguonise Johnson

Ms. Johnson graduated from Parkman in 2005. She noted that it was because of the exceptional student experience she received while at Parkman that enables her to mentor other young students. She stated that being a part of Parkman Elementary is like being a part of a loving family.

Student DD

Student DD stated that Parkman should stay open because it is convenient to his home and the community. He stated that Parkman feels like home and that if Parkman closes, the teachers will lose their jobs. He noted that the students at Parkman have formed bonds with the teachers at Parkman that cannot be replaced.

Ms. Anthony

Ms. Anthony is a 23-year employee at Parkman Elementary. She is a product of the Chicago Public Schools. She stated that the students at Parkman are doing extremely well and through the Teach One, Reach One program the lessons that these students are learning at Parkman are being taken home and spread to parents.

Ms. Judith Dever

Ms. Dever is a retired teacher. She stated that Parkman is geographically strangled by many threats to traffic safety. She stated that she did not believe that certain CPS employees would allow their children to cross eight lanes of traffic on Garfield Boulevard.

Student EE

Student EE is a third grader at Parkman. She stated that Parkman is a place where everyone is happy and that they can come together in brotherhood and sisterhood. She stated that she loves attending basketball games at Parkman and cheering on her team and that she and her best friends hoped to graduate from Parkman and attend college together.

Student FF

Student FF is a third grader at Parkman. He stated that he has had trouble fitting in at other schools, as a result of fighting and suspensions. He noted that things are going great for him at Parkman and that his teacher is pushing him and that he knows that the sky is the limit for him. He stated that he likes the feeling he gets when he enters the doorways of Parkman and that he doesn't want to go to another school.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

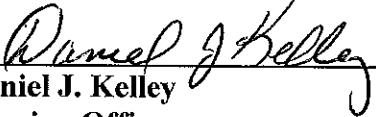
The Hearing Officer makes the following findings concerning the CEO's proposal to close Francis Parkman Elementary School:

1. The Board has the authority pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-18 to develop a policy for the closure of existing schools to meet current and projected demographic patterns within the district. (See Tab 7 – 105 ILCS 5/34-18 (24))
2. The CEO has satisfied the notice requirements as required by statute (105 ILCS 5/34-230) and as mandated by the Board Policy and Guidelines. Notice was provided on March 21, 2013 to parents or guardians, principal, staff, local school council, as well as to the State Senator¹⁴, State Representative and Alderman for the district in which Parkman sits.
3. I find that in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-225 and the Guidelines for School Actions that the CEO has prepared and disseminated a good and sufficient Draft Transition Plan.
4. I find that the CEO has complied with 105 ILCS 5/34-232 in that the proposed closure of Parkman was announced prior to March 31, 2012; notice was provided prior to March 31, 2012; and notice was provided at least 15 calendar days in advance of the public hearing.
5. Parkman received a level 3 rating based upon its performance during the 2011-2012 school year. Sherwood received a level 2 rating during the same time frame. Accordingly, if this proposal is approved, students from Parkman will attend a higher performing school.
6. It is the express position of the CEO that the board approve the closure of Francis Parkman Elementary School, where Parkman's students will be welcomed by Sherwood Elementary School.
7. I find that the CEO has complied with requirements of 105 ILCS 5/34-230 and the CEO's Guidelines for School Action.

¹⁴ The Hearing Officer notes that copies of the notices sent to the State Senator, State Representative and Alderman were not included in the binder of exhibits presented to me and accepted into the record on April 19, 2013. The notice to these public officials is referenced in ¶ 48 of the affidavit of Leonard Langston (Tab 4). The omission of the notices to these public officials in the CEO's exhibit does not affect the adequacy of their notice. This conclusion is apparent as Alderwoman Dowell attended and spoke at the public hearing on April 19, 2013.

For the foregoing reasons, the Hearing Officer finds that the CEO has followed all proper procedures and relevant mandates, and that the proposal to close Francis Parkman Elementary School is appropriately before the Board.

Submitted this 30th day of April, 2013



Daniel J. Kelley
Hearing Officer