

Transcript of the Testimony of
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30

Date: April 25, 2013

Case: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MARY MCLEON BETHUNE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER
THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF
MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 25, 2013
COMMENCING AT 5:30 P.M.

RICHARD NEVILLE
HEARING OFFICER

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

	SPEAKER	
1		
2	Benjamin Felton	12
	Wanda Washington	19
3	Alderman Ervin	28
	Pamela Lonzo	33
4	Student 1	43
	Danna Johnson	44
5	Millander Lee	45
	Student 2	46
6	Kamesha Terry	48
	Troyanna Brown	49
7		
	Student 4	51
8	Reverend Heudy	53
	Robin Peterson	54
9	Student 9	56
	Elizabeth Merceless	58
10	Student 5	60
	Student 6	60
11	Student 7	61
	Student 8	61
12	Student 10	62
	Student 11	63
13	Student 12	63
	Student 13	64
14	Student 14	65
	Student 15	67
15	Student 17	70
	Student 18	72
16	Student 19	73
	Duvall Townsend	74
17	Bysheen Edwards	75
	Ernest Walliams	80
18	Kevin Hough	82
	Valeri Leonard	84
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
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HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Hello everybody.
We're supposed to start at 5:30, but we're trying to wait and see if they can get the presentation screen prepared. So can you hear me now?

So, we're just going to try for a couple of minutes to see if we get it set up. All right. Good evening everyone, and how are you tonight?

My name is Richard Neville, and I am the Hearing Officer for the hearing tonight; and my job is to be in and organize the timing and the calling of names for people to come up and make their presentations, and I have a list of people who signed in downstairs.

Some people marked "yes" they would like to say something, some people marked "no." The ones that marked "yes," I'm going to call. If.

HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Someone needs to have signs, we have this lady here who is available to do sign language for anyone that needs it. We have also have a Spanish interpreter.

She's standing over there. She's got her hand up in the air. Marsella. Close, right?

1 THE INTERPRETER: Close enough.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Close enough. If
3 anyone needs some help with language, Spanish
4 language, feel free to go over and see her. Raise
5 your hand, and she'll come he ever and talk with
6 you.

7 The way this is set up, it's by statute.
8 The way the statute is set up. There will be a
9 presentation by the public schools, the Chicago
10 Public Schools, and we'll have certain
11 representatives that will make a presentation about
12 their position on the school closing.

13 Anyone who would like to can come up to
14 and have their say, We've got a lot of names on
15 here, and we're limited to two hours for the
16 hearing.

17 So, sometimes they advise that people
18 should speak for about two minutes. I try not to
19 hold that perfect. If someone needs a little more
20 time, that's okay. We just don't want someone
21 coming up and using so much time that people at the
22 end don't get a chance to say what they have to say.

23 If anyone has anything in writing that you
24 need, or you would like to put into the record, you

1 could bring that up to me, and we need you to sign
2 in so we have a name on it; and we'll give that to
3 the court reporter, and she's: In charg of the
4 record.

5 This lady to my right is keeping a written
6 transcript of everything that happens tonight.
7 Everything that everyone says, including what I'm
8 saying now, and that transcript will be posted on
9 the Chicago Public Schools' website five, six days
10 after the transcript is ask prepared.

11 We haven't asked her yet how quickly she
12 can get it done, but before the night is over, we'll
13 find out. It depends on how many people speak.
14 That is really the process we have tonight.

15 So, with that, I think we should start.
16 Does anyone have any questions just before we start
17 for me? Anybody feed any clarification of anything?
18 No? Okay, Michele, why don't you start.

19 MS. HURLEY: Good evening, Your Honor. My name
20 is Michele Hurley. That's M-i-c-h-e-l-e, Hurley,
21 H-u-r-l-e-y.

22 I'm an attorney in the Chicago Board of
23 Education Law Department. I appear before you today
24 in connection with the proposal of the Chief

1 Executive Officer, or CEO, of the Chicago Public
2 Schools to close Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
3 School, or Bethune, and welcome returning students
4 at John Milton Gregory School, or Gregory.

5 Your Honor, I've already tendered to you,
6 at this time I would like to ask you admit into the
7 record CEO's compiled Exhibit 1, a binder of
8 documents being submitted for your consideration and
9 in support of the proposal.

10 A copy of this binder is available here in
11 chambers on the ledge of the podium to my left for
12 public viewing.

13 The binder consists of documentary
14 evidence and written statements demonstrating that
15 the CEO's proposal complies with the requirements of
16 the Illinois School Code and the CEO's Guidelines
17 for School Actions.

18 Specifically, the written statements and
19 documents demonstrate the following: At tab A, the
20 binder includes notice letters to the parents and
21 guardians of students, school staff members and
22 local school council members at Bethune and Gregory,
23 accompanied by draft transition plans.

24 The notice letters and draft transition

1 plans: One, describe the basis of the proposal.
2 Two, explain how the proposal meets the criteria of
3 the guidelines. Three, identifies supports for
4 students' safety and security, academics social and
5 emotional needs, and specific supports for students
6 with disability, students in temporary living
7 situations and English language learners.

8 And finally, four, it identifies the
9 student's options to enroll in a higher-performing
10 school, provide information on choice and identify
11 transportation where practicable.

12 Tab A also includes the notice of the
13 scheduled community meetings and hearings published
14 in the newspaper and affidavits attesting to the
15 delivery of notice to the Bethune and Gregory
16 parents or guardians, school staff, local school
17 council members and elected officials.

18 Finally, table A includes an affidavit
19 attesting to proper publication of the list of
20 qualified independent Hearing Officers and draft
21 Guidelines for School Actions before November 1st.

22 The finalized Guidelines for School
23 Actions following a 21-day comment period, the
24 proposals before March 31st, and at least 15

1 calendars days before the first community meeting,
2 and the angst summaries from the community meetings
3 within five days after the respective meetings.

4 At tab B, the binder includes the Illinois
5 School Code provisions designating powers of the
6 Board and outlining the process for school actions.

7 This tab also includes the Board's policy
8 on school performance, remediation, and probation
9 for the 2011-2012 school year, pardon me, and the
10 policy number review and establishment of school
11 attendants boundaries.

12 Also at tab B -- I'll try to project
13 louder. Also at tab are the Chicago Public Schools
14 Space Utilization Standards and the CEO's guidelines
15 for school actions for 2012-12013 school year.
16 Finally, tab B includes the CEO's procedures for
17 public hearings on proposed school closings.

18 At tab C, the binder includes written
19 evidence in support of the CEO's proposal. Tab C
20 also contains the transcripts and summaries from the
21 two community meetings to elicit public comment,
22 held at locations convenient to the Bethune and
23 Gregory school communities.

24 Tab C also includes the written statement

1 of Benjamin Felton and the accompanying presentation
2 demonstrating Bethune's underutilization and the
3 space available at the Gregory facility to welcome
4 all of the students, without exceeding its
5 enrollment efficiency range, and the map of the
6 proposed attendance area boundary change.

7 Finally, tab C includes the written
8 statement of Wanda Washington, and accompanying
9 documents demonstrating Gregory's status as a higher
10 performing school, and outlining the supports that
11 will be offered to students as they transition.

12 At this time I request that the CEO's
13 compiled Exhibit 1 be admitted into the record.

14 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I have received the
15 exhibit and the attachments that you've mentioned,
16 and this will be accepted and put into the record.

17 Again, for the for everyone who is here in
18 attendance, we'll do the same with any written
19 exhibits that anyone who is here for the public
20 hearing wants to put into the record, that will be
21 included along with this.

22 MS. HURLEY: Before I call the first witness,
23 your Honor, I want to just point out that we're
24 experiencing some technical difficulties. So, I

1 apologize to the members of the public who are here
2 for that.

3 I figured it out for both of us. If we
4 push and don't hold, that will keep us from fading
5 in and out, in terms speaking; but I also want to
6 point out right now we don't have projected the
7 actual screen that pertains to the Bethune-Gregory
8 hearing. So, slides that hopefully will be
9 available at the time the presenters come up, if
10 they are not, well, we'll just reference where they
11 are in the binders; and so the public, members of
12 the public, are free to go over and pick up the
13 binder that is available for them to see those brief
14 presentations?

15 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Where is that binder?

16 MS. HURLEY: So, the binder is on the ledge of
17 this podium that is facing the public.

18 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Facing the public?

19 MS. HURLEY: Yes, sir.

20 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Fine. You understand
21 if you want to take a look at any of the exhibits
22 that are referenced by the members of the Chicago
23 Public Schools who are making this presentation,
24 feel free to do that; and we can make it available

1 later on this evening, too, I would think.

2 MS. HURLEY: Sure.

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: For everyone who
4 wants to look at?

5 MS. HURLEY: Some of the documents were made
6 available at registration, so they may already have
7 them.

8 One last point, members public who wishes
9 to submit written comments for your consideration,
10 you may do so by 5:00 o'clock tomorrow, by
11 delivering them here to the Law Department on the
12 7th floor, or by E-mailing to
13 qualityschools@cps.edu, and we will forward those
14 for your Honor's consideration.

15 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I will repeat that at
16 the end of the hearing. Anybody who wants to do
17 something by tomorrow afternoon by 5:00 o'clock,
18 bring it down here to the Law Department on the 7th
19 floor it will be included in the record, and their
20 an E-mail site -- why don't you give that E-mail
21 site one more time?

22 MS. HURLEY: Qualityschools, that is schools
23 with an S on the, @cps.edu.

24 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay, thank you.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 12

1 MS. HURLEY: Thank you for your indulgence. At
2 this time I would like to introduce the CEO's first
3 representative who will make a statement in support
4 of the proposal. It is Mr. Benjamin Felton. His
5 statement is located in the binder at tab 21.

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You are right, taking
7 my finger off the mic works.

8 Mr. Felton, are you ready?

9 MR. FELTON: I am, Your Honor.

10 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: All right please
11 proceed.

12 MR. FELTON: Can you here me? I'm battling a
13 bit of a head cold, so thanks for bearing with me.

14 My name is Benjamin Felton,
15 B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n F-e-l-t-o-n. I'm a Portfolio
16 Planner for the Chicago Public Schools. I've been
17 in this position since July 2012.

18 As a Portfolio Planner, I manage strategic
19 planning to improve the efficient utilization of CPS
20 facilities. Prior to becoming a Portfolio Planner,
21 I worked as a teacher at CPS. I then joined the
22 Tennessee Department of Education, where I focused
23 on teacher and principal recruitment and contributed
24 to the development of the department's five-year

1 strategic plan.

2 I have a Bachelor's of Science from
3 Vanderbilt University. I've been asked to appear at
4 this hearing today to convey to you, the parents,
5 and the community, as well as interested members of
6 the public in attendance, information regarding the
7 space utilization of the Bethune facility with
8 respect to the proposal to close Bethune.

9 According to the Chief Executive Officer's
10 Guidelines for the 2012-2013 school year, the CEO
11 may propose to close a school if it is underutilized
12 based on CPS Space Utilization Standards and student
13 enrollment numbers recorded on the 20th attendance
14 day for the 2012-2013 school year.

15 The CEO may only propose a closure if the
16 impacted students have the option to enroll in a
17 higher-performing school, and the resulting space
18 utilization, after the closure, will not exceed the
19 facility's enrollment efficiency range as defined by
20 the CPS' Space Utilization Standards.

21 I will discuss the details regarding the
22 space utilization of this proposal, while my
23 colleague, Wanda Washington, will discuss the
24 performance of the welcoming school and highlight

1 the supports being offered in the draft transition
2 plan.

3 Bethune is currently located at 3030 West
4 Arthington Street. Bethune is an elementary school
5 that as of the 20th day of attendance for the
6 2012-2013 school year, serves 377 students in
7 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten through eighth
8 grade.

9 To understand the enrollment efficiency
10 range of a facility, Chicago Public Schools utilizes
11 the Space Utilization Standards, which are in your
12 binder at tab 14. The enrollment efficiency range
13 is plus or minus 20 percent of the facility's ideal
14 enrollment.

15 For elementary school buildings, the ideal
16 enrollment is defined as the number of allotted
17 homerooms multiplied by 30. The number of allotted
18 homeroom classrooms is approximately 76 to
19 77 percent of the total classrooms available.

20 As an elementary school's enrollment
21 increases above the efficiency range, a school may
22 be considered overcrowded as programming options are
23 reduced or compromised.

24 As an elementary school's enrollment

1 decreases below the efficiency range, a school may
2 be considered underutilized if classrooms are unused
3 or poorly programmed, making the use of limited
4 resources less effective.

5 A typical elementary school building has a
6 total of 39 classrooms therefore, the number of
7 allotted rooms, approximately 76 to 77 percent of
8 39, is 30 classrooms.

9 Multiplying 30 classrooms by 30 equals the
10 ideal enrollment of 900. Finally, the enrollment
11 efficiency range is plus or minus 20 percent of 900,
12 which is between 720 and 1,080.

13 If a school in this typical elementary
14 school building had enrollment below 720, it would
15 be considered underutilized. Alternatively, if the
16 school's enrollment was above 1,080, it would be
17 considered overcrowded.

18 There are 35 total classrooms within the
19 Bethune facility. Approximately 76 to 77 percent of
20 that number is 26, the number of allotted homerooms.
21 26 multiplied by 30 yields the ideal enrollment
22 range of the facility, which is 780. As such, the
23 enrollment efficiency range of the Bethune facility
24 is between 624 and 934. I'm sorry, 624 and 936

1 students.

2 As I stated, the enrollment of Bethune, as
3 of the 20th day of attendance for the 2012-2013
4 school year, is 377. This number is below the
5 enrollment efficiency range; and thus, the school is
6 under utilized.

7 The CEO has proposed that the students
8 from Bethune be welcomed at John Milton Gregory
9 Elementary School, or Gregory.

10 If this proposal is approved by the Board
11 of Education for the City of Chicago, the resulting
12 space utilization will not exceed Gregory's
13 enrollment efficiency, range as defined by the CPS
14 Space Utilization Standards.

15 Gregory has 40 total classrooms.
16 Approximately 76 to 77 percent of this number is 30,
17 the number of allotted homerooms. 30 multiplied by
18 30 yields the ideal enrollment of the facility,
19 which is 900.

20 As such, the enrollment efficiency range
21 of the Gregory facility is between 720 and 1,080
22 students. Gregory currently has 330 students
23 enrolled.

24 To fully explain the enrollment trend

1 associated with these schools, I would like to
2 direct your attention to the screen. It is also at
3 tab 22, Your Honor.

4 Projected is a slide that shows the
5 enrollment trend of Bethune and Gregory, green
6 hashed lines showing the enrollment efficiency range
7 of Gregory facility and the circle representing the
8 combined projected enrollment for 2013-2014.

9 Bethune's current enrollment of 377
10 students, and Gregory's current enrollment of 330
11 students, combines to a total of 707 students, which
12 is below the efficiency range of the Gregory
13 facility.

14 Further, the projected enrollment of
15 Bethune in the 201-2014 is 402, and the projected
16 for Gregory next year is 316, for a total of 718,
17 which is also below the enrollment efficiency range
18 of the Gregory facility; thus, there is enough space
19 within the Gregory facility for students from both
20 Bethune and Gregory.

21 CPS will provide transportation in the
22 form of shuttle buses for all returning students who
23 are reassigned to Gregory. The shuttle bus will
24 provide transportation to and from the Bethune

1 School and Gregory School locations until all
2 current Bethune students graduate from the welcoming
3 school.

4 If Bethune is closed, the CEO is also
5 proposing that Bethune's attendance area be
6 reassigned to Gregory, located at 3715 West Polk and
7 Jensen Elementary Scholastic Academy, located at
8 3030 West Harrison Street, at the end of the
9 current school year.

10 A map showing this proposed boundary
11 change is located in your binder at tab 23, and
12 copies of this map remain available tonight at the
13 registration desk.

14 In proposing the boundary change, several
15 factors were considered, as outlined in the Review
16 and Establishment Attendance Boundary Policies,
17 including, but not limited to, the capacity of these
18 schools, geographic barriers, travel time, distance
19 traveled and program considerations.

20 You will next hear from my colleague,
21 Wanda Washington, who will discuss the performance
22 of Gregory and highlight the proposed transition
23 efforts.

24 Thank you, Your Honor. That concludes my

1 statement.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: All right. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. HURLEY: Thank you. At this time
5 Ms. Washington will make a presentation in support
6 of the CEO's proposal.

7 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thanks,
8 Ms. Washington. Go right ahead.

9 MS. WASHINGTON: Good evening, your Honor.

10 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Good evening.

11 MS. WASHINGTON: My name is Wanda Washington,
12 W-a-n-d-a W-a-s-h-i-n-g-t-o-n. I am the Chief of
13 Schools for the Chicago Public Schools
14 Garfield-Humboldt Network.

15 Chicago Public Schools are divided into
16 networks. Network offices are run by a Chief and
17 provide support and oversight for the schools
18 assigned to them on behalf of the CEO. Gregory is
19 within the Garfield-Humboldt Elementary Network, and
20 I'm responsible for the support and oversight of
21 Gregory on behalf of the CEO.

22 I have been the Chief of Gregory since
23 September 27th, 2012. By way of background, I've
24 been with Chicago Public Schools for over 20 years

1 as a teacher, principal, and director.

2 For the last six years, I've had
3 executive-level responsibility for multiple schools.
4 In September of 2012, after serving as the Deputy
5 Chief, I became the Chief of Schools for the
6 Garfield-Humboldt Network.

7 In this role, I supervise and provide
8 strategic guidance for 24 schools in the areas of
9 instructional practices in the classroom, and
10 professional development for the teaching staff.

11 I have a Bachelor's in Mass Communications
12 from Illinois State University, and Master's in
13 Educational Leadership from Concordia University.

14 As you have already heard, Bethune fits
15 the criteria of the Chief Executive Officer's
16 Guidelines for School Actions, because it is
17 underutilized, based on CPS Space Utilization
18 Standards and student enrollment numbers recorded on
19 the 20th attendance day for the 2012-2013 school
20 year.

21 Bethune students will be welcomed by
22 Gregory located at 3715 West Polk Street. The
23 facility at 3715 West Polk Street has enough space
24 to welcome the Bethune students, and the resulting

1 combined enrollment will not exceed the facility's
2 enrollment efficiency change.

3 When Bethune students are welcomed by the
4 Gregory administration, staff, and students, they
5 will be attending a higher-performing school, based
6 on the CEO's Guidelines for School Actions. One way
7 that the CEO Guidelines for School Actions define a
8 higher-performing school is if a school received a
9 higher level on the Performance Policy for the
10 2011-2012 school year.

11 Under the CPS Performance Policy, located
12 in your binder at tab 12, each school receives an
13 annual rating based its performance on a variety of
14 student outcome measures, including standardized
15 test scores and student attendance.

16 District-wide, schools designated a level
17 1 are the highest performing, and schools designated
18 level 3 are the lowest performing.

19 Bethune received a level 3 rating, based
20 on its performance through the 2011-2012 school
21 year, while Gregory received a level 1 rating. The
22 Performance Policy reports reflecting these levels
23 are included in the binder of documents that you
24 have received at tab 25.

1 Please note that the Performance Policy
2 ratings, from the 2011-2012 school year, appear
3 under the 2012-2013 header on these reports, as
4 these ratings are used to determined each school's
5 accountability status for the 2012-2013 school year.

6 If this proposal is approved, students
7 will receive additional supports at Bethune during
8 the remainder of this school year, and at Gregory
9 next year, and the network will provide assistance
10 to ease the transition process as much as possible.

11 To CPS has developed a plan dedicating
12 additional resources to address any safety concerns
13 and to fulfill students' academic, social and
14 emotional and other individual needs.

15 The draft transition plan explained these
16 additional resources was sent home to all families
17 affected by this proposal, and is located in your
18 binder at tab 1.

19 CPS will publish final transition plans,
20 if the Board approves this proposal, which will
21 incorporate feedback from community meetings, this
22 hearing, and additional input received.

23 The CPS Office of Safety and Security, or
24 OSS, has worked what the Chicago Police Department,

1 Department of Family and Support Services, local
2 community groups, faith partners, elected officials
3 and other sister agencies, to develop a plan for the
4 safe transition of students.

5 If this proposal is approved, OSS will
6 take the following steps: First, OSS will review
7 and update school safety audits, security personnel
8 allocation, and school safety technology systems to
9 make enhancements as appropriate.

10 Second, OSS will be available to address
11 specific safety concerns raised by students and
12 staff.

13 Third, OSS will provide safe passage,
14 supports for students and staff traveling to and
15 from school. Safe passage workers wear identifiable
16 vests and stand on designated street corners, to
17 monitor students' safety during their travel to
18 school in the morning and home in the afternoon.

19 Prior to the start of the 2013-14 school
20 years, OSS will work with the Gregory administration
21 and the community to designate for specific
22 intersections for safe passage supports.

23 Additionally, students will receive
24 academic supports, as they transition, including the

1 following: First, a Principal Transition
2 Coordinator, or PTC, will be assigned to help the
3 principal at Bethune maintain academic rigor for the
4 remainder of the school year and ensure a smooth
5 transition to Gregory.

6 PTCs are former principals, or other
7 administrators with significant experience, who will
8 be a resource for the administration and ensure
9 continuity for support for faculty and students.

10 Second, the Gregory administration will
11 receive comprehensive students with specific data on
12 all transitioning students to allow staff to
13 proactively identify individual student needs and
14 prepare to meet those needs.

15 Third, I will set aside dedicated time to
16 hold office hours on May 1st, 8th and 15th, between
17 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., at 2908 West Washington
18 Boulevard, to welcome families and students affected
19 by this action, to discuss concerns and educational
20 options.

21 Fourth, principals will receive
22 discretionary resources to provide direct academic
23 support to students. For example, these funds may
24 be used for middle school teachers to attend the

1 Network's High School Readiness Conference, or to
2 provide an instructional coach, teacher leader, or
3 to obtain an academic tutoring position or program
4 for students in reading and math.

5 I will support the principals, as they
6 consider how to use these resources and approve
7 their selections, once decisions are made. Students
8 will also receive social and emotional support, to
9 help them adjust to a new school environment,
10 including the following: First, CPS will help
11 school staff members facilitate intervention groups
12 or peace circles aimed at helping students work
13 through concerns associated with the transition.

14 Second, CPS will help staff members
15 implement restorative practices, such as peer cycles
16 and peer juries, to encourage peer-to-peer problem
17 solving and resolution.

18 Third, groups of students in need of more
19 individualized attention will be provided with
20 access to highly-structured interventions.

21 Fourth, to foster an environment that is
22 both supportive and inclusive for all students, CPS
23 will provide resources to the Gregory leadership, to
24 implement culture-building activities, such as staff

1 luncheons and team- and trust-billing activities.

2 Resources will also be provided to sponsor
3 activities, such as school visits for families,
4 coffee chats with the principal, picnics, field
5 trips, or parent meetings to help transitioning
6 families to get to know their new school.

7 Finally, additional transition supports
8 will be provided to ensure that Bethune students,
9 who have unique needs or circumstances, are
10 adequately supported in this transition, including
11 students with diverse learning needs, students in
12 temporary living situations, English language
13 learners, and early childhood participants.

14 As my colleagues Ben Felton mentioned,
15 shuttle bus transportation to and from the Bethune
16 and Gregory locations will be provided for all
17 returning Bethune students attending Gregory, until
18 they graduate.

19 These additional supports are described in
20 more detail in the draft transition plan, located in
21 your binder at tab 1.

22 In conclusion, Bethune is underutilized.
23 The combined enrollment of Bethune and Gregory
24 students at the 3715 West Polk Street facility will

1 not exceed the facility's enrollment efficiency
2 range, and Gregory is higher-performing school.

3 The CEO believes that this proposed school
4 closure will help the District better serve all
5 students, and is prepared to assess students with
6 additional supports as they transition.

7 Thank you for your time and attention.
8 This concludes my statement.

9 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you.

10 MS. HURLEY: Your Honor, this concludes the
11 presentation in support of the CEO's proposal. We
12 will, of course, remain in the room so that we can
13 respond to any questions you may have.

14 We thank you for your time and attention.

15 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay, great. Thank
16 you very much. So, we're at the part of the hearing
17 now where it's open to the public, and my plan was
18 to go down the list as people signed in and
19 indicated they would like to make a statement, for
20 the record.

21 So, I'm going to go down. The first
22 person is Pamela, is it Lanzo? Pamela, why don't
23 you let me call the alderman first is that okay?

24 MS. LONZO: Yes, that's fine. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Alderman Irvin. You
2 know what, she said you can go first.

3 ALDERMAN IRVIN: Thank you, Honorable Hearing
4 Officer.

5 THE WITNESS: My name is Jason Irvin. I'm the
6 Alderman of the 28th Ward. The 28th Ward
7 includes -- the 28th Ward includes the communities
8 of Austin, east and west Garfield Park, north and
9 south Lawndale, near West Side and Pilsen heart of
10 Chicago.

11 I stand today in opposition to the
12 proposed closing of Mary McLeod Elementary School
13 and its consolidation with John Miton Gregory
14 Elementary School.

15 Bethune is an elementary school located in
16 the East Garfield Park community and functions as a
17 neighborhood school. This proposed consolidation
18 moves children outside of the community of East
19 Garfield Park and moves them ten blocks west into
20 West Garfield Park.

21 This action will cause due harm to
22 children to pass through two different attendance
23 boundaries of Chalmers and Jensen Elementary to get
24 to Gregory School.

1 Today, I along with other members of the
2 Chicago Public School Board of Education, had an
3 opportunity to drive the multiple routes these
4 students would have to travel to go from Bethune to
5 Gregory; and to me, and to them, none of them are
6 pleasant, having to cross several gang territories,
7 pass a correctional facility, vacant properties and
8 also a vacant storage structure, and three to four
9 main arterial streets is a great deal to place a
10 nine-year-old child, a ten-year-old child, a seven-
11 or eight-year-old child through with younger
12 children in tow.

13 Furthermore, moving children from Bethune
14 to Gregory without an academic enhancement, such as
15 STEM, IB, fine arts, or magnet program is not
16 necessarily a better educational opportunity for our
17 children.

18 Also, Bethune has been subject to previous
19 actions by Chicago Public Schools and being a
20 turn-around school in the past couple years. This
21 additional action of moving these children will add
22 further complications to the children's lives that
23 already have drastic educational actions done in
24 recent years.

1 Finally, I look at the Bethune
2 consolidation with Gregory, and I look that less
3 than 200 feet away from Bethune lies another school,
4 a school that is within their community, a school
5 that is actually over utilized; and, to me, I look
6 at an option wondering why Bethune is not co-located
7 or consolidated with Kellman, which is literally
8 less than 200 feet away from the school.

9 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Is it Kellman.

10 THE WITNESS: Kellman Corporate is a school
11 that is literally less than 200 feet away in another
12 building situated to the south -- sorry, to the
13 northwest of the school, which is also next to
14 Manley High School.

15 So, three schools literally sit on three
16 or four corners at the intersection of I believe
17 that would be Sacramento and Arlington, I'm sorry,
18 it's not Arlington, it's Polk, at Sacramento and
19 Polk.

20 So, again, we have schools that are
21 literally right there in the community; and to move
22 these children outside of their own community, via
23 bus, via whatever method they are being moved out,
24 is not in their best interest educationally, nor is

1 the in community's best interest for these children
2 to have to leave their community to have basic
3 education.

4 This would be their neighborhood school.
5 Their neighborhood school would then be outside of
6 their neighborhood who; and again, that is not an
7 option I believe that is in the best interest of the
8 children.

9 As I estated earlier, this school has
10 undergone actions in the past, the past couple of
11 years. They've already been a turn-around school.
12 They've had the staff reconstituted.

13 They have had several actions done to
14 them; and to now have the children, some of these
15 children will have to live through their third
16 action at this school, and this is not fair to these
17 youngsters.

18 And the final straw of moving them out of
19 their neighborhood, again, is the challenge. That,
20 coupled with the safety issues that we anticipate,
21 those are the things that are not necessarily
22 accounted for in its proper context.

23 Furthermore, we'll talk about shuttle
24 transportation. As I've had an opportunity today to

1 stand in not this school, but into another
2 elementary school today, to see the number of
3 children that perhaps may not have made it to school
4 on time, these are not kids that are being bussed to
5 school, where everybody arrives at the same time,
6 and we're very concerned that the number of students
7 that may get left, that may have some challenges
8 getting to Gregory, again what happens to those
9 children?

10 So, these are some serious concerns that I
11 have. These are serious concerns that you will hear
12 from the parents and the residents of the community,
13 in opposition of the consolidation between Gregory
14 and Bethune.

15 If you have any questions, I'll be happy
16 to answer them.

17 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I don't have any
18 questions. Anybody have any questions for the
19 Alderman?

20 Thank you, Alderman.

21 ALDERMAN IRVIN: I thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: So, Ms. Lanzo.

23 MS. LONZO: Sorry.

24 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: No problem.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 33

1 MS. LONZO: Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I was just advised
3 that you need do IT over here, so she can hear,
4 watch you. The one right there is still on.

5 MS. LONZO: Testing.

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Yes. So, let me just
7 say this: I understand your presentation is longer
8 than a couple of minutes, and one of the issues we
9 have is a lot of people want to have something to
10 say, and we need to get them all in.

11 So, I'll try to accommodate that, if you
12 move along, and let's see how it goes.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm actually taking the
14 place of some people on that list, so I'll actually
15 shorten it. Mine is seven-and-a-half minutes long.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: If we ring the gong,
17 you have to close.

18 MS. LONZO: Okay.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. So, go ahead.

20 MS. LONZO: Okay, thank you. Good evening.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Good evening.

22 MS. LONZO: To the -- let's see here. My name
23 is Pamela Lonzo, 1978 graduate from the Naperville
24 Illinois school system, then rated 22nd best school

1 system in the United States.

2 I represent the residential community
3 served by seven schools, Calvin Corporate school,
4 Manley, Bethune, Collins, Jensen, Chandlers and
5 King.

6 Collectively, we urge the Board to focus
7 and prioritize school closures by physical school
8 locations, specifically not those sounded by
9 residential property.

10 We do support grade school building
11 closures, but this should result in community
12 praise, not community outcry. Nothing morally wrong
13 can ever be politically right.

14 We believe the School Board would never
15 knowingly destroy, nor gut a community, to achieve
16 its financial goals. Prioritizing the enhancement
17 of each community's educational strength,
18 prioritizes a safer student path to school,
19 surrounded by residential property.

20 This achieves the Board's financial goals
21 and a platform everyone can win on. The most
22 successful of industries would never underutilize
23 facilities, yet the Chicago Public School System has
24 multiple underutilized locations.

1 Indeed, we greatly thank the Board and the
2 Mayor for the courage to correct prior
3 administrative financial mismanagement.

4 Two, we urge all other multiple grade
5 school communities to ask the Board to keep their
6 most centralized schools in their communities; for
7 example, if a building has computers or not, or air
8 conditioners or not, is meaningless.

9 Transportable items should not be
10 considered. As written for consideration in our
11 newspapers, neither should closings be based on
12 school level. Everyone knows a building does not
13 produce success. What goes on inside it does.

14 Please utilize our buildings inside the
15 residential community they serve. School level and
16 employees are transportable, too. Child safety is
17 not.

18 This is about strengthening the finances
19 of the Chicago Public School System and
20 strengthening the communities it affects. You see
21 successfully we can't do one without the other.
22 Proven point.

23 See the number of low-level schools in the
24 system. See the system's financial bleeding. They

1 do work hand in hand.

2 Now, you regarding Bethune's grade school
3 community, there are four underutilized public grade
4 school buildings and one corporate school counted.

5 These fourier public school grade school
6 buildings serve one residential community. This
7 community's boundaries are easily identified by four
8 major highway streets: Roosevelt, California,
9 Harrison and Kedzie, one large square area of
10 residential property.

11 Within these boundaries, located in the
12 heart of this residential community, next to each
13 other, are schools Bethune, Manley Career Academy
14 High School, Kellman Corp, and within eyesight
15 Jensen and Collins. Please note Collins is now
16 beautifully holding two schools in its building.
17 Excuse me. Filling its occupancy rates.

18 On the other hand, this community school
19 building located across its commercial highway
20 boundaries are Jensen, Chalmers and King. Jensen
21 and Chalmers require children to pass by crowded
22 unemployed pedaling adults.

23 Comparing their building's location,
24 Jensen is better suited to stay open, not Chalmers.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 37

1 Jensen is located within eyesight of Kellman,
2 Manley, and is in reasonable view of Bethune and
3 residential property.

4 King School should only be serving
5 students east of it. However, King students in our
6 west community, King is located well beyond our
7 highway boundaries, causing children to pass vacant
8 commercial property, active railroad underpasses, by
9 homeless drifters often sleeping, then pass King's
10 neighbor, a factory.

11 Therefore, we should close Chalmers and
12 King. Both buildings are outside the community.
13 They serve away from our other school buildings and
14 are on commercial corners.

15 Additionally, we should commercially rent
16 or sell Chalmers and King's building to help fund
17 after-school programs.

18 Based on this information, we urge you to
19 close the riskiest and outside locations they serve.
20 Please reroute King students into Jensen and reroute
21 Chalmers into Bethune.

22 Regarding the map listed benefits
23 literature supporting the closure of Bethune, first,
24 Bethune's residential community determined by

1 student addresses is not accurately represented on
2 this map.

3 Generations ago, families purposefully
4 located less than five blocks from the neighborhood
5 school buildings, within the borders of four busy
6 multiple-lane streets, Roosevelt, California,
7 Harrison and Kedzie.

8 Second, Chalmers building, although
9 serving this community, two, was completely left off
10 this distributed map to support Bethune's closure.
11 You can see the indenture here where it's like boxed
12 out.

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Pamela, nobody --
14 what I'm going to do about this, when we take a
15 break at the end, you can get that clearer to them
16 and to the court reporter, so she can put it in.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: It's in the binder.

18 MS. LONZO: This is what they passed out.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I thought you had --

20 MS. LONZO: No.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: We got it?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, Your Honor.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You don't have to
24 show it to us.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 39

1 MS. LONZO: Correct. Thank you. Chalmers is
2 located across the crowded high-risk southeast
3 corner of this community's outside boundary,
4 Roosevelt and California.

5 Moreover, Chalmers is only four blocks
6 from our under occupied Bethune, where its student
7 paths are surrounded by their homes, residential
8 properties and owners, a much safer route for our
9 children.

10 Thus, we urger Chalmers to move into
11 Bethune. Closing Bethune, and sending students to
12 Gregory, will destroy this community.

13 Third, most all Bethune student homes are
14 located 11 blocks from Gregory, not the seven blocks
15 as reported in the supporting literature to close
16 Bethune.

17 Moving Bethune students to Gregory makes
18 377 children's 11-block commute unmanageable, and
19 prohibits them from after-school programs, the
20 savings grace of any child, due to an 11-block walk
21 in the dark, no late buses.

22 As a result, closing Bethune forces 377
23 families out of this community, causing 377
24 residential vacancies, or 112 empty three-flats, and

1 a boarded up or wastefully demolished school
2 building in the middle of residential property.

3 Therefore, respectfully, unlike any other
4 public grade school closing in this community,
5 closing Bethune is not an option. Pushing 377
6 families out of our community is not an option.

7 And collecting 112 three-flat buildings is
8 not an option. Devastating our property values is
9 not an option.

10 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Pamela, wrap it up.

11 MS. LONZO: What's that?

12 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: She's got a right to
13 put all this in the record. She can, but in terms
14 of I want to make sure that everyone who is here
15 tonight who signed up to speak --

16 **A. Majority of.**

17 MS. LONZO: Can you please stand up and come
18 here.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: To do what?

20 MS. LONZO: To use my time.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: No. Go ahead. Go
22 ahead. Please get moving. Don't address me, but
23 just get moving.

24 MS. LONZO: Okay. I'm reading as fast as I can

1 so you still understand me.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I don't want her to
3 fall on the floor.

4 MS. LONZO: All right. Okay.

5 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Go ahead.

6 MS. LONZO: Emptying 103 three-flat buildings
7 is not an option. Devastating our property values
8 is not an option.

9 When there are three other building
10 location choices, with unsafe student paths, that
11 won't devastate this community to close.

12 Fourth, after visiting Bethune again last
13 Monday, we request the work and bids suggested to
14 the Board as necessary for \$10.5 million in repairs
15 and upkeep.

16 This public tab appears to be highly
17 inaccurate, yet reported on the literature
18 supporting Bethune's closure. There is good news.

19 The school Board now had the opportunity
20 to meet its financial goals, and improve both the
21 safety and education of its children, both here and
22 in other communities, residentially surrounded
23 school buildings, versus those isolated where
24 closers are expected, too.

1 Appropriately prioritizing the school's
2 buildings to close strengthen communities and the
3 Chicago School System. In Bethune's case, its
4 building is located in the heart of this residential
5 community, and Jensen is the next nearest public
6 grade school building in this residential community.

7 Therefore, moving Chalmers students into
8 Bethune, moving King students into Jensen,
9 strengthens this community. Then simply transport
10 any employees, computers, and air conditioners
11 needed.

12 Closure locations can and should result in
13 community praise, not outcry. Additionally, after
14 the correct and therefore peaceful choices for
15 closures are settled, we are announcing now that
16 this community will no longer tolerate less than
17 level 1 schools.

18 To help grow our students into level 1
19 performance, this community is prepared with 8,000
20 square feet and two buildings dedicated to student
21 growings. Maggie Daley knew after school matters.

22 Finally, in conclusion, as a
23 representative contact for the residential
24 community, I am available to the Board as a

1 volunteer to possibly walk these routes with Board
2 members, to verify the above-described information.

3 Again, closure locations can and should
4 result in community praise. Location, location,
5 location. Please do not close Bethune. Please
6 contact me. We look forward to working with you.

7 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You got your contact
8 information in the exhibit?

9 MS. LONZO: So, that's basically it. Newspaper
10 articles, wrong, all the supporting information on
11 Bethune, wrong; and kicking 377 families out of the
12 community is very wrong.

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Pamela, okay, thank
14 you very much.

15 (Redacted name.) did I say that right?
16 Okay. Student 1. I did call Student 1.

17 I did call Student 1. Is that you, you
18 man? Come on, you sit down. We'll get this
19 straightened out as I learn how this is set up here.
20 Why don't you sit down.

21 Student 1, which is No. 1 on the list, go
22 ahead.

23 STUDENT 1: My name is (redacted name). Your
24 Honor, I go to Bethune School. I'm in eighth grade.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 44

1 When I first attended school, .

2 It's was good. I came there when it was
3 first turned around. I felt good.

4 I don't understand why it's closing down,
5 and we have such a wonderful time, and we meet our
6 goals, and the teachers helping us improve in our
7 NWEA and ISAT and more. I just don't know why
8 they're closing down our school.

9 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay, thank you very
10 much. Is there a Deanna -- is it Deanna Johnson,
11 who is an parent?

12 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Is that you, young
14 lady?

15 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. Come on, sit
17 down.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Deanna Johnson.
19 I'm here as an parent. They say they are willing to
20 offer transportation for the kids.

21 Say if our kids get sick, what are the
22 parents supposed to do, because everybody don't have
23 a car? So, if my child was to get sick, how would I
24 make it to that school?

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 45

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: That is a question?

2 MS. JOHNSON: How would I make it to that
3 school, because that's very far for me to walk?

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You're talking about
5 if your child got sick at the school?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. And then how would I make
7 it to pick him up from school? So, I don't really
8 think it's a good idea, because they are offering
9 the kids transportation, but what about me when I
10 need transportation?

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Turn off
12 the phone. If we were court, we would have to take
13 that away, but we're not.

14 Is there a Millander Lee, a parent? Is
15 that you back there, Ms. Lee?

16 MS. KLEE: Yes.

17 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. Come on up.

18 MS. LEE: My name is Millander Lee, and I have
19 the same question about how do parents get there,
20 because it is a long walk to Gregory? I'm just
21 trying to find out how are we supposed to get there?

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You're talking about
23 parents or the kids?

24 MS. LEE: Right. How do the parents get there

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 46

1 to get report cards, the family talk with the
2 teachers and all that, how do we get interest?

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Well, that's a good
4 question, and I can't answer that, but the people
5 from the school will address that.

6 Let me ask you a question: It's a long
7 walk from Bethune to Gregory?

8 MS. LEE: Yes.

9 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Is that what you're
10 saying?

11 MS. LEE: Yes, it is.

12 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. I think we
13 heard Ms. Lanzo give some blocks, 11 blocks or
14 whatever it was.

15 MS. LEE: It's long blocks, because we got to
16 walk a long way.

17 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

18 MS. LEE: To pick up kids' report cards.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. That's a
20 question I think the CPS Chicago Public Schools have
21 to answer. I don't think tonight is the night we're
22 going to answer those questions, but that's your
23 comment, and your issue is in the record.

24 Thank you, Ms. Lee. How about student 2?

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 47

1 Student No. 2? Okay.

2 STUDENT 2: Hello. My name is (redacted name)
3 I'm a student --

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: A little bit slower.
5 Go ahead.

6 STUDENT 2: My name is (redacted name), and I'm
7 a student of the Bethune School of Excellence.

8 Do you really think closing Bethune down
9 is a really good decision to make?

10 No, I think this is the worst decision you
11 can do. Bethune is important to me because it feels
12 like family. They make you feel welcome, and I like
13 the teachers.

14 Bethune is important to me because I like
15 the principal. They feel like a family. For
16 example, when I don't have anyone to talk to, they
17 listen to me.

18 I feel welcome, and they treat me with
19 respect. Another reason why Bethune is important to
20 me because they make me you feel welcome. For
21 example, we work together to solve our problems.

22 For instance, when I have an argument with
23 another student, the staff will pull me out of the
24 classroom to get me back on track.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 48

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: What grade are you?

2 STUDENT 2: Sixth.

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. Thank you very
4 much.

5 Student No. 3 who is going to speak? Are
6 you going to speak?

7 MS. TERRY: Yes, I'm going speak. My name is
8 Kamesha Terry, and I'm Zakaria's mom. She's No. 3.

9
10 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: We got you.

11 MS. TERRY: Okay. I three kids that attend
12 Bethune: A daughter, which is in sixth grade, and
13 two young sons in kindergarten and preschool, and
14 you are about to close their home away from home.

15 And what I feel is you are evicting them
16 from their home, Bethune Elementary, and throwing
17 them into the streets, because that's what they
18 would have to encounter traveling from home to the
19 new school, Gregory Elementary.

20 For instance, there are 27 sex offenders
21 awaiting to abduct one of our kids into one of those
22 eighth or more abandoned buildings that is in the
23 Gregory area, where you are forcing them to go.

24 27 sex offenders. Okay? The crime rate

1 is 36 percent higher than -- I mean, the crime rate
2 in your community is 36 percent higher than it is in
3 the Bethune community.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: In Gregory?

5 THE WITNESS: In Gregory community, it's
6 36 percent higher. A bullet has no name on it, and
7 it is not prejudice to your kids, and you are
8 sending them into the line of fire with no
9 bullet-proof vest on.

10 You are just sending them out there. They
11 are being exposed to drugs. They sell PCP in the
12 back of Gregory that's on the playground. That's
13 their playground.

14 If you close Bethune, you are endangering
15 all of our kids, every last one of our kids' lives.
16 Please rethink the value of each and every single
17 child at Bethune, their life, because I cherish my
18 three kids' lives, Zakaria Terry, Dane Terry and
19 Demari Terry. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Troy Brown.

21 MS. BROWN: Hello.

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Hello, Ms. Brown.

23 MS. BROWN: My name is Troyanna Brown. I have
24 two kids that go to Bethune, and I really don't

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 50

1 think you all should close Bethune down, because you
2 all --

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Speak a little closer
4 to the mic so people back there can hear you.

5 MS. BORWN: Can you all hear me?

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: A little closer. If
7 we're on dancing with the stars, we would know how
8 do this.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. I don't think you all
10 should close Bethune down.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: See if you can help
12 that lady. Move it a little closer.

13 MS. BROWN: Hello.

14 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: There you go.

15 MS. BROWN: I don't think you should close
16 Bethune down because --

17 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: It didn't like being
18 started. Pick it up like this.

19 MS. BROWN: Hello. I don't think you should
20 close Bethune down. I have two kids that go there.
21 I have one, but the teachers there, the staff,
22 they're great.

23 When I first knew of Bethune, it was like
24 four years ago, and Gregory, no offense to Gregory,

1 but it's not a welcome school; and they don't --
2 when I went there to get my kids into Gregory, you
3 never felt the happiness, or you didn't feel the
4 warmth there.

5 I went over to Kellman, and they put my
6 kids, they said, "They got to get on waiting list."
7 I don't think that's fair with kids. I got to
8 Bethune, and at the time was Ms. Hightower was
9 there, she reinsured me that my kids would be safe
10 and stuff.

11 She never let me down, and they have
12 always been safe. I think Bethune is a school -- I
13 think Bethune show warmth and they care. The
14 teachers there are -- you know, I love them. I love
15 Bethune, period.

16 So, I don't want to see it close because
17 the kids they need that warmth. They need that
18 loving care. They do not get the teaching that they
19 supposed to get.

20 They get everything that you all saying
21 that they're not getting at Bethune, and I think
22 they are, you know. So, just don't close Bethune
23 down.

24 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 4. Student

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 52

1 No. 4.

2 STUDENT 4: We love Bethune, because it's a
3 nice school. We learn a lot. It's a caring place.
4 We get to have recess. It's our favorite school.
5 We learn a lot of math.

6 We have friends here. We get an
7 education, and teachers -- and teachers are nice.
8 Teachers are beautiful. We love Bethune. There are
9 no enemies. Please do not close Bethune.

10 We are good kids. We care about Bethune.
11 We love all the teachers. Can you keep the school
12 open, please? Bethune is the best school ever.

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: What grade are you?
14 What grade are you in?

15 STUDENT 4: Seventh.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you very much.

17 Is it Ms. Carlisle, Heudy Carlisle? Did I
18 say that name correctly.

19 REVERAND CARLISLE: Reverend.

20 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Reverend Carlisle,
21 sorry. First name Heudy.

22 REVERAND CARLISLE: Heudy. Heudy.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Is that correct?

24 REVERAND CARLISLE: Yes, H-e-u-d-y.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 53

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay, we got it.
2 Thank you.

3 REVERAND CARLISLE: Strike that vagrant remark
4 I made earlier.

5 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. We'll do that.

6 REVERAND CARLISLE: I'm Reverend Heudy
7 Carlisle, pastor of the True Solid Rock Missionary
8 Baptist Church, and I have been volunteering at
9 Bethune for about seven years or more; and for a
10 pastor to go there every week, spending a whole day,
11 says a lot about a school I think.

12 It's not common for a pastor to take time
13 out and spend a whole day every week at a particular
14 school, and I think that is saying a great deal
15 about how the school is run, and how it is a help to
16 the community.

17 Several of the students from the church
18 attend Bethune, and I have seen the maturation. One
19 in particular have improved academically. She has
20 improved socially, and emotionally, and that says a
21 lot about Bethune.

22 There have been visitors, such as Colon
23 Powell, the governor of Illinois, Emanuel, and
24 others who have visited, high celebrities, I think

1 that's saying a lot about Bethune.

2 The last four years, I seen the changes
3 that have taken place, that I have seen the students
4 become more respectful. They have improved their
5 test scores.

6 The relationship between the teachers and
7 students have improved, and it's just a pleasantness
8 about the building now that is not found in every
9 school, and I am very proud to be a part of it.

10 They have taken me under their wing. They
11 have lowered their standards and allowed me to, you
12 know, be a part of the school; and I think that the
13 progress that has been made should be maintained,
14 and not a dollar value placed on what has taken
15 place at Bethune. Thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Robin
17 Peterson. You are you a tutor there?

18 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

20 MS. PETERSON: My name is Robin Peterson. I'm
21 a math tutor at Bethune, and Mr. Felton shared some
22 math with us, and I wanted to ask him a question.

23 Mr. Felton, have you been to Bethune? I
24 can't ask questions?

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 55

1 MS. HURLEY: We're not allowed to answer. The
2 questions should come from you.

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I think we can ask
4 him. I think we can ask him whether he's seen the
5 school. Have you been there? I think that's okay.

6 MR. FELTON: I have not, no.

7 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Go ahead, Robin, you
8 got something to say.

9 MS. PETERSON: I would like to invite you to
10 come to Bethune, walk around be look in the
11 classrooms, because I think that if you came to
12 Bethune, you would not consider the school to be
13 more that be half empty.

14 I wanted to talk a little bit about the
15 math that you shared with us. From my
16 understanding, your formula accounts for 30 students
17 as the ideal number in each classroom.

18 I think most of the teachers here would
19 not agree that that was an ideal number for a
20 classroom, especially for some of the classrooms in
21 an elementary school, or for a special education
22 classroom.

23 I don't think that Bethune is
24 underutilized, and I also don't think that if

1 Bethune is underperforming, it should be closed for
2 that reason.

3 I don't think that our students should be
4 punished for their scores in standardized tests. I
5 think that these students don't need to have their
6 lives disrupted and resources take away from them.
7 I think they need more resources and more stability.

8 THE TIMEKEEPER: Please conclude.

9 MS. PETERSON: I don't think our students
10 deserve to have their school closed.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. We have
12 quite a few names yet to call. So, we want to keep
13 moving, so we can get everybody a chance to put in
14 the record what they would like.

15 Next we have -- I think I jumped too far.
16 I'm going to go to student No. 9. Student 9.

17 I am going back to student 5, 6 and 7.
18 I'll get to them. I changed pages, so you are a
19 little earlier. Go right ahead.

20 STUDENT 9: Hi. My name is (redacted name)
21 from Bethune School of Excellence.

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Take your time.

23 STUDENT 9: Save our school. I love my school,
24 because we are able to talk our problems out. Our

1 grades are improving and our school is like family.
2 Don't close Bethune.

3 The first reason I say I love Bethune is
4 because we can talk our problems out to the dean and
5 the staff and school.

6 After you got done talking your problems
7 and you're able to go back to class, this is good,
8 because you have another chance to go to school and
9 see what's going on another and get back on time.

10 The second reason I say I love my school
11 is because our grades are improving. This school
12 was a turn-around school, and they got back on
13 track. The teachers care about our education. They
14 let us make us work hard so we can better.

15 This is a good thing because if we don't
16 be able to make up our grades, we are going to be
17 get bad grades on our report cards and our sores.
18 We try to do good.

19 The third reason I say I love my school is
20 because we are like family. We care about each
21 other. If someone is feeling down or doing
22 something wrong, we can talk solve the problem and
23 show them that we care about them.

24 That is what family do. If you don't do

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 58

1 that, they are going to think that you don't care
2 about them or you don't like them. I want you to
3 leave our school alone because it is a great school.

4 It is not the best school, but it is the
5 greatest school. So, can you please leave our
6 school alone?

7 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Elizabeth, I think
8 it's McCreless, if I'm saying it correctly. did I say
9 your name correctly?

10 MS. MCRELESS: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Did I, okay, good.

12 MS. MCRELESS: Can everyone here me?

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Yes, good.

14 MS. MCRELESS: Hi. I'm Elizabeth McCreless,
15 known to some of my students as Ms. Mc C. I'm a
16 tutor at Bethune with the math plus program.

17 Math plus gives every third through fifth
18 grader at Bethune 45 minutes every day working on
19 math with a tutor in a group of one to three
20 students, and I can tell you that Bethune it is
21 working, but I can't take credit for the effects of
22 the program, though.

23 Our program works because Bethune is a
24 caring community of teachers, students, parents, and

1 staff, that nurtures our children's personal and
2 academic growth.

3 One of my third graders came to me in
4 auction, thinking that 173 equals one plus 7 plus 3
5 and seeing that she wanted to drop out of school.

6 Today she was subtracting 500 minus 275 .
7 My fifth graders have achieved over a year's worth
8 of growth and are now working on metric conversions
9 and other sixth-grade material.

10 I know they have the capacity and drive to
11 become our city's future scientists, teachers,
12 engineers, lawyers, professors, but not without a
13 stable school environment.

14 I worry every day about how far behind my
15 students could still fall, despite all the progress
16 that they have made, if uprooted from the nurturing
17 environment of Bethune.

18 Transitions are hard, especially for
19 children; and closing Bethune is one that will
20 likely prevent my students from achieving their full
21 potential, and will certainly perpetuate struggles
22 and systemic injustices the community already faces.

23 So, I urge you to consider both the loss
24 potential of bright students if they fall through

1 the cracks if in Bethune closes, as well as the
2 great things I know they can achieve if Bethune
3 stays open.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Student
5 No. 5.

6 STUDENT 5: Hi. My name is (redacted name),
7 and I'm a student at Bethune School of Excellence.

8 Bethune is important to me because it will
9 help us exceed what we want to do in our future.

10 The ESPs and teachers and tutors care
11 about us a lot. It does not deserve to be closed
12 down. I couldn't bear to see our school close.

13 Every one of the teachers here love us and
14 keep us safe. Our school works hard and exceeds our
15 expectations. We do our best. This school is very
16 important to me, and I know every one else. Please
17 don't close our school.

18 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Student
19 No. 6.

20 STUDENT 6: Hello. My name is (redacted name).
21 I was at Bethune School of Excellence for three
22 years, and I think you should not close Bethune,
23 because if you close Bethune, we don't have nowhere
24 else to go.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 61

1 I live at Lexington. I got to walk, like,
2 eight blocks to Gregory. So, I think you should not
3 close Bethune School of Excellence.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Student
5 7. Student 7.

6 STUDENT 7: Hi. My name is (redacted name).
7 I've been at Bethune School for eight years. I feel
8 safe at Bethune. I feel safe at Bethune because
9 they watch over us.

10 They make me feel safe, and we have no
11 danger. Some schools have their windows busted, but
12 we don't. We have -- we don't have that. We have
13 nice windows, and we're not messy windows.

14 So, they should close another school down
15 not ours, and put more people in our school.
16 Bethune is a good school. We have a right for our
17 school not to close down, because we have the stuff
18 we need.

19 All we need, we just need people. We
20 don't need any more things. We just need people.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: All right. Student
22 8.

23 STUDENT 8: My name is (redacted name). I'm a
24 fifth grader.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 62

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Fifth grade?

2 STUDENT 8: Yes. You should not close Bethune
3 because Bethune provide us everything we need. It
4 provides us with our uniforms. It provide us -- I
5 love my teachers. I love my friends.

6 You shouldn't close Bethune because our
7 teachers, like, if we need to see someone out there,
8 we can sit down and talk our teachers and share
9 personal things with them.

10 So, my thing is you shouldn't close
11 Bethune. Please don't close Bethune.

12 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 10.

13 STUDENT 10: Dear CPS: Bethune is important to
14 me because I get to learn a lot of like fact family;
15 and if it was all of you going to this school, how
16 would you like it to close?

17 I feel safe at Bethune, because I love
18 when we have drills we rush out. I love my school
19 because my teachers teaches me very lot and we have
20 math plus.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

22 STUDENT 10: Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: What grade are you
24 in?

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 63

1 STUDENT 10: Second.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Sixth grade?

3 STUDENT 10: Second.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Second grade, okay.
5 Student 11.

6 STUDENT 11: Hello. My name is (redacted
7 name), and I'm a student at Bethune School of
8 Excellence. I believe that Bethune is one of the
9 greatest schools to ever open.

10 The teachers are, I will name them
11 personally, my math teacher, Ms. Peggy, my science
12 teacher Mr. Finch, and my reading teacher and my
13 homeroom teacher Ms. Shy have pushed me to my level
14 and has helped me succeed in my life.

15 Bethune has a great culture and climate
16 team, and they have helped me get over my anger
17 issues, which I've had in the past.

18 So, please think about what I have talked
19 to you about today and please keep Bethune open.
20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Student
22 No. 12. Here it is. Okay, right there.

23 STUDENT 12: I think Bethune shouldn't close
24 because I love Bethune, and I feel at home at

1 Bethune and safe because --

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Is it a place you
3 like to be?

4 STUDENT 12: Yes.

5 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. Are you okay?
6 Thank you. You're all set. Thank you. Student 13.

7 STUDENT 13: Hi. My name is a (redacted name),
8 and I am from Bethune School of Excellence. I'm in
9 the sixth-seventh grade slit. Save Bethune.

10 So did you know that Bethune has the least
11 amount of suspensions throughout AUSL? This is the
12 reason why you should keep Bethune. All students
13 I'm pretty sure can testify on behalf of saving
14 Bethune, because Bethune is like a second home for
15 most students.

16 They care for our education, and they care
17 where we are heading in life. We feel the warmth
18 and positive spirits from Principal Williams, and
19 Dean Knight, Mr. Carothers and all of the other
20 teachers, ESPs and tutors.

21 Very few people know how hard it is for us
22 as kids. You all have to take at it from our
23 perspective. We really have love for Bethune, and
24 you can tell by how most kids come after to clean

1 close courtrooms and go to tutoring.

2 This is because we have a need for
3 education. Every day you are certain to find
4 excellence in classrooms, the gymnasium and even in
5 the computer lab.

6 Unlike most schools, Bethune is unique.
7 Each child has their own talent in math, reading or
8 science. So, now you know how the children look at
9 Bethune. I hope it gives you a piece of
10 encouragement to keep us open. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 14.

12 STUDENT 14: Excuse me if I look at my phone,
13 but I can't --

14 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I that's okay, you
15 can use it.

16 STUDENT 14: My name is (redacted name). I'm a
17 student at Bethune, and Bethune is significant.

18 Bethune is important to me because it
19 progresses. Our academic level has gone up. NWEA
20 has improved, and attendance has increased. I love
21 this school. Keep Bethune open.

22 One reason why Bethune is important is,
23 this community is, because kids in our school
24 academics are going up. For example, through

1 extra-curricular activities, such as math and
2 science and after-school programs, the teachers here
3 help us make sure the kids are educated to a higher
4 level, because it is -- Bethune has motivated me to
5 reach for higher goals.

6 This tells me that the school I'm in
7 should stay open. Another reason is Bethune is
8 increasing in NWEA, such as reading, math, writing
9 and social students. Kids are improving.

10 I remember when I was in the below portion
11 of the testing, and now I am in the exceeding one.

12 I know that this is happening because
13 teachers are on a mission to make sure we are on
14 track for high school and college. Keep my school,
15 home school, open.

16 Lastly, you should be considered keeping
17 Bethune open because attendance is improving. For
18 example kids, usually didn't come to school or
19 class, but now they are doing.

20 Bethune is really a safe haven to the
21 community and foundation. This tells me if kids are
22 coming to school, this is a good impact for society.
23 Make the right choice, CPS.

24 You should keep Bethune open for all these

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 67

1 reasons. This school is a good place for education
2 and people like me. This is a tragic thing. It can
3 impact everyone in our environment.

4 If Bethune closes, you will take people
5 out of their comfort zone. This can cause someone
6 to get hurt. Someone to get hurt like me. Thank
7 you.

8 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. What
9 grade are you in.

10 STUDENT 14: Eighth grade.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 15. Do you
12 have your name on that so we know where it came?

13 SPEAKER: It came from the whole school.

14 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: We need a name to put
15 with it. Go ahead.

16 STUDENT 15: My name is (redacted name), and
17 I'm an eighth grader at Bethune School of
18 Excellence. Do you think Bethune is a bad school?
19 Well, no, it's not.

20 Bethune is one of the best schools to go
21 to. Bethune should not be closed because it's a
22 neighborhood school. It is a safe school, and it is
23 a non-violent school. I think that Bethune should
24 not be closed down.

April 25, 2013

Page 68

1 One reason why I think that Bethune should
2 not be closed down is because a lot of kids feel
3 safe around Bethune. It doesn't have any violence.
4 Bethune has no problem with anybody. Also, it makes
5 me feel safe, too.

6 The teachers and staff are helpful and
7 caring, and they make sure that everyone is okay.
8 We have security guards, such as ESPs, around school
9 to make sure that we are okay, too.

10 Another reason why Bethune shouldn't get
11 shut down is because I like Bethune, and Bethune is
12 like a family to me. The staff and teachers prepare
13 me to be successful for through the future. They
14 help me reach my goal.

15 Lastly, Bethune shouldn't close because
16 even though it is not at its full capacity, and it
17 is helpful to my classmates and students to get
18 where they need to be.

19 Also, Bethune should -- also Bethune
20 should count and our teachers and staff members for
21 instance. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student No. 16.

23 STUDENT 16: Hi. My name is (redacted name).
24 I'm a sixth grade student of Bethune School of

1 Excellence.

2 Do you really think closing Bethune is the
3 best decision you can make? No, I think this is a
4 bad idea. The decision to close Bethune is going to
5 stop a lot of kids from learning.

6 Bethune is important to me because they
7 make me feel well and comfortable. My friends are
8 like family, and I feel safe here.

9 Bethune is important to me because they
10 make me feel happy and comfortable. For example,
11 they treat me with respect. When I'm feeling down,
12 and not feeling my best as a student, my teachers
13 always look to motivate me and keep me going.

14 I feel like I can go to them when I have a
15 problem, and I have done so many times. There have
16 been moments when I didn't understand things in life
17 and why I do what I do. Staff will help me analyze
18 situations and things -- and work out things for the
19 better.

20 In a way, Bethune has helped me make my
21 family stronger. My family and my friends all
22 attend Bethune. We all hang out together on a
23 regular basis. Bethune, my family, and I have built
24 a strong relationship. There are ways of

1 interacting with people that I don't -- that I have
2 learned from going to Bethune.

3 I know I am a good person, and I owe so
4 much to Bethune. I feel a sense of safety when I go
5 to Bethune. I know people along the way. I know
6 people from fifth grade, and I only have been here
7 for one year, and they are already like my family.

8 I do not want to loose my family. Family
9 is important to me. Safety is important to me. Of
10 course my future is important to me. Is my future
11 important if you?

12 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 17.

13 STUDENT 17: My name is (redacted name). I am
14 an eighth grade student at Bethune, and I come to
15 say you save our school, and you save lives.

16 As adults and parents, would you want to
17 send your child to a new school neighborhood and
18 environment, even if you didn't have to?

19 Nine out of ten of you will say "no," so
20 why are you causing this trouble for Bethune
21 students? Bethune is important to me and my family,
22 the reason being that we feel safe.

23 We receive a lot of education, and we also
24 have developed a family here. To begin with,

1 Bethune is a great school, and not only important to
2 me and my family, but to almost all parents of the
3 children that attend.

4 Bethune is important to me because it
5 provides great safety and compassionate care. Since
6 I am in eighth grade, I will be attending high
7 school next year, you may wonder why I care, but
8 it's not about me, it's about my younger siblings.

9 Six children who will be leaving the
10 school that they knew for most of their lives, to go
11 to a school that is totally new to them.

12 I want complete safety for them, and I
13 know that Bethune will provide that safety. Also,
14 when they have problems, they can always talk to a
15 staff or teacher; and if they have to go home, an
16 ESP will provide safety and protection while they go
17 home.

18 The second out of my three reasons I
19 believe Bethune should stay in existence, is because
20 it pushes the students to get as far as they can in
21 their education. Bethune provides top-of-the-line
22 equipment to make students to be their best.

23 I have received a great education, which
24 allowed me to attend Lane Tech after STEM program

April 25, 2013

Page 72

1 and get the highest NWEA math score in the history
2 of Bethune, which was 256.

3 I exceeded in all my classes and my
4 students do the same. Even though I know that
5 everyone thinks about this, I can speak for everyone
6 when I say Bethune is not just a school, it is a
7 family; and when we come to Bethune, we feel like we
8 are learning at home.

9 The teachers never turn down a student in
10 need, and they go to infinity and beyond to help and
11 provide every single student with the education they
12 need and want.

13 I can say myself that any teacher will go
14 all out of their way to help a student pass or
15 graduate. So, save our school, because Bethune is
16 not just a school, it's a family, and getting rid of
17 Bethune will be like eliminating that family.

18 So again, save Bethune, because it is safe
19 and provides a valuable education, and there is a
20 tight knot tied between student and teacher. Also,
21 by saving Bethune, you will be saving lives. Thank
22 you.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Student
24 18. Am I saying that correctly Dear Board of

1 Education: Bethune is important to me because I
2 went to this school ever since kindergarten.

3 Also, my brother is graduating from this
4 school, and my sister is close to graduating. I
5 feel safe at Bethune, because we have drills to know
6 what to do in case of an emergency.

7 I love Bethune because we get lots of
8 chances to correct our mistakes. My family has went
9 to this school for generations. I don't ever think
10 I'll find a school like Bethune.

11 A school such as Johnson doesn't have help
12 like Bethune. It will not be right to question a
13 child dreams of wanting to graduate from Bethune.

14 If students have to walk from their
15 parent's house to Johnson, from their house to
16 Johnson, they will go past more gang territories.

17 No other school has -- no other school has
18 as much fun as Bethune with education. Even in
19 death, how do you think Mary McLeod Bethune will
20 feel that you are closing her school down?

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Student 19.

22 STUDENT 19: My name is (redacted name0, and
23 I'm in third grade. I am on the A, B honor roll.
24 In my latest report card I had all As. Ever since

April 25, 2013

Page 74

1 preschool, I never miss any days. No tardies.
2 Bethune is a lot to me, and I don't want it to close
3 down. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Go ahead.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: My name is Duvall Townsend.

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

7 MR. TOWNSEND: I'm a proud parent, and I
8 supported Bethune and I love the school very much;
9 and ever since I've been volunteering at Bethune, I
10 created a mural which is on the east side on the
11 third floor.

12 I want to have an opportunity to complete
13 a mural, if the school don't close. For me,
14 personally, I don't want no Chicago school closing,
15 because I'm an artist. So, that's how I feed my
16 family, because I have real opportunities of me like
17 different basketball players and stuff; and actually
18 Dawayne Wade actually called me to do a mural for
19 his school, which is Betsy Ross Elementary School.

20 Their motto is every child deserves an
21 education. I believe Bethune does, too. That's my
22 goal to complete murals for CPS. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Kamesha
24 Terry? Did Kamesha come up originally? You were up

1 originally, right?

2 MS. TERRY: Yes, Zakaria wants to take her
3 turn, now.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: She doesn't look as
5 anxious as you. Are you going to come up, Zakaria
6 or you okay?

7 MS. TERRY: I will come up again.

8 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: No, we got a whole
9 bunch of people who haven't had a chance to talk
10 yet.

11 We'll see if we have time at the end.
12 Okay? Bysheeon Edwards, a parent.

13 MS. EDWARDS: Hi. I had a question. My name
14 Bysheeon Edwards. I had a question. You said our
15 school was underutilized, but at the same time we
16 have more kids than Gregory School. So --

17 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: One of the things in
18 the paperwork is which school has the better
19 facilities. So, that's I think --

20 MS. EDWARDS: And to me it would be Bethune.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

22 MS. EDWARDS: Bethune.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

24 MS. EDWARDS: Will there be transportation

1 after school?

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You're talking about
3 for the schools?

4 MS. EDWARDS: After-school students, yes.

5 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I think that's in the
6 paperwork.

7 MS. EDWARDS: Right.

8 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: But you are talking
9 about for the students.

10 MS. EDWARDS: After school, it would be
11 nighttime.

12 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You are taking about
13 after activities?

14 MS. EDWARDS: Yes, after-school programs.

15 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: That's beyond my pay
16 grade. I don't know the answer to that. Do you
17 know what that will be like?

18 MS. EDWARDS: How long will the buses stay out
19 in the morning to pick the kids up to transition
20 them from one school to another?

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I'm assuming there
22 will be a route, and there will be certain times
23 people have to be at a certain place, right?

24 MS. EDWARDS: Uh-huh, right, but it's still

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 77

1 kids that come late, that still don't have an
2 option.

3 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You're trying to
4 figure out what happens to kids that couple late?

5 MS. EDWARDS: Right.

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: It may be an issue.
7 For this hearing right now, that's a question that
8 the Board will have to deal with.

9 MS. EDWARDS: And my kids are wearing beige and
10 white. Will they provide us with money for uniform,
11 to change, because they are transitioning everything
12 to Gregory.

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You mean different
14 clothes?

15 MS. EDWARDS: Yes, different clothes.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I hadn't heard
17 anything about that. I don't know.

18 MS. HURLEY: Your Honor, with respect to the
19 transportation question.

20 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Yes.

21 MS. HURLEY: The information we've been
22 provided thus far, remember, this is an ongoing
23 process.

24 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Right.

1 MS. HURLEY: Pending approval by the Board.
2 So, transportation to and from the Bethune and
3 Gregory locations, the logistics of those kinds of
4 things, if and when the Board approves it, of course
5 it will be worked out over a period of time, in
6 consultation with the community, so that all of the
7 necessary considerations are taken, and the
8 appropriate decisions are made, based on that
9 communication with the community.

10 With respect to uniforms, we don't have
11 information about that. We're happy to go back and
12 try to see if any decisions have been made about
13 that at this point, but this is only information we
14 would be able to supplement the record and provide
15 to your Honor.

16 We would have not have an opportunity to
17 provide that information to the community members
18 who are present today.

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay.

20 MS. HURLEY: But just remember that, one, this
21 is just a hearing for you to make a recommendation
22 to the Board, and I'm not saying that to you, your
23 Honor, I'm saying that to the public.

24 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Right.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 79

1 MS. HURLEY: Is that for you to make a
2 recommendation to the Board; and then the Board will
3 take under advisement your recommendation and make a
4 final decision.

5 Once that's done, the transition plan that
6 you all received in your packet was a draft; and
7 that means once the Board decides what it wants to
8 do, then representatives from the Board will be
9 coming back to the school community to then iron out
10 what becomes ultimately the final transition plan;
11 and that's something that is done in consultation
12 with the community, not just for --

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: We're trying to
14 answer all the questions that might come up. It's a
15 little premature right now. That's all.

16 MS. EDWARDS: And I am asking as a parent. I
17 want to know will the parents be allowed in the bus
18 in the morning to transition down with their kids?

19 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: I think that's
20 another issue about how many kids and how many buses
21 and the rest of that.

22 So, we can keep that in the record, and we
23 we'll have to see. Again, that may be beyond the
24 scope of the hearing for tonight.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 80

1 MS. EDWARDS: Okay.

2 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay?

3 MS. EDWARDS: Okay.

4 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you very much.

5 Earnest Williams. We've got about ten more minutes.
6 So, we're going to try to make sure everybody who is
7 on the list gets through. Mr. Williams, you're up.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Ernest
9 Williams, and I had the pleasure of being the
10 principal of Bethune school since July of 2012.

11 A couple things I would like to bring to
12 your attention, your Honor. To be at CPS
13 efficiency, it's strategically impossible, due to
14 the new Board, and to the new Board and CTU
15 agreement, and the full school day parameters.

16 For instance, the full school day
17 parameters calls for 60 minute preps, and a recess
18 and lunch of 45 minutes total. With an additional
19 300 students, that would mean we would have to run
20 lunches starting at 9:00 a.m., and the last lunch
21 would end close to dismissal which is about
22 3:00 p.m.

23 With our current facilities, should we
24 have 300 additional students, again, with that lunch

1 and recess block, we do not have the outside space
2 to hold an additional 300 students for recess, which
3 would mean we would not be in compliance with the
4 CPS full school day parameters, in providing every
5 student -- and providing every student with their
6 allotted lunch period, as well as prep period.

7 Bethune School has a higher culture and
8 climate rating, according to the five -- according
9 to the five essentials than Gregory School.

10 We have rich partnerships, which include
11 private music and art instruction for our children,
12 social emotional programs provided through the You
13 can 360 program, \$250,000 in grant funding through
14 United way, which offers additional programs for
15 parents and community, 21st Century after-school
16 programming for parents and students.

17 Even in the rain, 96 percent of our
18 parents showed up to -- showed up to pick up their
19 child report card.

20 THE TIMEKEEPER: Please conclude.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I have a few extra seconds.

22 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Go ahead.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Last lastly, as I drive to work,
24 I occasionally may have meetings, and I notice the

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 82

1 students who are late to school on their way to the
2 store. Mind you, the safe passage members are just
3 standing there not saying anything to our students,
4 knowing that these our students at Bethune.

5 And I, personally, stop and tell the
6 students to go back to school, wait for them to get
7 back into the school, before I even pull in before I
8 go to work.

9 While we talk about safe passage, those
10 safe passage persons which are already there do not
11 provide the safe passage that is needed for our
12 students. So, I am very concerned about our
13 students moving from Bethune to Gregory and have a
14 safe passage, when they can't do what they need to
15 do in the range they working in. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Thank you. Is there
17 Alderman Irvin? I didn't know if you were coming
18 general. You're okay? Let's see here, Kevin Hough.

19 MR. HOUGH: Yes, it's Hough, by the way,
20 H-o-u-g-h.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Did I say it wrong?

22 MR. HOUGH: That's okay. My name is Kevin
23 Hough. I'm the field representative for Chicago
24 Teachers Union. I represent Bethune, and I have for

1 the past year.

2 I just want to say when you walk into
3 Bethune, you get a good feeling. Right? You get a
4 good feeling.

5 Let's just say that's not true for every
6 school. I notice when I walk in, I see dedicated
7 teachers and staff. I think if we look at
8 statistics of the teacher turn-over rate, Bethune is
9 the lowest for AUSL schools.

10 What it tells you that teachers want to
11 work at Bethune. You have a staff that is
12 dedicated. That is not true down the street at
13 Johnson, where you have a 80 percent turnover rate
14 over past year or two.

15 I would also like to address the issue
16 that the first speaker brought up, as far as closing
17 Chalmers and King. We're not here to be discussing
18 why other schools should be closed in order to save
19 the school. Our position is that all these schools
20 should stay open.

21 Look around the room. We have some of the
22 students that are most the dire in need in the city,
23 and yet we're telling them they are too expensive
24 and need to spend less money on them.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 84

1 This is about priorities. We need to
2 spend money on these students, and we need to keep
3 these schools open. Bethune has been successful
4 from the course of the third grade through eighth
5 grade, they see a 40 percent increase from where the
6 students come in to where they graduate.

7 That is an incredible increase. Why don't
8 see that in every school. Support Bethune. Thank
9 you.

10 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Valerie Leonard.
11 Hello, Ms. Leonard.

12 MS. LEONARD: Hi, how are you?

13 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Good, how are you?

14 MS. LEONARD: Good, good, good. My name is
15 Valerie Leonard.

16 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You got to play with
17 that a little bit. Keep it close to your mouth.

18 MS. LEONARD: I hope this doesn't eat into my
19 time. Thank you. My name a Valerie Leonard. I'm
20 with the Lawndale Alliance, and we're here to
21 support Bethune school. In fact, we're supporting
22 all of our North Lawndale schools.

23 We want to folk counts on the rationale
24 given for closing schools. The second one you gave

1 is class size. We find that, on average, you have
2 about 21.77 students per class, which exactly
3 mirrors the class size for the state, and we really
4 don't think that that should be a problem; and then
5 we also notice that the student mobility rate has
6 actually decreased from 61.5 percent in 2003 to
7 31.3 percent in 2012.

8 Even though it's a significant decrease,
9 we still say that that is significantly above
10 average, which is 20.8 percent for the city in 2012;
11 and the reason why that's important is when you have
12 significantly high mobility, that does impact
13 performance, but in spite of the high mobility rate,
14 Bethune is doing well.

15 And we also want to make sure that the
16 work that AUSL has started is complete. Typically
17 they stick with schools four to five years, or even
18 longer in some instances, and they have not been
19 able to finish the work that they started.

20 We're requested that CPS to allow Bethune
21 to continue to operate as a small school, because
22 studies have shown that children, particularly those
23 children in primary grades, and particularly those
24 students in low-income families, do better with

1 small school class sizings.

2 We also ask for flexibility. CPS has
3 provided Space Utilization Standards to, quote, help
4 to ensure that all students have equal access to a
5 learning environment that effectively supports
6 strong and instructional programs.

7 Rather than narrowly prescribe the manner
8 of the classroom use, the standards were developed
9 to promote flexibility, and to ensure that the space
10 can be programmed to fit student needs.

11 I think that's what's been happening at
12 Bethune. I want to send you later on a gang map,
13 which will show that there are rival gang
14 territories between Bethune and between Gregory; and
15 to hear the principal describe what's going on with
16 safe passage now being an issue, I can only imagine
17 what the issues will be when you mix different gang
18 populations.

19 So, in closing, we ask you please keep the
20 school open.

21 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Do we have a map?
22 You're going to bring it to us so we can put it in
23 the record.

24 MS. LEONARD: Yes.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 87

1 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: You've have until
2 tomorrow night at 5:00, or if you have it with you
3 now.

4 MS. LEONARD: Unfortunately, I didn't bring it
5 with me, but I'll make sure that you have it.

6 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Bring it to the 7th
7 floor to the Law Department up to 5:00 o'clock
8 tomorrow, and it will get into the record.

9 MS. LONZO: I'll make sure. That's very
10 important.

11 HEARING OFFICER NEVILLE: Okay. That's the end
12 of the people who ask to present. Thank you very
13 much for spending all the time this evening.

14 My job is to prepare report by May 5th,
15 which I will do, and that report goes to the Chicago
16 Public Schools and the Director; and then there will
17 be more activity from the CPS after that.

18 Thank you very much again.


19 (WHICH WERE ALL THE PROCEEDINGS HAD.)
20
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24

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Page 88

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

4 PAMELA A. MARZULLO, C.S.R., being first duly sworn,
5 says that she is a court reporter doing business in the city
6 of Chicago; that she reported in shorthand the proceedings
7 had at the Proceedings of said cause; that the foregoing is
8 a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes, so
9 taken as aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings of said
10 hearing.

11 
12 PAMELA A. MARZULLO
13 License No. 084-001624

14 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
15 before me this _____ day
16 of _____ 2013.

17 Notary Public
18
19
20
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22
23
24

A	59:7	administra...	82:17	42:1	48:11 53:18
\$10.5	achieves	35:3	Alliance	approval	69:22 71:3
\$250,000	34:20	administra...	84:20	78:1	71:24
81:13	achieving	24:7	allocation	approve 25:6	attendance
a.m	59:20	admit 6:6	23:8	approved	9:6,18 13:6
abandoned	action 24:19	admitted	allotted	16:10 22:6	13:13 14:5
48:22	28:21 29:21	9:13	14:16,17	23:5	16:3 18:5
abduct 48:21	31:16	adults 36:22	15:7,20	approves	18:16 20:19
able 56:24	actions 6:17	70:16	16:17 81:6	22:20 78:4	21:15 28:22
57:7,16	7:21,23 8:6	advise 4:17	allow 24:12	approxima...	65:20 66:17
78:14 85:19	8:15 20:16	advised 33:2	85:20	14:18 15:7	attendants
above-desc...	21:6,7	advisement	allowed	15:19 16:16	8:11
43:2	29:19,23	79:3	54:11 55:1	April 1:7	attended
academic	31:10,13	affidavit 7:18	71:24 79:17	area 9:6 18:5	44:1
22:13 23:24	active 37:8	affidavits	Alternatively	36:9 48:23	attending
24:3,22	activities	7:14	15:15	areas 20:8	21:5 26:17
25:3 29:14	25:24 26:1	aforesaid	amount	argument	71:6
59:2 65:19	26:3 66:1	88:9	64:11	47:22	attention
academically	76:13	after-school	analyze	Arlington	17:2 25:19
53:19	activity 87:17	37:17 39:19	69:17	30:17,18	27:7,14
academics	actual 10:7	66:2 76:4	anger 63:16	arrives 32:5	80:12
7:4 65:24	add 29:21	76:14 81:15	angst 8:2	art 81:11	attesting 7:14
Academy	additional	afternoon	announcing	arterial 29:9	7:19
18:7 36:13	22:7,12,16	11:17 23:18	42:15	Arthington	attorney 5:22
accepted 9:16	22:22 26:7	agencies 23:3	annual 21:13	14:4	auction 59:4
access 25:20	26:19 27:6	ago 38:3	answer 32:16	articles 43:10	audits 23:7
86:4	29:21 80:18	50:24	46:4,21,22	artist 74:15	AUSL 64:11
accommod...	80:24 81:2	agree 55:19	55:1 76:16	arts 29:15	83:9 85:16
33:11	81:14	agreement	79:14	aside 24:15	Austin 28:8
accompanied	Additionally	80:15	anticipate	asked 5:11	available
6:23	23:23 37:15	ahead 19:8	31:20	13:3	3:20 6:10
accompany...	42:13	33:19 40:21	anxious 75:5	asking 79:16	9:3 10:9,13
9:1,8	address	40:22 41:5	anybody 5:17	assess 27:5	10:24 11:6
accountabi...	22:12 23:10	43:22 47:5	11:16 32:18	assigned	14:19 18:12
22:5	40:22 46:5	55:7 56:19	68:4	19:18 24:2	23:10 42:24
accounted	83:15	67:15 74:4	apologize	assistance	average 85:1
31:22	addresses	81:22	10:1	22:9	85:10
accounts	38:1	aimed 25:12	appear 5:23	associated	awaiting
55:16	adequately	air 3:24 35:7	13:3 22:2	17:1 25:13	48:21
accurately	26:10	42:10	appears	assuming	
38:1	adjust 25:9	alderman 2:3	41:16	76:21	B
achieve 34:15	administra...	27:23 28:1	appropriate	attachments	B 8:4,12,16
60:2	21:4 23:20	28:3,6	23:9 78:8	9:15	73:23
achieved	24:8,10	32:19,20,21	Appropriat...	attend 24:24	B-e-n-j-a-...

12:15	63:8 71:19	50:10,16,20	73:12,13,18	39:14,14	building 15:5
Bachelor's	74:21	50:23 51:8	73:19 74:2	46:13,13,15	15:14 30:12
13:2 20:11	believes 27:3	51:12,13,15	74:8,9,21	61:2	34:10 35:7
back 45:15	Ben 26:14	51:21,22	75:20,22	Board 5:22	35:12 36:16
47:24 49:12	benefits	52:2,8,9,10	78:2 80:10	8:6 16:10	36:19 37:16
50:4 56:17	37:22	52:12 53:9	81:7 82:4	22:20 29:2	38:8 40:2
57:7,9,12	Benjamin 2:2	53:18,21	82:13,24	34:6,14	41:9 42:4,6
78:11 79:9	9:1 12:4,14	54:1,15,21	83:3,8,11	35:1,5	54:8
82:6,7	best 30:24	54:23 55:10	84:3,8,21	41:14,19	building's
background	31:1,7	55:12,23	85:14,20	42:24 43:1	36:23
19:23	33:24 52:12	56:1,21	86:12,14	72:24 77:8	buildings
bad 57:17	58:4 60:15	57:2,3	Bethune's	78:1,4,22	14:15 35:14
67:18 69:4	67:20 69:3	58:16,18,20	9:2 17:9	79:2,2,7,8	36:4,6
Baptist 53:8	69:12 71:22	58:23 59:17	18:5 36:2	80:14,14	37:12,13
barriers	Bethune 1:4	59:19 60:1	37:24 38:10	Board's 8:7	38:5 40:7
18:18	6:2,3,22	60:2,7,8,21	41:18 42:3	34:20	41:6,23
based 13:12	7:15 8:22	60:22,23	Bethune-G...	boarded 40:1	42:2,20
20:17 21:5	13:7,8 14:3	61:3,7,8,8	10:7	borders 38:5	48:22
21:13,19	14:4 15:19	61:16 62:2	Betsy 74:19	BORWN	built 69:23
35:11 37:18	15:23 16:2	62:3,6,11	better 27:4	50:5	bullet 49:6
78:8	16:8 17:5	62:11,13,17	29:16 36:24	Boulevard	bullet-proof
basic 31:2	17:15,20,24	63:7,8,15	57:14 69:19	24:18	49:9
basically	18:2,4	63:19,23,24	75:18 85:24	boundaries	bunch 75:9
43:9	20:14,21,24	64:1,8,9,10	beyond 37:6	8:11 28:23	bus 17:23
basis 7:1	21:3,19	64:12,14,14	72:10 76:15	36:7,11,20	26:15 30:23
69:23	22:7 24:3	64:23 65:6	79:23	37:7	79:17
basketball	26:8,15,17	65:9,17,17	bids 41:13	boundary 9:6	buses 17:22
74:17	26:22,23	65:18,21,22	binder 6:7,10	18:10,14,16	39:21 76:18
battling	28:15 29:4	66:4,7,17	6:13,20 8:4	39:3	79:20
12:12	29:13,18	66:20,24	8:18 10:13	boxed 38:11	business 88:5
bear 60:12	30:1,3,6	67:4,17,18	10:15,16	break 38:15	bussed 32:4
bearing	32:14 34:4	67:20,21,23	12:5 14:12	brief 10:13	busted 61:11
12:13	36:13 37:2	68:1,3,4,10	18:11 21:12	bright 59:24	busy 38:5
beautiful	37:21,23	68:11,11,15	21:23 22:18	bring 5:1	Bysheen 2:17
52:8	39:6,11,11	68:19,19,24	26:21 38:17	11:18 80:11	Byshecon
beautifully	39:13,16,17	69:2,4,6,9	binders	86:22 87:4	75:12,14
36:16	39:22 40:5	69:20,22,23	10:11	87:6	
becoming	41:12 42:8	70:2,4,5,14	bit 12:13 47:4	brother 73:3	C
12:20	43:5,11,24	70:20,21	55:14 84:17	brought	C 8:18,19,24
behalf 19:18	46:7 47:7,8	71:1,4,13	bleeding	83:16	9:7 58:15
19:21 64:13	47:11,14,19	71:19,21	35:24	Brown 2:6	88:2
beige 77:9	48:12,16	72:2,6,7,15	block 81:1	49:20,21,22	C.S.R 88:4
believe 30:16	49:3,14,17	72:17,18,21	blocks 28:19	49:23,23	calendars 8:1
31:7 34:14	49:24 50:1	73:1,5,7,10	38:4 39:5	50:13,15,19	California

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

39:4	13:10,15	5:9,22 6:1	53:17	62:2,6,10	13:23 18:20
call 3:18 9:22	16:7 18:4	8:13 10:22	circle 17:7	62:11,16	colleagues
27:23 43:16	19:18,21	12:16 14:10	circles 25:12	63:23 65:1	26:14
43:17 56:12	21:7 27:3	16:11 19:13	circumstan...	68:15 69:4	collecting
called 74:18	CEO's 6:7,15	19:15,24	26:9	73:4 74:2	40:7
calling 3:12	6:16 8:14	22:24 28:10	city 16:11	74:13 80:21	Collectively
calls 80:17	8:16,19	29:2,19	83:22 85:10	84:17	34:6
Calvin 34:3	9:12 12:2	34:23 35:19	88:5	closed 18:4	college 66:14
capacity	19:6 21:6	42:3 46:20	city's 59:11	56:1,10	Collins 34:4
18:17 59:10	27:11	74:14 82:23	clarification	60:11 67:21	36:15,15
68:16	certain 4:10	87:15 88:6	5:17	67:24 68:2	Colon 53:22
car 44:23	65:3 76:22	Chief 5:24	class 57:7	83:18	combined
card 73:24	76:23	13:9 19:12	66:19 85:1	closer 50:3,6	17:8 21:1
81:19	certainly	19:16,22	85:2,3 86:1	50:12	26:23
cards 46:1,18	59:21	20:5,5,15	classes 72:3	closers 41:24	combines
57:17	challenge	child 29:10	classmates	closes 60:1	17:11
care 51:13,18	31:19	29:10,11	68:17	67:4	come 3:13
52:10 57:13	challenges	35:16 39:20	classroom	closing 4:12	4:5,13 10:9
57:20,23	32:7	44:23 45:5	20:9 47:24	28:12 39:11	40:17 43:18
58:1 60:10	Chalmers	49:17 65:7	55:17,20,22	39:22 40:4	44:16 45:17
64:16,16	28:23 36:20	70:17 73:13	86:8	40:5 44:4,8	55:2,10
71:5,7	36:21,24	74:20 81:19	classrooms	47:8 59:19	64:24 66:18
Career 36:13	37:11,16,21	childhood	14:18,19	69:2 73:20	70:14 72:7
caring 52:3	38:8 39:1,5	26:13	15:2,6,8,9	74:14 83:16	74:24 75:5
58:24 68:7	39:10 42:7	children	15:18 16:15	84:24 86:19	75:7 77:1
Carlisle	83:17	28:18,22	55:11,20	closings 8:17	79:14 84:6
52:17,17,19	chambers	29:12,13,17	65:4	35:11	comfort 67:5
52:20,22,24	6:11	29:21 30:22	clean 64:24	closure 1:3	comfortable
53:3,6,7	chance 4:22	31:1,8,14	clearer 38:15	13:15,18	69:7,10
Carothers	56:13 57:8	31:15 32:3	climate 63:15	27:4 37:23	coming 4:21
64:19	75:9	32:9 36:21	81:8	38:10 41:18	66:22 79:9
case 42:3	chances 73:8	37:7 39:9	close 3:24 4:1	42:12 43:3	82:17
73:6	Chandlers	41:21 59:19	4:2 6:2 13:8	closures 34:7	COMMEN...
cause 28:21	34:4	65:8 71:3,9	13:11 33:17	34:11 42:15	1:7
67:5 88:7	change 9:6	81:11 85:22	37:11,19	clothes 77:14	comment
causing 37:7	18:11,14	85:23	39:15 41:11	77:15	7:23 8:21
39:23 70:20	21:2 77:11	children's	42:2 43:5	co-located	46:23
celebrities	changed	29:22 39:18	48:14 49:14	30:6	comments
53:24	56:18	59:1	50:1,10,15	coach 25:2	11:9
centralized	changes 54:2	choice 7:10	50:20 51:16	Code 6:16	commercial
35:6	charg 5:3	66:23	51:22 52:9	8:5	36:19 37:8
Century	chats 26:4	choices 41:10	57:2 60:12	coffee 26:4	37:14
81:15	cherish 49:17	42:14	60:17,22,23	cold 12:13	commercia...
CEO 6:1	Chicago 4:9	church 53:8	61:3,14,17	colleague	37:15

common 53:12	71:5	59:23	30:10 34:3	cps.edu 11:23	8:3 74:1
communic... 78:9	compiled 6:7	considerati... 6:8 11:9,14	36:4	cracks 60:1	deal 29:9
Communic... 20:11	9:13	35:10	correct 35:2	created 74:10	53:14 77:8
communities 8:23 28:7	complete 71:12 74:12	considerati... 18:19 78:7	39:1 42:14	credit 58:21	dean 57:4
35:5,6,20	74:22 85:16	considered 14:22 15:2	52:23 73:8	crime 48:24	64:19
41:22 42:2	completely 38:9	15:15,17	88:8	49:1	Deanna 44:10,10,18
community 7:13 8:1,2	compliance 81:3	18:15 35:10	correctional 29:7	criteria 7:2	Dear 62:13
8:21 13:5	complicati... 29:22	66:16	correctly 52:18 58:8	20:15	72:24
22:21 23:2	complies 6:15	consists 6:13	58:9 72:24	cross 29:6	death 73:19
23:21 28:16	comprehen... 24:11	consolidated 30:7	council 6:22	crowded 36:21 39:2	decides 79:7
28:18 30:4	compromis... 14:23	consolidati... 28:13,17	7:17	CTU 80:14	decision 47:9
30:21,22	computer 65:5	30:2 32:13	count 68:20	culture 63:15	47:10 69:3
31:2 32:12	computers 35:7 42:10	consultation 78:6 79:11	counted 36:4	81:7	69:4 79:4
34:2,11,12	concerned 32:6 82:12	contact 42:23	counts 84:23	culture-bui... 25:24	decisions 25:7 78:8
34:15 35:15	concerns 22:12 23:11	43:6,7	COUNTY 88:2	current 17:9	78:12
36:3,6,12	24:19 25:13	contains 8:20	couple 3:7	17:10 18:2	decrease 85:8
36:18 37:6	32:10,11	88:9	29:20 31:10	80:23	decreased 85:6
37:12,24	conclude 56:8 81:20	context 31:22	33:8 77:4	currently 14:3 16:22	decreases 15:1
38:9 39:12	concludes 18:24 27:8	continue 85:21	80:11	currents 18:9	dedicated 24:15 42:20
39:23 40:4	27:10	24:9	coupled 31:20	cycles 25:15	83:6,12
40:6 41:11	conclusion 26:22 42:22	continuity 24:9	courage 35:2	D	dedicating 22:11
42:5,6,9,13	Concordia 20:13	contributed 12:23	course 27:12	Daley 42:21	define 21:7
42:16,19,24	conditioners 35:8 42:10	convenient 8:22	70:10 78:4	dancing 50:7	defined 13:19
43:4,12	Conference 25:1	conversions 59:8	84:4	Dane 49:18	14:16 16:13
49:2,3,5	connection 5:24	convey 13:4	court 5:3	danger 61:11	delivering 11:11
53:16 58:24	consider 1:3	Coordinator 24:2	38:16,17	Danna 2:4	delivery 7:15
59:22 65:23	25:6 55:12	copies 18:12	45:12 88:5	dark 39:21	Demari 49:19
66:21 78:6		copy 6:10	courtrooms 65:1	data 24:11	demolished 40:1
78:9,17		corner 39:3	CPS 12:19,21	daughter 48:12	demonstrate 6:19
79:9,12		corners 23:16	13:12,20	Dawayne 74:18	demonstrat... 6:14 9:2,9
81:15		30:16 37:14	16:13 17:21	day 13:14	Department 5:23 11:11
community's 31:1 34:17		Corp 36:14	20:17 21:11	14:5 16:3	11:18 12:22
36:7 39:3		corporate	22:11,19,23	20:19 53:10	22:24 23:1
commute 39:18			25:10,14,22	53:13 58:18	
Comparing 36:23			46:20 62:13	59:14 65:3	
compassio...			66:23 74:22	80:15,16	
			80:12 81:4	81:4 88:14	
			85:20 86:2	days 5:9 8:1	
			87:17		

87:7	dire 83:22	dreams 73:13	29:16,23	16:9 18:7	13:16
department's	direct 17:2	drifters 37:9	34:17	19:19 28:12	enrolled
12:24	24:22	drills 62:18	educationa...	28:14,15,23	16:23
depends 5:13	director 20:1	73:5	30:24	32:2 48:16	enrollment
Deputy 20:4	87:16	drive 29:3	Eduction	48:19 55:21	9:5 13:13
describe 7:1	disability 7:6	59:10 81:23	16:11	74:19	13:19 14:9
86:15	discretionary	drop 59:5	Edwards	elicit 8:21	14:12,14,16
described	24:22	drugs 49:11	2:17 75:12	eliminating	14:20,24
26:19	discuss 13:21	due 28:21	75:13,14,20	72:17	15:10,10,14
deserve 56:10	13:23 18:21	39:20 80:13	75:22,24	Elizabeth 2:9	15:16,21,23
60:11	24:19	duly 88:4	76:4,7,10	58:7,14	16:2,5,13
deserves	discussing	Duvall 2:16	76:14,18,24	Emanuel	16:18,20,24
74:20	83:17	74:5	77:5,9,15	53:23	17:5,6,8,9
designate	dismissal	E	79:16 80:1	emergency	17:10,14,17
23:21	80:21	E-mail 11:20	80:3	73:6	20:18 21:1
designated	disrupted	11:20	effective 15:4	emotional 7:5	21:2 26:23
21:16,17	56:6	E-mailing	effectively	22:14 25:8	27:1
23:16	distance	11:12	86:5	81:12	ensure 24:4,8
designating	18:18	earlier 31:9	effects 58:21	emotionally	26:8 86:4,9
8:5	distributed	53:4 56:19	efficiency 9:5	53:20	environment
desk 18:13	38:10	early 26:13	13:19 14:9	employees	25:9,21
despite 59:15	District 27:4	earn 80:5	14:12,21	35:16 42:10	59:13,17
destroy 34:15	District-wide	ease 22:10	15:1,11,23	empty 39:24	67:3 70:18
39:12	21:16	easily 36:7	16:5,13,20	55:13	86:5
detail 26:20	diverse 26:11	east 28:8,16	17:6,12,17	Emptying	equal 86:4
details 13:21	divided 19:15	28:18 37:5	21:2 27:1	41:6	equals 15:9
determined	documentary	74:10	80:13	encounter	59:4
22:4 37:24	6:13	eat 84:18	efficient	48:18	equipment
devastate	documents	educated	12:19	encourage	71:22
41:11	6:8,19 9:9	66:3	efforts 18:23	25:16	Ernest 2:17
Devastating	11:5 21:23	education	eight 61:2,7	encourage...	80:8
40:8 41:7	doing 57:21	5:23 12:22	eight-year-...	65:10	Ervin 2:3
develop 23:3	66:19 85:14	29:2 31:3	29:11	endangering	ESP 71:16
developed	88:5	41:21 52:7	eighth 14:7	49:14	especially
22:11 70:24	dollar 54:14	55:21 57:13	43:24 48:22	enemies 52:9	55:20 59:18
86:8	down,beca...	64:16 65:3	67:10,17	engineers	ESPs 60:10
development	61:17	67:1 70:23	70:14 71:6	59:12	64:20 68:8
12:24 20:10	downstairs	71:21,23	84:4	English 7:7	essentials
different	3:15	72:11,19	elected 7:17	26:12	81:9
28:22 74:17	draft 6:23,24	73:1,18	23:2	enhancement	establishm...
77:13,15	7:20 14:1	74:21	elementary	29:14 34:16	8:10 18:16
86:17	22:15 26:20	educational	1:4 6:2 14:4	enhanceme...	estated 31:9
difficulties	79:6	20:13 24:19	14:15,20,24	23:9	evening 3:9
9:24	drastic 29:23		15:5,13	enroll 7:9	5:19 11:1

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

19:9,10	expectations	84:21	70:4,22	finish 85:19	66:21
33:20,21	60:15	factors 18:15	72:7 73:5	fire 49:8	four 7:8 29:8
80:8 87:13	expected	factory 37:10	73:20	first 8:1 9:22	30:16 36:3
everybody	41:24	faculty 24:9	feeling 57:21	12:2 23:6	36:7 38:5
3:3 32:5	expensive	fading 10:4	69:11,12	24:1 25:10	39:5 50:24
44:22 56:13	83:23	fair 31:16	83:3,4	27:21,23	54:2 85:17
80:6	experience	51:7	feels 47:11	28:2 37:23	fourier 36:5
evicting	24:7	faith 23:2	feet 30:3,8,11	44:1,3	Fourth 24:21
48:15	experiencing	fall 41:3	42:20	50:23 52:21	25:21 41:12
evidence 6:14	9:24	59:15,24	felt 44:3 51:3	57:3 83:16	free 4:4 10:12
8:19	explain 7:2	families	Felton 2:2	88:4	10:24
exactly 85:2	16:24	22:16 24:18	9:1 12:4,8,9	fit 86:10	friends 52:6
example	explained	26:3,6 38:3	12:12,14	fits 20:14	62:5 69:7
24:23 35:7	22:15	39:23 40:6	26:14 54:21	five 5:9 8:3	69:21
47:16,21	exposed	43:11 85:24	54:23 55:6	38:4 81:8,9	fulfill 22:13
65:24 66:18	49:11	family 23:1	field 26:4	85:17	full 59:20
69:10	extra 81:21	46:1 47:12	82:23	five-year	68:16 80:15
exceed 13:18	extra-curri...	47:15 57:1	fifth 58:17	12:24	80:16 81:4
16:12 21:1	66:1	57:20,24	59:7 61:24	flexibility	fully 16:24
27:1 60:9	eyesight	62:14 68:12	62:1 70:6	86:2,9	fun 73:18
exceeded	36:14 37:1	69:8,21,21	figure 77:4	floor 11:12	functions
72:3	F	69:23 70:7	figured 10:3	11:19 41:3	28:16
exceeding 9:4	F-e-l-t-o-n	70:8,8,21	Filling 36:17	74:11 87:7	fund 37:16
66:11	12:15	70:24 71:2	final 22:19	focus 34:6	funding
exceeds 60:14	faces 59:22	72:7,16,17	31:18 79:4	focused	81:13
excellence	73:8 74:16	73:8 74:16	79:10	12:22	funds 24:23
47:7 56:21	facilitate	far 45:3	finalized 7:22	folk 84:23	further 17:14
60:7,21	25:11	56:15 59:14	finally 7:8,18	following	29:22
61:3 63:8	facilities	71:20 77:22	8:16 9:7	6:19 7:23	Furthermore
64:8 65:4	12:20 34:23	83:16	15:10 26:7	23:6 24:1	29:13 31:23
67:18 69:1	75:19 80:23	fast 40:24	30:1 42:22	25:10	future 59:11
Excuse 36:17	facility 9:3	favorite 52:4	finances	forces 39:22	60:9 68:13
65:12	13:7 14:10	feed 5:17	35:18	forcing 48:23	70:10,10
Executive 6:1	15:19,22,23	74:15	financial	foregoing	G
13:9 20:15	16:18,21	feedback	34:16,20	88:7	gang 29:6
executive-l...	17:7,13,18	22:21	35:3,24	form 17:22	73:16 86:12
20:3	17:19 20:23	feel 4:4 10:24	41:20	former 24:6	86:13,17
exhibit 6:7	26:24 29:7	47:12,15,18	Finch 63:12	formula	Garfield 28:8
9:13,15	facility's	47:20 48:15	find 5:13	55:16	28:16,19,20
43:8	13:19 14:13	51:3 61:7,8	45:21 65:3	forward	Garfield-H...
exhibits 9:19	21:1 27:1	61:10 62:17	73:10 85:1	11:13 43:6	19:14,19
10:21	facing 10:17	63:24 64:17	fine 10:20	foster 25:21	20:6
existence	10:18	68:2,5 69:7	27:24 29:15	found 54:8	general 82:18
71:19	fact 62:14	69:8,10,14	finger 12:7	foundation	

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

generations 38:3 73:9	58:1 62:15 65:24 69:4	graduate 18:2 26:18 33:23 72:15 73:13 84:6	Gregory's 9:9 16:12 17:10	hard 57:14 59:18 60:14 64:21	46:17,19 47:4 48:1,3 48:10 49:4 49:20,22
geographic 18:18	69:13 70:2 75:5 80:6	graduating 73:3,4	group 58:19	harm 28:21	50:3,6,11 50:14,17 51:24 52:13 52:16,20,23
getting 32:8 51:21 72:16	86:15,22	grant 81:13	groups 23:2 25:11,18	Harrison 18:8 36:9 38:7	51:24 52:13 52:16,20,23 53:1,5 54:16,19 55:3,7 56:11,22 58:7,11,13 60:4,18 61:4,21 62:1,12,21 62:23 63:2 63:4,21 64:2,5 65:11,14 67:8,11,14 68:22 70:12 72:23 73:21 74:4,6,23 75:4,8,17 75:21,23 76:2,5,8,12 76:15,21 77:3,6,7,13 77:16,20,24 78:19,21,24 79:13,19,24 80:2,4 81:22 82:16 82:21 84:10 84:13,16 86:21 87:1 87:6,11 88:10
give 5:2 11:20 46:13	gong 33:16	great 27:15 29:9 50:22 53:14 58:3 60:2 63:15 71:1,5,23	grow 42:18	hashed 17:6	
given 84:24	good 3:9 5:19 19:9,10 33:20,21 41:18 44:2 44:3 45:8 46:3 47:9 52:10 57:7 57:15,18 58:11,13 61:16 66:22 67:1 70:3 80:8 83:3,4 84:13,14,14 84:14	greatly 35:1	growings 42:21	haven 66:20	
gives 58:17 65:9		green 17:5	growth 59:2 59:8	head 12:13	
go 4:4 10:12 19:8 27:18 27:21 28:2 29:4 33:19 40:21,21 41:5 43:21 43:24 47:5 48:23 49:24 50:14,20 53:10 55:7 56:16,19 57:7,8 60:24 65:1 67:15,20 69:14 70:4 71:10,15,16 72:10,13 73:16 74:4 78:11 81:22 82:6,8	governor 53:23	Gregory 6:4 6:4,22 7:15 8:23 9:3 16:8,9,15 16:21,22 17:5,7,12 17:16,18,19 17:20,23 18:1,6,22 19:18,21,22 20:22 21:4 21:21 22:8 23:20 24:5 24:10 25:23 26:16,17,23 27:2 28:13 28:24 29:5 29:14 30:2 32:8,13 39:12,14,17 45:20 46:7 48:19,23 49:4,5,12 50:24,24 51:2 61:2 75:16 77:12 78:3 81:9 82:13 86:14	guardians 6:21 7:16	header 22:3	
goal 68:14 74:22	grace 39:20		guards 68:8	heading 64:17	
goals 34:16 34:20 41:20 44:6 66:5	grade 14:8 34:10 35:4 36:2,3,5 40:4 42:6 43:24 48:1 48:12 52:13 52:14 62:1 62:23 63:2 63:4 64:9 67:9,10 68:24 70:6 70:14 71:6 73:23 76:16 84:4,5		guidance 20:8	hear 3:6 18:20 32:11 33:3 50:4,5 86:15	
goes 33:12 35:13 87:15			guidelines 6:16 7:3,21 7:22 8:14 13:10 20:16 21:6,7	heard 20:14 46:13 77:16	
going 3:7,18 27:21 38:14 46:22 48:5 48:6,7 56:16,17 57:9,16	grader 58:18 61:24 67:17		gut 34:15	hearing 1:3 1:10 3:3,11 3:11,19 4:2 4:16 7:20 9:14,20 10:8,15,18 10:20 11:3 11:15,16,24 12:6,10 13:4 19:2,7 19:10 22:22 27:9,15,16 28:1,3 30:9 32:17,22,24 33:2,6,16 33:19,21 38:13,19,21 38:23 40:10 40:12,19,21 41:2,5 43:7 43:13 44:9 44:13,16 45:1,4,11 45:17,22 46:3,9,12	
	graders 59:3 59:7		gymnasium 65:4		
	grades 57:1 57:11,16,17 85:23		H		
			H-e-u-d-y 52:24		
			H-o-u-g-h 82:20		
			H-u-r-l-e-y 5:21		
			half 55:13		
			hand 3:24 4:5 36:1,1,18		
			hang 69:22		
			happening 66:12 86:11		
			happens 5:6 32:8 77:4		
			happiness 51:3		
			happy 32:15 69:10 78:11		
				hearings 7:13 8:17	
				heart 28:9 36:12 42:4	
				held 8:22	

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

Hello 3:3 47:2 49:21 49:22 50:13 50:19 60:20 63:6 84:11	highlight 13:24 18:22	hopefully 10:8	67:3 85:12	increase 84:5 84:7	20:9 25:2 86:6
help 4:3 24:2 25:9,10,14 26:5 27:4 37:16 42:18 50:11 53:15 60:9 66:3 68:14 69:17 72:10,14 73:11 86:3	highly 41:16 highly-stru... 25:20	Hough 2:18 82:18,19,19 82:22,23	impacted 13:16	increased 65:20	interacting 70:1
helped 63:14 63:16 69:20	Hightower 51:8	hours 4:15 24:16	implement 25:15,24	increases 14:21	interest 30:24 31:1,7 46:2
helpful 68:6 68:17	highway 36:8 36:19 37:7	house 73:15 73:15	important 47:11,14,19 60:8,16 62:13 65:18 65:22 69:6 69:9 70:9,9 70:10,11,21 71:1,4 73:1 85:11 87:10	increasing 66:8	interested 13:5
helping 25:12 44:6	history 72:1	Hurley 5:19 5:20,20 9:22 10:16 10:19 11:2 11:5,22 12:1 19:4 27:10 55:1 77:18,21 78:1,20 79:1	impossible 80:13	incredible 84:7	interpreter 3:22 4:1
Heudy 2:8 52:17,21,22 52:22 53:6	hold 4:19 10:4 24:16 81:2	hurt 67:6,6	improve 12:19 41:20 44:6	indenture 38:11	intersection 30:16
Hi 44:18 56:20 58:14 60:6 61:6 64:7 68:23 75:13 84:12	holding 36:16	I	improved 53:19,20 54:4,7 65:20	independent 7:20	intersections 23:22
high 25:1 30:14 36:14 53:24 66:14 71:6 85:12 85:13	home 22:16 23:18 48:14 48:14,16,18 63:24 64:14 66:15 71:15 71:17 72:8	IB 29:15	improving 57:1,11 66:9,17	indicated 27:19	intervention 25:11
high-risk 39:2	homeless 37:9	idea 45:8 69:4	inaccurate 41:17	individual 22:14 24:13	interventions 25:20
higher 9:9 21:9 49:1,2 49:6 66:3,5 81:7	homeroom 14:18 63:13	ideal 14:13 14:15 15:10 15:21 16:18 55:17,19	include 81:10	individuali... 25:19	introduce 12:2
higher-perf... 7:9 13:17 21:5,8 27:2	homerooms 14:17 15:20 16:17	identifiable 23:15	included 9:21 11:19 21:23	indulgence 12:1	invite 55:9
highest 21:17 72:1	homes 39:7 39:13	identified 36:7	includes 6:20 7:12,18 8:4 8:7,16,18 8:24 9:7 28:7,7	industries 34:22	iron 79:9
	Honor's 11:14	identifies 7:3 7:8	including 5:7 18:17 21:14 23:24 25:10 26:10	infinity 72:10	Irvin 28:1,3,5 32:21 82:17
	Honorable 28:3	identify 7:10 24:13	in	information 7:10 13:6 37:18 43:2 43:8,10 77:21 78:11 78:13,17	ISAT 44:7
	hope 65:9 84:18	Illinois 6:16 8:4 20:12 33:24 53:23 88:1	inaccurate 41:17	injustice 59:22	isolated 41:23
		imagine 86:16	include 81:10 included 9:21 11:19 21:23 includes 6:20 7:12,18 8:4 8:7,16,18 8:24 9:7 28:7,7 including 5:7 18:17 21:14 23:24 25:10 26:10 inclusive 25:22 incorporate 22:21	input 22:22 inside 35:13 35:14	issue 46:23 77:6 79:20 83:15 86:16 issues 31:20 33:8 63:17 86:17 items 35:9
		impact 66:22		instance 47:22 48:20 68:21 80:16	J
				instances 85:18	Jason 28:5
				instruction 81:11	Jensen 18:7 28:23 34:4 36:15,20,20 36:24 37:1 37:20 42:5 42:8
				instructional	job 3:11

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

87:14	46:18 48:11	34:15	10:16	literature	27:24 32:23
John 6:4 16:8	48:21 49:7	known 58:15	Lee 2:5 45:14	37:23 39:15	33:1,5,18
28:13	49:15,15,18	knows 35:12	45:15,18,18	41:17	33:20,22,23
Johnson 2:4	49:24 50:20	L	45:24 46:8	little 4:19	38:18,20
44:10,12,15	51:2,6,7,9	lab 65:5	46:11,15,18	47:4 50:3,6	39:1 40:11
44:18,18	51:17 52:10	lady 3:20 5:5	46:24	50:12 55:14	40:17,20,24
45:2,6	64:22,24	44:14 50:12	left 6:11 32:7	56:19 79:15	41:4,6 43:9
73:11,15,16	65:23 66:3	Lane 71:24	38:9	84:17	87:9
83:13	66:9,18,21	language	Leonard 2:18	live 31:15	look 10:21
joined 12:21	68:2 69:5	3:21 4:3,4	84:10,11,12	61:1	11:4 30:1,2
July 12:17	75:16 76:19	7:7 26:12	84:14,15,18	lives 29:22	30:5 43:6
80:10	77:1,4,9	Lanzo 27:22	84:19 86:24	49:15,18	55:10 65:8
jumped	79:18,20	32:22 46:13	87:4	56:6 70:15	65:12 69:13
56:15	kindergarten	large 36:9	let's 33:12,22	71:10 72:21	75:4 83:7
juries 25:16	14:7 48:13	lastly 66:16	82:18 83:5	living 7:6	83:21
K	73:2	68:15 81:23	letters 6:20	26:12	loose 70:8
K 88:2	kinds 78:3	late 39:21	6:24	local 6:22	loss 59:23
Kamesha 2:6	king 34:5	77:1,4 82:1	level 21:9,16	7:16 23:1	lot 4:14 33:9
48:8 74:23	36:20 37:4	latest 73:24	21:18,19,21	located 12:5	52:3,5
74:24	37:5,6,12	Law 5:23	35:12,15	14:3 18:6,7	53:11,21
Kedzie 36:9	37:20 42:8	11:11,18	42:17,18	18:11 20:22	54:1 60:11
38:7	83:17	87:7	63:13 65:19	21:11 22:17	62:14,19
keep 10:4	King's 37:9	Lawndale	66:4	26:20 28:15	68:2 69:5
35:5 52:11	37:16	28:9 84:20	levels 21:22	36:11,19	70:23 74:2
56:12 60:14	KLEE 45:16	84:22	Lexington	37:1,6 38:4	lots 73:7
63:19 64:12	knew 42:21	lawyers	61:1	39:2,14	louder 8:13
65:10,21	50:23 71:10	59:12	License	42:4	love 51:14,14
66:14,24	Knight 64:19	leader 25:2	88:12	location	52:2,8,11
69:13 79:22	knot 72:20	leadership	lies 30:3	36:23 41:10	56:23 57:3
84:2,17	know 26:6	20:13 25:23	life 49:17	43:4,4,5	57:10,19
86:19	28:2 44:7	learn 43:19	63:14 64:17	locations	60:13 62:5
keeping 5:5	50:7 51:14	52:3,5	69:16	8:22 18:1	62:5,17,18
66:16	51:22 54:12	62:14	limited 4:15	26:16 34:8	63:24 64:23
Kellman 30:7	59:10 60:2	learned 70:2	15:3 18:17	34:24 37:19	65:20 73:7
30:9,10	60:16 64:10	learners 7:7	line 49:8	42:12 43:3	74:8
36:14 37:1	64:21 65:8	26:13	lines 17:6	78:3	loving 51:18
51:5	66:12 67:12	learning	list 3:14 7:19	logistics 78:3	low-income
Kevin 2:18	70:3,5,5	26:11 69:5	27:18 33:14	long 33:15	85:24
82:18,22	71:13 72:4	72:8 86:5	43:21 51:6	45:20 46:6	low-level
kicking 43:11	73:5 76:16	leave 31:2	80:7	46:15,16	35:23
kids 32:4	76:17 77:17	58:3,5	listed 37:22	76:18	lowered
44:20,21	79:17 82:17	leaving 71:9	listen 47:17	longer 33:7	54:11
45:9,23	knowing 82:4	ledge 6:11	literally 30:7	42:16 85:18	lowest 21:18
	knowingly		30:11,15,21	Lonzo 2:3	83:9

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
 April 25, 2013

lunch 80:18	88:4,11	11:8 13:5	moments	music 81:11	51:17,17
80:20,24	Mass 20:11	25:11,14	69:16		56:5,7
81:6	Master's	29:1 43:2	Monday	N	61:18,19,19
luncheons	20:12	68:20 78:17	41:13	name 3:10	61:20,20
26:1	material 59:9	82:2	money 77:10	5:2,19	62:3,7 65:2
lunches	math 25:4	mentioned	83:24 84:2	12:14 19:11	67:14 68:18
80:20	52:5 54:21	9:15 26:14	monitor	28:5 33:22	72:10,12
	54:22 55:15	Merceless 2:9	23:17	43:15,23,23	82:14 83:22
M	58:16,17,19	messy 61:13	morally	44:18 45:18	83:24 84:1
M-i-c-h-e-l-e	62:20 63:11	method 30:23	34:12	47:2,2,6	84:2
5:20	65:7 66:1,8	metric 59:8	morning	48:7 49:6	needed 42:11
Maggie 42:21	72:1	mic 12:7 50:4	23:18 76:19	49:23 52:18	82:11
magnet 29:15	matters	Michele 5:18	79:18	52:21 54:20	needs 3:19,21
main 29:9	42:21	5:20	motivate	56:20,20	4:3,19 7:5
maintain	maturation	middle 24:24	69:13	58:9 60:6,6	22:14 24:13
24:3	53:18	40:2	motivated	60:20,20	24:14 26:9
maintained	Mayor 35:2	Millander	66:4	61:6,6,23	26:11 86:10
54:13	Mc 58:15	2:5 45:14	motto 74:20	61:23 63:6	neighbor
major 36:8	McLeod 1:4	45:18	mouth 84:17	63:7,10	37:10
Majority	6:2 28:12	million 41:14	move 30:21	64:7,7	neighborho...
40:16	73:19	Milton 6:4	33:12 39:10	65:16,16	28:17 31:4
making	Mereless	16:8	50:12	67:12,14,16	31:5,6,19
10:23 15:3	58:8,10,12	Mind 82:2	moved 30:23	67:16 68:23	38:4 67:22
mame 47:6	58:14,14	Mine 33:15	moves 28:18	68:23 70:13	70:17
man 43:18	mean 49:1	minus 14:13	28:19	70:13 73:22	neither 35:11
manage	77:13 80:19	15:11 59:6	moving 29:13	74:5 75:13	network
12:18	81:3	minute 80:17	29:21 31:18	80:8 82:22	19:14,16,19
Manley	meaningless	minutes 3:8	39:17 40:22	84:14,19	20:6 22:9
30:14 34:4	35:8	4:18 33:8	40:23 42:7	name 73:22	Network's
36:13 37:2	means 79:7	33:15 58:18	42:8 56:13	names 3:13	25:1
manner 86:7	measures	80:5,18	82:13	4:14 56:12	networks
map 9:5	21:14	mirrors 85:3	multiple 20:3	Naperville	19:16
18:10,12	meet 24:14	mismanage...	29:3 34:24	33:23	never 34:14
37:22 38:2	41:20 44:5	35:3	35:4	narrowly	34:22 51:3
38:10 86:12	meeting 8:1	mission	multiple-lane	86:7	51:11 72:9
86:21	meetings	66:13	38:6	near 28:9	74:1
March 7:24	7:13 8:2,3	Missionary	multiplied	nearest 42:5	Neville 1:10
marked 3:16	8:21 22:21	53:7	14:17 15:21	necessarily	3:3,10,19
3:17,18	26:5 81:24	mistakes 73:8	16:17	29:16 31:21	4:2 9:14
Marsella	meets 7:2	Miton 28:13	Multiplying	necessary	10:15,18,20
3:24	members	mix 86:17	15:9	41:14 78:7	11:3,15,24
Mary 1:4 6:2	6:21,22	mobility 85:5	mural 74:10	need 4:24 5:1	12:6,10
28:12 73:19	7:17 10:1	85:12,13	74:13,18	25:18 33:3	19:2,7,10
MARZUL...	10:11,22	mom 48:8	murals 74:22	33:10 45:10	27:9,15

28:1 30:9	79:13,19	16:4,16,17	32:17,22,24	80:2,4	65:21 66:7
32:17,22,24	80:2,4	32:2,6	33:2,6,16	81:22 82:16	66:15,17,24
33:2,6,16	81:22 82:16	35:23 55:17	33:19,21	82:21 84:10	83:20 84:3
33:19,21	82:21 84:10	55:19	38:13,19,21	84:13,16	86:20
38:13,19,21	84:13,16	numbers	38:23 40:10	86:21 87:1	operate 85:21
38:23 40:10	86:21 87:1	13:13 20:18	40:12,19,21	87:6,11	opportuniti...
40:12,19,21	87:6,11	nurtures	41:2,5 43:7	Officer's	74:16
41:2,5 43:7	new 25:9	59:1	43:13 44:9	13:9 20:15	opportunity
43:13 44:9	26:6 48:19	nurturing	44:13,16	Officers 7:20	29:3,16
44:13,16	70:17 71:11	59:16	45:1,4,11	offices 19:16	31:24 41:19
45:1,4,11	80:14,14	NWEA 44:7	45:17,22	officials 7:17	74:12 78:16
45:17,22	news 41:18	65:19 66:8	46:3,9,12	23:2	opposition
46:3,9,12	newspaper	72:1	46:17,19	okay 4:20	28:11 32:13
46:17,19	7:14 43:9	O	47:4 48:1,3	5:18 11:24	option 13:16
47:4 48:1,3	newspapers	O 88:2,2	48:10 49:4	27:15,23	30:6 31:7
48:10 49:4	35:11	o'clock 11:10	49:20,22	33:13,18,19	40:5,6,8,9
49:20,22	nice 52:3,7	11:17 87:7	50:3,6,11	33:20 40:24	41:7,8 77:2
50:3,6,11	61:13	obtain 25:3	50:14,17	41:4 43:13	options 7:9
50:14,17	night 5:12	occasionally	51:24 52:13	43:16 44:9	14:22 24:20
51:24 52:13	46:21 87:2	81:24	52:16,20,23	44:16 45:17	order 83:18
52:16,20,23	nighttime	occupancy	53:1,5	46:12,17,19	organize 3:12
53:1,5	76:11	36:17	54:16,19	47:1 48:3	originally
54:16,19	Nine 70:19	occupied	55:3,7	48:11,24	74:24 75:1
55:3,7	nine-year-o...	39:6	56:11,22	50:9 53:1,5	OSS 22:24
56:11,22	29:10	offenders	58:7,11,13	54:19 55:5	23:5,6,10
58:7,11,13	non-violent	48:20,24	60:4,18	58:11 62:21	23:13,20
60:4,18	67:23	offense 50:24	61:4,21	63:4,22	outcome
61:4,21	north 28:8	48:20,24	62:1,12,21	64:5,5	21:14
62:1,12,21	84:22	offer 44:20	62:23 63:2	65:14 68:7	outcry 34:12
62:23 63:2	northwest	offered 9:11	63:4,21	68:9 74:6	42:13
63:4,21	30:13	14:1	64:2,5	75:6,12,21	outlined
64:2,5	Notary 88:16	offering 45:8	65:11,14	75:23 78:19	18:15
65:11,14	note 22:1	offers 81:14	67:8,11,14	80:1,2,3	outlining 8:6
67:8,11,14	36:15	office 22:23	68:22 70:12	82:18,22	9:10
68:22 70:12	notes 88:8	24:16	72:23 73:21	87:11	outside 28:18
72:23 73:21	notice 6:20	Officer 1:10	74:4,6,23	once 25:7	30:22 31:5
74:4,6,23	6:24 7:12	3:3,11,19	75:4,8,17	79:5,7	37:12,19
75:4,8,17	7:15 81:24	4:2 6:1 9:14	75:21,23	ones 3:17	39:3 81:1
75:21,23	83:6 85:5	10:15,18,20	76:2,5,8,12	ongoing	overcrowded
76:2,5,8,12	November	11:3,15,24	76:15,21	77:22	14:22 15:17
76:15,21	7:21	12:6,10	77:3,6,13	open 27:17	oversight
77:3,6,13	number 8:10	19:2,7,10	77:16,20,24	36:24 52:12	19:17,20
77:16,20,24	14:16,17	27:9,15	78:19,24	60:3 63:9	owe 70:3
78:19,24	15:6,20,20	28:1,4 30:9	79:13,19	63:19 65:10	owners 39:8

P	37:7,9	perfect 4:19	33:14 52:3	10:6 11:8	prep 81:6
p.m 1:7 24:17	72:14	performance	54:3,15	35:22 78:13	prepare
24:17 80:22	passage	8:8 13:24	64:2 67:1	Police 22:24	24:14 68:12
packet 79:6	23:13,15,22	18:21 21:9	76:23	Policies 18:16	87:14
pages 56:18	82:2,9,10	21:11,13,20	placed 54:14	policy 8:7,10	prepared 3:6
Pamela 2:3	82:11,14	21:22 22:1	plan 13:1	21:9,11,22	5:10 27:5
27:22,22	86:16	42:19 85:13	14:2 22:11	22:1	42:19
33:23 38:13	passed 38:18	performing	22:15 23:3	politically	preps 80:17
40:10 43:13	pastor 53:7	9:10 21:17	26:20 27:17	34:13	preschool
88:4,11	53:10,12	21:18	79:5,10	Polk 18:6	48:13 74:1
paperwork	path 34:18	period 7:23	Planner	20:22,23	prescribe
75:18 76:6	paths 39:7	51:15 78:5	12:16,18,20	26:24 30:18	86:7
parameters	41:10	81:6,6	planning	30:19	present 78:18
80:15,17	pay 76:15	perpetuate	12:19	poorly 15:3	87:12
81:4	PCP 49:11	59:21	plans 6:23	populations	presentation
pardon 8:9	peace 25:12	person 27:22	7:1 22:19	86:18	3:5 4:9,11
parent 26:5	peaceful	70:3	platform	Portfolio	9:1 10:23
44:11,19	42:14	personal 59:1	34:21	12:15,18,20	19:5 27:11
45:14 74:7	pedaling	62:9	play 84:16	portion 66:10	33:7
75:12 79:16	36:22	personally	players 74:17	position 4:12	presentatio...
parent's	peer 25:15,16	63:11 74:14	playground	12:17 25:3	3:14 10:14
73:15	peer-to-peer	82:5	49:12,13	83:19	presenters
parents 6:20	25:16	personnel	pleasant 29:6	positive	10:9
7:16 13:4	Peggy 63:11	23:7	pleasantness	64:18	pretty 64:13
32:12 44:22	Pending 78:1	persons	54:7	possible	prevent
45:19,23,24	people 3:13	82:10	please 12:10	22:10	59:20
58:24 70:16	3:14,16,17	perspective	22:1 35:14	possibly 43:1	previous
71:2 79:17	4:17,21	64:23	36:15 37:20	posted 5:8	29:18
81:15,16,18	5:13 27:18	pertains 10:7	40:17,22	potential	primary
Park 28:8,16	33:9,14	Peterson 2:8	43:5,5	59:21,24	85:23
28:19,20	46:4 50:4	54:17,18,20	49:16 52:9	Powell 53:23	principal
part 27:16	61:15,19,20	54:20 55:9	52:12 56:8	powers 8:5	12:23 20:1
54:9,12	64:21 67:2	56:9	58:5 60:16	practicable	24:1,3 26:4
participants	67:4 70:1,5	phone 45:12	62:11 63:18	7:11	47:15 64:18
26:13	70:6 75:9	65:12	63:19 81:20	practices	80:10 86:15
particular	76:23 87:12	physical 34:7	86:19	20:9 25:15	principals
53:13,19	percent 14:13	pick 10:12	pleasure 80:9	praise 34:12	24:6,21
particularly	14:19 15:7	45:7 46:18	plus 14:13	42:13 43:4	25:5
85:22,23	15:11,19	50:18 76:19	15:11 58:16	pre-kinder...	prior 12:20
partners 23:2	16:16 49:1	81:18	58:17 59:4	14:7	23:19 35:2
partnerships	49:2,6	picnics 26:4	59:4 62:20	prejudice	priorities
81:10	81:17 83:13	piece 65:9	podium 6:11	49:7	84:1
pass 28:22	84:5 85:6,7	Pilsen 28:9	10:17	premature	prioritize
29:7 36:21	85:10	place 29:9	point 9:23	79:15	34:7

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
April 25, 2013

prioritizes 34:18	66:2 76:14 81:12,14	proud 54:9 74:7	publication 7:19	railroad 37:8	68:10 70:22 85:11
prioritizing 34:16 42:1	86:6	Proven 35:22	publish 22:19	rain 81:17	reasonable 37:2
private 81:11	progress 54:13 59:15	provide 7:10 17:21,24	published 7:13	raised 23:11	reasons 67:1 71:18
proactively 24:13	progresses 65:19	19:17 20:7 22:9 23:13	pull 47:23 82:7	range 9:5 13:19 14:10 14:12,21	reassigned 17:23 18:6
probation 8:8	prohibits 39:19	24:22 25:2 25:23 62:3	punished 56:4	15:1,11,22 15:23 16:5 16:13,20	receive 22:7 23:23 24:11 24:21 25:8 70:23
problem 25:16 32:24 57:22 68:4 69:15 85:4	project 8:12 projected 10:6 17:4,8 17:14,15	62:4 71:13 71:16 72:11 77:10 78:14 78:17 82:11	purposefully 38:3	17:6,12,17 27:2 82:15	received 9:14 21:8,19,21 21:24 22:22 71:23 79:6
problems 47:21 56:24 57:4,6 71:14	promote 86:9 proper 7:19 31:22	provided 25:19 26:2 26:8,16 77:22 81:12 86:3	push 10:4 pushed 63:13 pushes 71:20 Pushing 40:5 put 4:24 9:16 9:20 38:16 40:13 51:5 56:13 61:15 67:14 86:22	rate 48:24 49:1 83:8 83:13 85:5 85:13	receives 21:12
procedures 8:16	properties 29:7 39:8	provides 62:4 71:5,21 72:19	Q	rated 33:24	recess 52:4 80:17 81:1 81:2
proceed 12:11	property 34:9,19 36:10 37:3 37:8 40:2,8 41:7	providing 81:4,5	qualified 7:20	rates 36:17	recommen... 78:21 79:2 79:3
proceedings 87:19 88:6 88:7,9	proposal 5:24 6:9,15 7:1,2 8:19 12:4 13:8 13:22 16:10 19:6 22:6	provisions 8:5	Qualitysch... 11:22	rating 21:13 21:19,21 81:8	reconstituted 31:12
process 5:14 8:6 22:10 77:23	PTC 24:2 PTCs 24:6	public 1:3 4:9 4:10 5:9 6:1 6:12 8:13 8:17,21 9:19 10:1 10:11,12,17 10:18,23 11:8 12:16 13:6 14:10 19:13,15,24 27:17 29:2 29:19 34:23 35:19 36:3 36:5 40:4 41:16 42:5 46:20 78:23 87:16 88:16	qualityscho... 11:13	ratings 22:2 22:4	record 4:24 5:4 6:7 9:13 9:16,20 11:19 27:20 40:13 46:23 56:14 78:14 79:22 86:23 87:8
produce 35:13	proposals 7:24		question 45:1 45:19 46:4 46:6,20 54:22 73:12 75:13,14 77:7,19	reach 66:5 68:14	readiness 25:1
professional 20:10	propose 13:11,15		questions 5:16 27:13 32:15,18,18 46:22 54:24 55:2 79:14	reading 25:4 40:24 63:12 65:7 66:8	ready 12:8
professors 59:12	proposed 1:3 8:17 9:6 16:7 18:10 18:22 27:3 28:12,17		quickly 5:11	real 74:16	really 5:14 45:7 47:8,9 49:24 64:23 66:20 69:2 85:3
program 18:19 25:3 29:15 58:16 58:22,23 71:24 81:13	proposing 18:5,14		quote 86:3	reason 47:19 56:2 57:3 57:10,19 64:12 65:22 66:7 68:1	recorded 13:13 20:18
programmed 15:3 86:10	protection 71:16		R	recruitment 12:23	redacted 43:15,23 47:2,6 56:20 60:6 60:20 61:6 61:23 63:6
programm... 14:22 81:16					
programs 37:17 39:19					

64:7 65:16	reports 21:22	77:18 78:10	45:24 56:19	68:3,5 69:8	13:24 14:4
67:16 68:23	22:3	respectful	61:16,21	70:22 72:18	14:6,15,21
70:13 73:22	represent	54:4	63:22 66:23	73:5 82:2,9	15:1,5,13
reduced	34:2 82:24	respectfully	73:12 75:1	82:10,11,14	15:14 16:4
14:23	representat...	40:3	76:7,23,24	86:16	16:5,9 18:1
reference	12:3 42:23	respective	77:5,7,24	safer 34:18	18:1,3,9
10:10	82:23	8:3	78:24 79:15	39:8	20:16,19
referenced	representat...	respond	83:3	safety 7:4	21:5,6,7,8,8
10:22	4:11 79:8	27:13	rigor 24:3	22:12,23	21:10,12,20
reflecting	represented	responsibil...	ring 33:16	23:7,8,11	22:2,5,8
21:22	38:1	20:3	riskiest 37:19	23:17 31:20	23:7,8,15
regarding	representing	responsible	rival 86:13	35:16 41:21	23:18,19
13:6,21	17:7	19:20	Robin 2:8	70:4,9 71:5	24:4,24
36:2 37:22	request 9:12	rest 79:21	54:16,20	71:12,13,16	25:1,9,11
registration	41:13	restorative	55:7	save 56:23	26:3,6 27:2
11:6 18:13	requested	25:15	Rock 53:7	64:9 70:15	27:3 28:12
regular 69:23	85:20	result 34:11	role 20:7	70:15 72:15	28:14,15,17
reinsured	require 36:21	39:22 42:12	roll 73:23	72:18 83:18	28:24 29:2
51:9	requireme...	43:4	room 27:12	saving 64:13	29:20 30:3
relationship	6:15	resulting	83:21	72:21,21	30:4,4,8,10
54:6 69:24	reroute 37:20	13:17 16:11	rooms 15:7	savings 39:20	30:13,14
remain 18:12	37:20	20:24	Roosevelt	saying 5:8	31:4,5,9,11
27:12	residential	rethink 49:16	36:8 38:6	46:10 51:20	31:16 32:1
remainder	34:2,9,19	returning 6:3	39:4	53:14 54:1	32:2,3,5
22:8 24:4	35:15 36:6	17:22 26:17	Ross 74:19	58:8 72:24	33:24,24
remark 53:3	36:10,12	REVERAND	route 39:8	78:22,23	34:3,7,7,10
remediation	37:3,24	52:19,22,24	76:22	82:3	34:14,18,23
8:8	39:7,24	53:3,6	routes 29:3	says 5:7	35:5,12,15
remember	40:2 42:4,6	Reverend 2:8	43:1	53:11,20	35:19 36:2
66:10 77:22	42:23	52:19,20	run 19:16	88:5	36:4,4,5,5
78:20	residentially	53:6	53:15 80:19	scheduled	36:14,18
rent 37:15	41:22	review 8:10	rush 62:18	7:13	37:4,13
repairs 41:14	residents	18:15 23:6		Scholastic	38:5 40:1,4
repeat 11:15	32:12	rich 81:10	S	18:7	41:19,23
report 46:1	resolution	Richard 1:10	S 11:23	school 1:4	42:3,6,21
46:18 57:17	25:17	3:10	Sacramento	4:12 6:3,4	43:24 44:1
73:24 81:19	resource 24:8	rid 72:16	30:17,18	6:16,17,21	44:8,24
87:14,15	resources	right 3:8,24	safe 23:4,13	6:22 7:10	45:3,5,7
reported	15:4 22:12	5:5 10:6	23:15,22	7:16,16,21	46:5 47:7
39:15 41:17	22:16 24:22	12:6,10	51:9,12	7:22 8:5,6,8	48:19 51:1
88:6	25:6,23	19:2,8	60:14 61:8	8:9,10,15	51:12 52:3
reporter 5:3	26:2 56:6,7	30:21 33:4	61:8,10	8:15,17,23	52:4,11,12
38:16,17	respect 13:8	34:13 40:12	62:17 64:1	9:10 13:10	53:11,14,15
88:5	47:19 69:11	41:4 43:15	66:20 67:22	13:11,14,17	54:9,12

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 4-25-2013 5:30
 April 25, 2013

55:5,12,21	8:13 10:23	35:20,23,24	sex 48:20,24	sit 30:15	39:2
56:10,21,23	11:22 12:16	38:11 50:11	share 62:8	43:18,20	space 8:14
56:23 57:1	14:10 17:1	51:16 57:9	shared 54:21	44:16 62:8	9:3 13:7,12
57:5,8,10	18:18 19:13	60:12 62:7	55:15	site 11:20,21	13:17,20,22
57:11,12,19	19:13,15,17	75:11 78:12	she'll 4:5	situated	14:11 16:12
58:3,3,4,5,6	19:24 20:3	79:23 82:18	shorten	30:12	16:14 17:18
59:5,13	20:5,8	83:6 84:5,8	33:15	situations 7:7	20:17,23
60:7,12,14	21:16,17	seeing 59:5	shorthand	26:12 69:18	81:1 86:3,9
60:15,17,21	29:19 30:15	seen 53:18	88:6,8	six 5:9 20:2	Spanish 3:22
61:3,7,14	30:20 34:3	54:2,3 55:4	show 38:24	71:9	4:3
61:15,16,17	35:6,23	selections	51:13 57:23	sixth 48:2,12	speak 4:18
62:15,18	36:13,16	25:7	86:13	63:2 68:24	5:13 40:15
63:7 64:8	42:17 46:20	sell 37:16	showed 81:18	sixth-grade	48:5,6,7
65:21,23	61:11 63:9	49:11	81:18	59:9	50:3 72:5
66:6,14,14	65:6 67:20	send 70:17	showing 17:6	sixth-seventh	speaker 2:1
66:15,18,22	76:3 83:9	86:12	18:10	64:9	67:13 83:16
67:1,13,17	83:18,19	sending	shown 85:22	size 85:1,3	speaking
67:18,22,22	84:3,22,24	39:11 49:8	shows 17:4	sizings 86:1	10:5
67:23 68:8	85:17 87:16	49:10	shut 68:11	sleeping 37:9	special 55:21
68:24 70:15	science 13:2	sense 70:4	shuttle 17:22	slide 17:4	specific 7:5
70:17 71:1	63:11 65:8	sent 22:16	17:23 26:15	slides 10:8	23:11,21
71:7,10,11	66:2	September	31:23	slit 64:9	24:11
72:6,15,16	scientists	19:23 20:4	Shy 63:13	slower 47:4	specifically
73:2,4,9,10	59:11	serious 32:10	siblings 71:8	small 85:21	6:18 34:8
73:11,17,17	scope 79:24	32:11	sick 44:21,23	86:1	spend 53:13
73:20 74:8	score 72:1	serve 27:4	45:5	smooth 24:4	83:24 84:2
74:13,14,19	scores 21:15	35:15 36:6	side 28:9	social 7:4	spending
74:19 75:15	54:5 56:4	37:13,19	74:10	22:13 25:8	53:10 87:13
75:16,18	screen 3:5	served 34:3	sign 3:21 5:1	66:9 81:12	spirits 64:18
76:1,10,20	10:7 17:2	serves 14:6	signed 3:15	socially 53:20	spite 85:13
79:9 80:10	second 23:10	Services 23:1	27:18 40:15	society 66:22	sponsor 26:2
80:15,16	24:10 25:14	serving 20:4	significant	Solid 53:7	square 36:9
81:4,7,9	38:8 57:10	37:4 38:9	24:7 65:17	solve 47:21	42:20
82:1,6,7	63:1,3,4	set 3:8 4:7,8	85:8	57:22	SS 88:1
83:6,19	64:14 71:18	24:15 43:19	significantly	solving 25:17	stability 56:7
84:8,21	84:24	64:6	85:9,12	sons 48:13	stable 59:13
85:21 86:1	seconds	settled 42:15	signs 3:20	sores 57:17	staff 6:21
86:20	81:21	seven 29:10	simply 42:9	sorry 15:24	7:16 20:10
school's	security 7:4	34:3 39:14	single 49:16	30:12,17	21:4 23:12
14:20,24	22:23 23:7	53:9	72:11	32:23 52:21	23:14 24:12
15:16 22:4	68:8	seven-and-...	sir 10:19	sounded 34:8	25:11,14,24
42:1	see 3:5,8 4:4	33:15	38:22	south 28:9	31:12 47:23
schools 4:9	10:13 32:2	Seventh	sister 23:3	30:12	50:21 57:5
4:10 5:9 6:2	33:12,22	52:15	73:4	southeast	59:1 68:6

68:12,20	steps 23:6	13:12 20:18	21:3,4 22:6	63:14	68:7,9 80:6
69:17 71:15	stick 85:17	21:14,15	22:13 23:4	success 35:13	85:15 87:5
83:7,11	stop 69:5	24:13 34:18	23:11,14,17	successful	87:9
stand 23:16	82:5	38:1 39:6	23:23 24:9	34:22 68:13	surrounded
28:11 32:1	storage 29:8	39:13 41:10	24:11,12,18	84:3	34:19 39:7
40:17	store 82:2	42:20 43:16	24:23 25:4	successfully	41:22
standardized	straightened	43:16,17,21	25:7,12,18	35:21	suspensions
21:14 56:4	43:19	43:23 46:24	25:22 26:8	suggested	64:11
standards	strategic	47:1,2,3,6,7	26:11,11,17	41:13	sworn 88:4
8:14 13:12	12:18 13:1	47:23 48:2	26:24 27:5	suited 36:24	88:14
13:20 14:11	20:8	48:5 51:24	27:5 29:4	summaries	system 33:24
16:14 20:18	strategically	51:24 52:2	32:6 37:5,5	8:2,20	34:1,23
54:11 86:3	80:13	52:15 56:16	37:20 39:11	supervise	35:19,24
86:8	straw 31:18	56:16,17,20	39:17 42:7	20:7	42:3
standing 3:23	street 14:4	56:23 60:4	42:8,18	supplement	system's
82:3	18:8 20:22	60:6,7,18	53:17 54:3	78:14	35:24
stars 50:7	20:23 23:16	60:20 61:4	54:7 55:16	support 6:9	systemic
start 3:4 5:15	26:24 83:12	61:5,6,21	56:3,5,9	8:19 12:3	59:22
5:16,18	streets 29:9	61:23 62:2	58:15,20,24	19:5,17,20	systems 23:8
23:19	36:8 38:6	62:12,13,22	59:15,20,24	23:1 24:9	
started 50:18	48:17	63:1,3,5,6,7	64:12,15	24:23 25:5	T
85:16,19	strength	63:21,23	66:9 68:17	25:8 27:11	tab 6:19 7:12
starting	34:17	64:4,6,7	70:21 71:20	34:10 38:10	8:4,7,12,13
80:20	strengthen	65:11,12,16	71:22 72:4	84:8,21	8:16,18,19
state 20:12	42:2	65:17 67:10	73:14 76:4	supported	8:24 9:7
85:3 88:1	strengtheni...	67:11,16	76:9 80:19	26:10 74:8	12:5 14:12
stated 16:2	35:18,20	68:22,23,24	80:24 81:2	supporting	17:3 18:11
statement	strengthens	69:12 70:12	81:16 82:1	37:23 39:15	21:12,24
8:24 9:8	42:9	70:13,14	82:3,4,6,12	41:18 43:10	22:18 26:21
12:3,5 19:1	Strike 53:3	72:9,11,14	82:13 83:22	84:21	41:16
27:8,19	strong 69:24	72:20,23	84:2,6 85:2	supportive	table 7:18
statements	86:6	73:21,22	85:24 86:4	25:22	take 10:21
6:14,18	stronger	81:5,5 85:5	studies 85:22	supports 7:3	23:6 38:14
States 34:1	69:21	86:10	stuff 51:10	7:5 9:10	45:12 53:12
statistics 83:8	structure	student's 7:9	61:17 74:17	14:1 22:7	56:6,22
status 9:9	29:8	students 6:3	subject 29:18	23:14,22,24	58:21 64:22
22:5	struggles	6:21 7:4,5,6	submit 11:9	26:7,19	67:4 75:2
statute 4:7,8	59:21	9:4,11	submitted	27:6 86:5	79:3
stay 36:24	student 2:4,5	13:16 14:6	6:8	supposed 3:4	taken 54:3,10
66:7 71:19	2:7,9,10,10	16:1,7,22	SUBSCRI...	44:22 45:21	54:14 78:7
76:18 83:20	2:11,11,12	16:22 17:10	88:14	51:19	88:9
stays 60:3	2:12,13,13	17:11,11,19	subtracting	sure 11:2	talent 65:7
STEM 29:15	2:14,14,15	17:22 18:2	59:6	40:14 64:13	talk 4:5 31:23
71:24	2:15,16	20:21,24	succeed	66:3,13	46:1 47:16

55:14 56:24 57:4,22 62:8 71:14 75:9 82:9 talked 63:18 talking 45:4 45:22 57:6 76:2,8 tardies 74:1 teacher 12:21 12:23 20:1 25:2 63:11 63:12,12,13 71:15 72:13 72:20 83:8 teachers 24:24 44:6 46:2 47:13 50:21 51:14 52:7,7,8,11 54:6 55:18 57:13 58:24 59:11 60:10 60:13 62:5 62:7,8,19 63:10 64:20 66:2,13 68:6,12,20 69:12 72:9 82:24 83:7 83:10 teaches 62:19 teaching 20:10 51:18 team 26:1 63:16 Tech 71:24 technical 9:24 technology 23:8 tell 58:20 64:24 82:5 telling 83:23	tells 66:6,21 83:10 temporary 7:6 26:12 ten 28:19 70:19 80:5 ten-year-old 29:10 tendered 6:5 Tennessee 12:22 terms 10:5 40:13 territories 29:6 73:16 86:14 Terry 2:6 48:7,8,11 49:18,18,19 74:24 75:2 75:7 test 21:15 54:5 testify 64:13 testing 33:5 66:11 tests 56:4 thank 11:24 12:1 18:24 19:2,4 27:7 27:9,14,15 27:24 28:3 32:20,21 33:1,20 35:1 39:1 43:13 44:9 45:11 46:24 48:3 49:19 52:16 53:2 54:15,16 56:11 60:4 60:18 61:4 62:22 63:20 63:21 64:6	64:6 65:10 67:6,8 68:21 72:21 72:23 74:3 74:22,23 80:4 82:15 82:16 84:8 84:19 87:12 87:18 thanks 12:13 19:7 thing 57:15 62:10 67:2 things 31:21 60:2 61:20 62:9 69:16 69:18,18 75:17 78:4 80:11 think 5:15 11:1 45:8 46:12,20,21 47:8,10 50:1,9,15 50:19 51:7 51:12,13,21 53:11,14,24 54:12 55:3 55:4,5,11 55:18,23,24 56:3,5,7,9 56:15 58:1 58:7 60:22 61:2 63:18 63:23 67:18 67:23 68:1 69:2,3 73:9 73:19 75:19 76:5 79:19 83:7 85:4 86:11 thinking 59:4 thinks 72:5 third 23:13	24:15 25:18 31:15 39:13 57:19 58:17 59:3 73:23 74:11 84:4 thought 38:19 three 7:3 29:8 30:15 30:15 41:9 48:11 49:18 58:19 60:21 71:18 three-flat 40:7 41:6 three-flats 39:24 throwing 48:16 tied 72:20 tight 72:20 time 4:20,21 6:6 9:12 10:9 11:21 12:2 18:18 19:4 24:15 27:7,14 32:4,5 40:20 44:5 51:8 53:12 56:22 57:9 75:11,15 78:5 84:19 87:13 TIMEKEE... 56:8 81:20 times 69:15 76:22 timing 3:12 today 5:23 13:4 28:11 29:1 31:24 32:2 59:6 63:19 78:18	tolerate 42:16 tomorrow 11:10,17 87:2,8 tonight 3:9 3:11 5:6,14 18:12 40:15 46:21 79:24 top-of-the-l... 71:21 total 14:19 15:6,18 16:15 17:11 17:16 80:18 totally 71:11 tow 29:12 Townsend 2:16 74:5,5 74:7 track 47:24 57:13 66:14 tragic 67:2 transcript 5:6,8,10 88:8 transcripts 8:20 transition 6:23,24 9:11 14:1 18:22 22:10 22:15,19 23:4,24 24:1,5 25:13 26:7 26:10,20 27:6 76:19 79:5,10,18 transitioning 24:12 26:5 77:11 Transitions 59:18	transport 42:9 transporta... 35:9,16 transportat... 7:11 17:21 17:24 26:15 31:24 44:20 45:9,10 75:24 77:19 78:2 travel 18:18 23:17 29:4 traveled 18:19 traveling 23:14 48:18 treat 47:18 69:11 trend 16:24 17:5 trips 26:5 trouble 70:20 Troy 49:20 Troyanna 2:6 49:23 true 53:7 83:5,12 88:8 trust-billing 26:1 try 3:7 4:18 8:12 33:11 57:18 78:12 80:6 trying 3:4 45:21 77:3 79:13 turn 45:11 72:9 75:3 turn-around 29:20 31:11 57:12 turn-over
---	--	--	---	---	--

83:8	underutiliz...	86:3	19:12	wastefully	73:2,8
turned 44:3	13:11 15:2	utilize 35:14	Wade 74:18	40:1	west 14:3
turnover	15:15 20:17	utilized 16:6	wait 3:5 82:6	watch 33:4	18:6,8
83:13	26:22 34:24	30:5	waiting 51:6	61:9	20:22,23
tutor 54:17	36:3 55:24	utilizes 14:10	walk 39:20	way 4:7,8	24:17 26:24
54:21 58:16	75:15		43:1 45:3	19:23 21:6	28:8,9,19
58:19	unemployed	V	45:20 46:7	46:16 69:20	28:20 37:6
tutoring 25:3	36:22	vacancies	46:16 55:10	70:5 72:14	white 77:10
65:1	Unfortunat...	39:24	61:1 73:14	81:14 82:1	Williams
tutors 60:10	87:4	vacant 29:7,8	83:2,6	82:19	64:18 80:5
64:20	uniform	37:7	Walliams	ways 69:24	80:7,8,9
two 4:15,18	77:10	vagrant 53:3	2:17	we'll 4:10 5:2	81:21,23
7:2 8:21	uniforms	Valeri 2:18	Wanda 2:2	5:12 9:18	willing 44:19
28:22 35:4	62:4 78:10	Valerie 84:10	9:8 13:23	10:10 31:23	win 34:21
36:16 38:9	Union 82:24	84:15,19	18:21 19:11	43:18 53:5	windows
42:20 48:13	unique 26:9	valuable	want 4:20	75:11 79:23	61:11,13,13
49:24 50:20	65:6	72:19	9:23 10:5	we're 3:4,4,7	wing 54:10
83:14	United 34:1	value 49:16	10:21 33:9	4:15 9:23	wishes 11:8
typical 15:5	81:14	54:14	40:14 41:2	27:16 32:6	witness 9:22
15:13	University	values 40:8	51:16 56:12	45:13 46:21	28:5 30:10
Typically	13:3 20:12	41:7	58:2 60:9	50:7 55:1	33:13 38:22
85:16	20:13	Vanderbilt	70:8,16	61:13 78:11	49:5 50:9
	unmanage...	13:3	71:12 72:12	79:13 80:6	wonder 71:7
U	39:18	variety 21:13	74:2,12,14	83:17,23	wonderful
Uh-huh	unsafe 41:10	verify 43:2	79:17 83:2	84:20,21	44:5
76:24	unused 15:2	versus 41:23	83:10 84:23	85:20	wondering
ultimately	update 23:7	vest 49:9	85:15 86:12	we've 4:14	30:6
79:10	upkeep 41:15	vests 23:16	wanted 54:22	77:21 80:5	work 23:20
undergone	uprooted	view 37:2	55:14 59:5	wear 23:15	25:12 36:1
31:10	59:16	viewing 6:12	wanting	wearing 77:9	41:13 47:21
underpasses	urge 34:6	violence 68:3	73:13	website 5:9	57:14 69:18
37:8	35:4 37:18	visited 53:24	wants 9:20	week 53:10	81:23 82:8
underperfo...	59:23	visiting 41:12	11:4,16	53:13	83:11 85:16
56:1	urger 39:10	visitors 53:22	75:2 79:7	welcome 6:3	85:19
understand	use 15:3 25:6	visits 26:3	Ward 28:6,6	9:3 20:24	worked
10:20 14:9	40:20 65:15	volunteer	28:7	24:18 47:12	12:21 22:24
33:7 41:1	86:8	43:1	warmth 51:4	47:18,20	78:5
44:4 69:16	usually 66:18	volunteering	51:13,17	51:1	workers
understand...	utilization	53:8 74:9	64:17	welcomed	23:15
55:16	8:14 12:19		Washington	16:8 20:21	working 43:6
underutiliz...	13:7,12,18	W	2:2 9:8	21:3	58:18,21
9:2	13:20,22	W-a-n-d-a	13:23 18:21	welcoming	59:8 82:15
underutilize	14:11 16:12	19:12	19:5,8,9,11	13:24 18:2	works 12:7
34:22	16:14 20:17	W-a-s-h-i...	19:11 24:17	went 51:2,5	58:23 60:14

worry 59:14	Z	16 68:22,23	20:19	377 14:6 16:4	65 2:14
worst 47:10	Zakaria	17 2:15 70:12	21 12:5	17:9 39:18	67 2:14
worth 59:7	49:18 75:2	70:13	21-day 7:23	39:22,23	
wrap 40:10	75:5	173 59:4	21.77 85:2	40:5 43:11	7
writing 4:23	Zakaria's	18 2:15 72:24	21st 81:15	39 15:6,8	7 2:11 56:17
66:8	48:8	19 2:2,16	22 17:3		59:4 61:5,5
written 5:5	zone 67:5	73:21,22	22nd 33:24	4	61:6
6:14,18		1978 33:23	23 18:11	4 2:7 51:24	70 2:15
8:18,24 9:7	0	1st 7:21	24 20:8	52:1,2,15	707 17:11
9:18 11:9	084-001624	24:16	25 1:7 21:24	40 16:15 84:5	718 17:16
35:10	88:12		256 72:2	402 17:15	72 2:15
wrong 34:12	1	2	26 15:20,21	43 2:4	720 15:12,14
43:10,11,12	1 2:4 6:7 9:13	2 2:5 46:24	27 48:20,24	44 2:4	16:21
57:22 82:21	21:17,21	47:1,2,6	275 59:6	45 2:5 58:18	73 2:16
	22:18 26:21	48:2	27th 19:23	80:18	74 2:16
X	42:17,18	20 14:13	28 2:3	46 2:5	75 2:17
	43:16,16,17	15:11 19:24	28th 28:6,6,7	48 2:6	76 14:18 15:7
Y	43:21,21,23	20.8 85:10	2908 24:17	49 2:6	15:19 16:16
year 8:9,15	1,080 15:12	200 30:3,8,11			77 14:19 15:7
13:10,14	15:16 16:21	2003 85:6	3	5	15:19 16:16
14:6 16:4	1:00 24:17	201-2014	3 21:18,19	5 2:10 56:17	780 15:22
17:16 18:9	10 2:12 62:12	17:15	48:5,8 59:4	60:5,6	7th 11:12,18
20:20 21:10	62:13,22	2011-2012	3:00 24:17	5:00 11:10,17	87:6
21:21 22:2	63:1,3	8:9 21:10	80:22	87:2,7	
22:5,8,9	103 41:6	21:20 22:2	30 14:17 15:8	5:30 1:7 3:4	8
24:4 70:7	11 2:12 39:14	2012 12:17	15:9,9,21	500 59:6	8 2:11 61:22
71:7 83:1	46:13 63:5	19:23 20:4	16:16,17,18	51 2:7	61:23 62:2
83:14	63:6	80:10 85:7	55:16	53 2:8	8,000 42:19
year's 59:7	11-block	85:10	300 80:19,24	54 2:8	80 2:17 83:13
years 19:24	39:18,20	2012-12013	81:2	56 2:9	82 2:18
20:2 23:20	112 39:24	8:15	3030 14:3	58 2:9	84 2:18
29:20,24	40:7	2012-2013	18:8	5th 87:14	8th 24:16
31:11 50:24	12 2:2,13	13:10,14	31.3 85:7		
53:9 54:2	21:12 63:22	14:6 16:3	316 17:16	6	9
60:22 61:7	63:23 64:4	20:19 22:3	31st 7:24	6 2:10 56:17	9 2:9 56:16
85:17	13 2:13 64:6	22:5	33 2:3	60:19,20	56:16,20,23
yields 15:21	64:7	2013 1:7	330 16:22	60 2:10,10	9:00 80:20
16:18	14 2:14 14:12	88:15	17:10	80:17	900 15:10,11
young 44:13	65:11,12,16	2013-14	35 15:18	61 2:11,11	16:19
48:13	67:10	23:19	36 49:1,2,6	61.5 85:6	934 15:24
younger	15 2:14 7:24	2013-2014	360 81:13	62 2:12	936 15:24
29:11 71:8	67:11,16	17:8	3715 18:6	624 15:24,24	96 81:17
youngsters	15th 24:16	20th 13:13	20:22,23	63 2:12,13	
31:17		14:5 16:3	26:24	64 2:13	

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF 4-25-2013 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXHIBITS 2-6



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April 23, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

COMMITTEES, RULES AND ETHICS
ECONOMIC, CAPITAL & TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION

Honorable Hearing Officer -- Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Honorable Hearing Officer,

My name is Jason C. Ervin and I am the Alderman of the 28th Ward. The 28th Ward includes portions of the communities of Austin, East & West Garfield Park, North & South Lawndale, Near West Side, and Pilsen / Heart of Chicago. I write this letter in opposition to proposed closing of Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School ("Bethune") and its consolidation with John Milton Gregory Elementary School ("Gregory").

Bethune is an elementary school located in the East Garfield Park community and functions as a neighborhood. The proposed consolidation moves children out of their community of East Garfield Park and moves them 10 blocks away into to West Garfield Park. This action would cause children to pass through the attendance boundaries of two schools, Chalmers and Jensen to get to Gregory. Today, I had another opportunity to drive multiple routes these students would need to travel to go from Bethune to Gregory and none of them are pleasant. Having to cross several gang territories, a correctional facility, vacant eight story structures, and cross three to four arterial streets is a great deal to place on a nine year old child. Furthermore, moving children from Bethune to Gregory without an academic enhancement such as STEM, IB, Fine Arts, or Magnet School programming is not necessasirily a better educational opportunity.

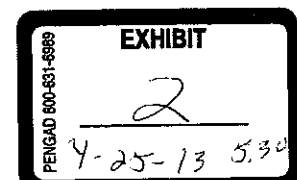
Bethune has been subject to previous actions by Chicago Public Schools in being a turnaround school in the past couple of years. This additional action of moving these children would add further complications to children's lives that have already had a drastic educational action done in recent years. Finally, I look at Kellman Corporate Academy, a CPS 105% utilized school, less than 200 feet from Bethune and wonder why co-location or consolidation is not an option. Children should not have to leave their community for a basic education.

In closing, I am asking the consolidation of Bethune and Gregory be found not in compliance with the policies of Chicago Public Schools and the laws under the State of Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason C. Ervin
Alderman - 28th Ward

"Moving the 28th Ward to the Next Level"

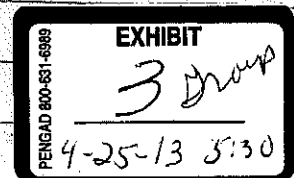


Pamela Lonzo

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Chicago IL

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~~BA Start mainstream
Hand Special needs
Results Poor to segregate them~~

Good evening

Regarding: the Bethune
grade school community.

TO:

The Board of education,
CPS UNION, our Alderman
and our Mr. MAYOR Emanuel

My name, is Pam Olah,
1978 graduate from the
Naperville, IL School system;
then Rated 22nd best
School system in the United States

I Represent the Residentia
Community
Served by 7 Schools;

Kellman corp grade school,
Manley HS, Bethune,
Collins HS, Jenson,
Chalmers and KING.

Collectively, we urge
the Board to focus
and prioritize School
Closures, by physical School
locations, specifically
those not surrounded
by Residential property.

* We ^{do} support grade School
building closures, but

They should result in
Community PRAISE, NOT
Community outcry.

Nothing morally wrong
CAN ever be politically RIGHT.

*We believe, the School Board
would never knowingly
destroy, nor gut a
community, to achieve
its financial goals.

Prioritizing the enhancement
of each community's
educational strength,

PRIORITIZES a Safer
Student path to Schools,
Surrounded by Residential property
* This achieves the Board's
financial goals and a platform
EVERYONE CAN WIN ON.

The most successful of
industries would never underutilize
facilities, yet the Chicago
public School System has
multiple underutilized
LOCATIONS.

* Indeed we greatly thank

the Board AND the MAYOR
for their courage to correct
PRIOR administrative financial
~~MIS~~ MISmanagement.

Too, we urge all other
Multiple grade School
Communities to ask the
Board to keep their most
Centralized Schools in
their communities. For example
if a building has computers
or not, or air conditioners
or not, is meaningless.
Transportable items

* as written for consideration,
→ in our news papers *

Should NOT be considered.

Neither, should closings
be based on School level.

Everyone knows a building
does NOT produce success,
what goes on inside it does.

Please utilize buildings
inside the Residential
Communities they serve.
School level and employees

are transportable too,

Child Safety is not.

This is about Strengthening
the finances of the Chicago
Public School System
and Strengthening the
Communities it affects.

You see, successfully,
we can't do one
without the other.

Proof in point, see the
number of low level schools
in this system? See the
system's financial bleeding!
They ^{do} work hand in hand.

Now, regarding Bethune's grade School community, there are 4 underutilized public grade School buildings and one corporate School, Kellman.

These four public grade School buildings, serve one Residential Community. This Community's boundaries are easily identified by 4 major HWY-Streets. Roosevelt, California, Harrison + Keldzie

forming a large square
area of Residential property.

Within these boundaries,
located in the heart of this
Residential community, next
to each other, are Schools
Bethune, Manley Career
Academy HS, Kellman Corp;
and within eyesight, <sup>All on
the same
street
Sacramento</sup>
Jenson and Collins HS.

Please note, Collins is
now beautifully holding
two Schools in its building,

full filling its occupancy Rates

On the other hand, this
Community's School buildings,
located across its commercial
Hwy boundaries are Jenson,
Chalmers and King.

Jenson and Chalmers
Require children to pass
by crowded unemployed
peddling adults. Comparing
their building's locations,
Jenson is better suited to
stay open, not Chalmers.

Jenson is located
within eyesight of
Kellman Corp, Manley H.S,
and in a Reasonable
Kneck- Stretch, Bethune
and Residential property.

King School should only
be serving students
east of it. However,
King serves our West Community

King is located well beyond
our HWY boundaries, causing
Children past vacant

Commercial property, active
railroad underpasses by
homeless drifters, often
sleeping, then pass
King's neighbor, a factory.

Therefore, we should
close Chalmers and King;
both buildings are
outside the community
they serve, away from
our other school buildings, ~~and~~ ^{and} ^{are}
on Commercial corners.

Additionally, we should

Commercially Rent or Sell
Chalmers' and King's
buildings to fund
our after school programs.

Based on this information,
we urge you to close
the riskiest and most outside
locations they serve.

Please Reroute King
Students into Jenson and
Reroute Chalmers into Bethune.

R* Regarding the map Listed
benefits literature supporting

the closure of Bethune:

FIRST, Bethune's Residential School Community, determined by student addresses, was not accurately represented in the map. Generations ago, families purposefully located less than 5 blocks from the neighborhood School buildings, within the borders of 4 busy multiple lane streets, Roosevelt, California, Harrison & Kedzie.

Second, Chalmers' building,
although serving this
community too, was
completely left off this
distributed map to support
Bethune's closure.

Chalmers is located across
the crowded high RISK
SE corner of this community
outside boundary; Roosevelt
and California, ~~at the intersection~~

Moreover, Chalmers is only
4 blocks from our Under

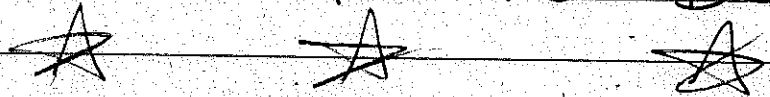
occupied Bethune, where
its student paths are
surrounded by their homes,
Residential properties + owners
a much safer route for
our children. Thus, we
Urge Chalmers to move
into Bethune.

* Closing Bethune and Sending
Students to Gregory will
destroy this community *

THIRD, MOST all Bethune's
Student ~~homes~~ homes

are located 11 blocks

from Gregory, NOT 7 blocks
as reported in the supporting
literature to close Bethune.



* Moving Bethune Students to
Gregory, makes 377 Children's
11 block commute unmanageable,
and prohibits them from
after school programs → the
SAVINGS grace of any child
due to an 11 block walk
in the dark / NO late buses.*

AS a result, Closing Bethune

are located 11 blocks

from Gregory, NOT 7 blocks
as reported in the supporting
literature to close Bethune.



* Moving Bethune Students to
Gregory, makes 377 Children's

11 block Commute unmanageable
and prohibits them from

after school programs → the

SAVINGS GRACE of any child

due to an 11 block walk

in the dark / NO late buses.

AS a Result, Closing Bethune

377 families out of
our community is not
an option. Emptying 12
three flat buildings
is not an option.

Devastating our property
values, is not an option.
NOT, when there
are ⁽³⁾ three other building
location choices, with
unsafe student paths,
that won't devastate
this community, if closed.
Fourth, after visiting

Bethune again last Monday
We Request the work and
bids suggested to the board,
as necessary for \$10.5 Million

This public tab appears
to be highly inaccurate,
yet reported on the literature

Supporting Bethune's Closure
~~There is~~ GOOD NEWS!

The School Board now
has the opportunity to
meet its financial goals
and improve both the
Safety and education of

its children, both here
and at other ^{communities} Residentially
Surrounded School buildings
v/s those isolated, where
closures are expected too.

Appropriately prioritizing
the School buildings to
close, will strengthen
communities and the Chicago
School System.

In Bethune's case, its
building is located in the
heart of Residential property

and Jenson, is the next nearest ~~of~~ public grade school building to this Residential Community.

Therefore, moving Chalmers Students into Bethune and moving King Students into Jenson, strengthens this Community. Then, simply transport any employees, computers, and air conditioners needed.

Closure locations can and

with 8,000 Sq Ft in
two buildings dedicated
to student programs,
including a truancy
program, adjacent to our schools.
~~* Maggie Dailey knew After School matters~~
We will be looking to

meet with the board
at ~~the~~^{an} available meeting
in the near future to
solidify these plans.

Finally, in conclusion, as
representative and contact
for this Residential Community,

I am available to volunteer to the Board; possibly walking Student Routes to each School with Board members, to verify the above described information; walk with members on other Student paths at the Remaining West and South Communities, to identify their best residentially surrounded School buildings, to help insure closure locations become obvious,

~~LAST
page~~

and peaceful.

Again, Closure locations
CAN and Should Result
IN Community praise,
NOT Community outcry.

* LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

* Please don't close Bethune

* Please contact me. We look
forward to working with
you.

Most importantly, may our
father in heaven direct and
bless your efforts.

* Thank You for Your Time.

Should Result in Community
praise, NOT Community outcry.

Additionally, after the
Correct, and therefore
peaceful choices for closures
are settled, we are

announcing now, that this
Community will no longer
tolerate anything less
than level 1 Schools.

To help grow our Students
into level 1 performance
this community is prepared,

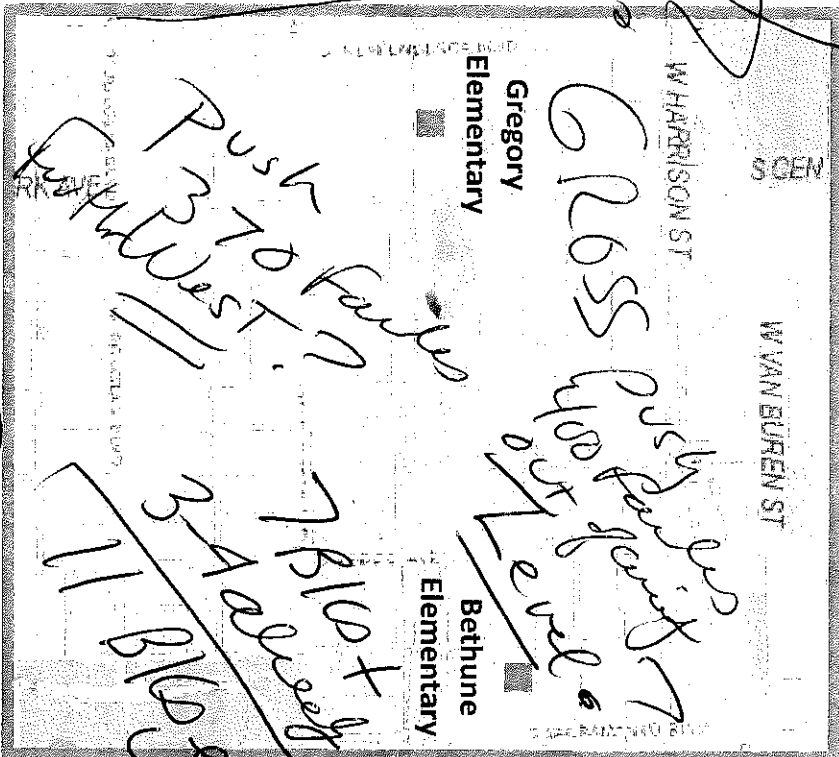
Providing A Better Education For All Students Bethune Elementary and Gregory Elementary

As Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Barbara Byrd-Bennett is committed to ensuring that every child in every neighborhood receives a high-quality education that prepares them to succeed in college, career, and life. Right now, the reality is that too many of our children are being cheated of the quality education they deserve because they are trapped in underresourced and underutilized schools. Rather than fund half-empty buildings that are costly to maintain and repair, the District will redirect those funds for investments that parents, CTU and CPS agree children need to thrive, such as, air conditioning, a library, counseling and social work supports and technology and science upgrades.

Bethune Elementary

Why CPS recommends to close this school:

- Enrollment has declined by 36% over the last 10 years (589 to 377)
- Building is less than half full
- Building requires \$10.5 million to maintain and update



Gregory Elementary

As a welcoming school, Gregory will offer:

- A Level 1 school (highest performance rating)
- A Prek program
- Air conditioning in every classroom
- Upgraded computer lab
- A school safety plan to provide a smooth and safe transition for all students

BSM to maintain
 + update need
 more bids - that
 can be justified.
 Performance?

Non-entangled

+ Jensen help Beth Bad Corners.

CPS has heard your concerns and after a thoughtful, rigorous engagement process, we have looked at every individual school and our decision incorporates the feedback we received from more than 20,000 of you – parents across the city and community members in every neighborhood. A series of supports will be provided so that our students have a safe and seamless transition to a higher performing academic environment at their welcoming school in fall 2013. Please call 311, City Services, with questions or visit cps.edu/qualityschools.

Providing A Better Education For All Students

Investments in All Welcoming Schools will Provide Children with a Quality, 21st Century Education

Customized safety plan at every school, including:

- Safe Passage supports to provide safe routes for students traveling to and from school
- Additional security personnel inside each school
- Additional safety technology, such as, entry screening equipment

Facility and capital improvements

- Air conditioning in every classroom
- A library in every school
- New or upgraded technology supports, such as expanded Internet bandwidth
- iPads for all students in grades 3-8
- Improved ADA accessibility
- Upgraded school interiors and improvements such as fresh paint, new ceilings and floors

Academic and social emotional needs of students

- “Welcoming School Fund” for principals to choose programs and services to address academic, social emotional, and language needs of students, such as:
 - Academic intervention programs
 - Activities to bring together parents, staff and students of both schools to build a new school community
 - Lessons and small group interventions for students to build coping and conflict resolution skills
- Principal Transition Coordinators (former CPS principals) to support school leaders, faculty and students of closing and welcoming schools to create a safe, seamless transition and build a new school culture

Specific transition supports will be provided for special student populations. For details, please contact the relevant department.

- For questions regarding students with disabilities, contact the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services, (773) 553-1800, odlss@cps.edu
- For questions regarding English Language Learners, contact the Department of Language and Cultural Education, (773) 553-1930
- For questions regarding students in temporary living situations, contact the STLS Department, (773) 553-2242

6th-8th Grade

Deja Collins

April,23,2013

Room,210

Bethune School of excellence

Don't Close Bethune

Save our school! I love my school because its fun and welcoming,we have lots of activities like sports and after school and our grades are Improving a lot. Don't close Bethune!

I love Bethune because its welcoming. They try to see whats wrong with us when we are down. They help jus with are homework. They hold us to the highest accountability.

Second reason I love Bethune is we have sports activities and after school.Sports are not only fun we have after schools programs were we learning we have fun while doing it so we want be board while doing work.

Lastly,I love Bethune because are grades are improving a lot. we are learning all kinds of stuff. Far as new reading things we tare learning things like fragments and punctuation n grammar things like that. In math we are learning algebra lots of algebra. We are really improving in science we usual don't have science,but we do now we work on a lot of science projects in experiments.

Don't close Bethune! Although you think it should code I don't because I love this school i wanted to graduate here. This school has been here for a long time why close it now when i are grades are improving a lot ore thane ever.

PLEASE SAVE OUR SCHOOL!

Armontae Harrison

Dont Close Bethune

I think that CPS should not close down Bethune because to me it really is a school of excellence in a way. I say that because our school grades are improving on the ISAT, we have a lot of school activities, and because Bethune is like one big family. I say that Bethune should not be closed because ISAT Scores. I say ISAT scores because Bethune once had ISAT scores that was so low but now the scores have risen. Also because Bethune was the lowest ISAT scorers but now they're not. I think that the teachers did a good job and shouldn't lose it to CPS. I also say Bethune shouldn't get closed down because of activities. I think it is good that Bethune has after school programs because it helps the kids stay off the streets. Also because it helps them learn more and stay active. I think that Bethune is one big family because they care. To me Bethune is like another home. When our students need help they join together to help one of us. But the main reason why I think that Bethune is like a big family because they show us much love. I think that CPS should not close down Bethune because of good scores on the ISAT, also because the good activities, and they love the Bethune family give us

BY KIARA WILLIAMS

save Bethune

I won't you to save Bethune because of the great sports team and how we ban together as a team working together and with no fights. and how Bethune staff listen to are stores about are life and are problems. than Bethune school of excellence won't us to go to high school and also go to college they won't that because they don't won't us on the streets they won't us to secede in life. another reason why u should save my school because of the after school programs I'm a better person because at first i just went home and did nothing but now Bethune have after school program now i can be active. in i won't you to save my school they won't us to secede in life because some kids die around the same age as me or older or younger but Bethune won't let that happen because thats why the Bethune staff walk little kids home from school because of something bad happen i think that they shouldn't close Bethune school because i feel safe here in everywhere else so thats why they shouldn't close my school down because of the great esps, and the great teachers that they try there best to have are work in front of us ready to go for the day and the smiles they give us.

I love Bethune because that it was different from my old school ow bethune pay attention to the students more often. more often than my old school are education is good and when i need help my teacher come and it in detail so that i would understand it better.

4/24/13

Malik Allen

Save This School!

"Save this school"! Bethune school is important to me because it has been in my family for many years. This school has great and perfect teachers and great and well behaved students. This school has great sports teams and great after school programs for students that need help in their classes.

My mom and my brother both graduated from this school but if you close this school down, I won't be able to graduate from this school. This school has been apart of my family because even my mom wanted me to graduate from here and she even went to the meeting so this school wouldn't close down and if this school shuts down, I won't be the same again. This school has been in my family for many years because this school is the perfect place to be and this school has helped my family get jobs to take care of me. This school is my family and if this school closes down, my family won't be the same and I won't never be able to graduate from this good and behaved school, Bethune school of excellence and this school I think is my family thinks this school is the best out of AUSL.

keep us open

Do you believe that they are closing Bethune! Bethune should not be closed. I love my school because its like a family ,classrooms are being used for out tutors and our specials and it has lots of activities so our children will not be on the streets.

Just to get started I love Bethune because it feels like a family. the people around us wants us to be the best we can be.most of the times were are held to high expectations because they know we can do and they have seen us do it befor.the teachers and the staff always have our backs when we are right but when we are wrong they tell us and hope we won't make the same mistake.

another reason why we shouldn't be closed is on the paper it said that half of the school is not being used but we are using it because we us it for out tutors and our specials. they give us as much help as we need to have a bright future.this shows that they care for sand love us .as we go to the other school they might not have the love that we have here at Bethune.

finally , i love my school because it has lots of activities for our children to keep them of the streets.our after school programs are helpful and can lead to bigger things in life.if you look on the news children are getting killed every day so why do they want our children to walk all the way to gregory. to me i think that is dangerous.

in conclusion ,don't close bethune because it is a family ,we are using classrooms to tutor children and we have programs to keep children of the streets.these are the reasons why cps should not close bethune

Gregory Hayes

4/24/2013
Envann Merritt

Save Our School!

Bethune is important to me because it is the only school I feel safe at. Bethune is a place where kids can escape from outside problems. Also Bethune might be a level 3 school, but the staff and teachers are doing the best they can to help and teach us students everything they know so we can succeed. Students here at Bethune uses their time wisely to get the information they need. The staff and teachers care about us enough to give extra time to reteach us what we did not understand or missed.

Another reason that you shouldn't close the school is because of the kids that are from kindergarden through 3rd grade. They also need this school to stay open. Most of these students are really attach to some of the staff and teachers here at Bethune. A lot of kids have to use transportation besides cars to get where they need to go to. Some people have to walk eight to ten blocks just to get to their new school when this school closes.

I feel safe at Bethune because i can release myself from stress and depression. Other students like to come school to learn and get away from negativity. Students uses their time to learn new things and teach their younger siblings what they have learned. I speak for Bethune when I say this please keep Bethune School of Excellence open long enough so we all can succeed in what we need to accomplish. Please keep the school open so that kids are not scared to walk the streets alone.

As Stevie Wonder said "Lord lay me down before I go to sleep.
From the trouble world I pray the lord to keep. Keep hatred from the
mighty,SSand the mighty from the small.Heaven help us all.

Keep Bethune Open

I love bethune because i feel like this is the only place i can express my feelings at and you can be free but not that free.

I been at bethune for 5 year and this have been the 1st BEST SCHOOL I EVERY BEEN TO .

And they teach us lades how to be and young lady
And you get to know how the teachers and the student will reaction when you do something because you been knowing them for the past year you been here
Bethune once told me to not be in all the drama just be cool.

At bethune you are welcome just the way you are you no matter how hard you need extra help on work .don't have to be any body else just be your self go with your on vide.To me bethune fells like and second home because the teacher and staffs love you like there our child equally :)

You get to come up after school for extra work or just to help the after school teachers out or just to come up and chill with the teachers. And this is why BETHUNE SHOULD STAY OPEN PLEASE

Shanell Sigler

savebethune

So did you know that Bethune has the least amount of suspension throughout AUSL ?

This is a reason why you should keep Bethune.

For more information continue reading about saving Bethune

All students I'm pretty sure can testify on the behalf of saving Bethune.

Because Bethune is like a second home to most students.

they provide us with food, they care for our education , and they care where we are heading in life.

we feel the warmth and positive spirits from principal Williams, dean knight, Mr.Carothers,and all of the teachers.

Very few people know how hard it is for us as kids you all have to look at it from our perspective. We really have love for Bethune you can tell by how most kids come after school to clean classrooms and go to tutoring. This is because we have a thirst for education.

Everyday you are certain to find excellence in classrooms , the gymnasium , and even in the computer lab.

Unlike most schools Bethune is unique each child has their own prodigy/talent.

So now you know how the children look at Bethune hope it gives you a piece of encourage meant to keep us open.

Shantell raper

Nhiya Fitch

Save Bethune!

Please don't close Bethune! Bethune is important to me because they always make sure that i am safe no matter where i am. Like if there are bad guys outside they keep us in so that we don't get hurt. The staff and the teachers treat me with respect even when i don't give it back. Bethune is the best school ever and my teacher are so polite my english teacher Mrs. Shine, she breaks things down for us when we don't understand something. She also came up with a system that gives you consequences for good and bad actions so if you behave well you will stay that way, and if you behave poorly than she gives you a check and if you get one of those you will start to behave because you don't want another on. Also Mrs. Shine is forgiving that's why she gives us 4 (sometimes more) chances to fix our mistakes. Mrs. Petty our math teacher also breaks things down with us. She reviews something before we have a quiz and even during a quiz or a learning activity she still goes over things with us. Mrs. Petty is nice to EVERYONE she gives us chances also like Mrs. Shine does. She also sometimes let's us run the class because we are very good at our math activities. Mr. Fitch (who has the sam last name as me) he has a picture of the day for us and likes for us to have fun, he lets us have parties in his class, he taught us a lot of things and keeps them on the charts. Mr. Fitch also has us build a little garden and we are going to have fruits, vegetables, and plants.

You say that we have a low population of students and i say that we have about 5 kid coming almost every 2 weeks. You say that our whole school is low we say look at us as individuals and that we are getting better. You say that we don't use all of our classrooms we a=say that we don't even have any more for parties. You say that we don't have air conditioners but we say that you aren't even trying to help us to get all of this stuff. You say that we are dumb but if you would stop looking at us as a school we will surly prove you wrong.

You probably don't know how it feels to have you school closed down and still have little kids in the building. Those little kids are going to speak there mind and they are going to go home and ask why they have to change schools and their parents are going to tell them that the kids aren't learning and that child is going to go around picking fights because there favorite school is getting closed down and they are going to be very upset and not just them but their parents also because they are going to have to send their child to an alternative school because they have a behavior problem.

Our school is just like others it's just that some of our students need more help than others and we can except that.It's just that Bethune deals with more than any other school. We have challenged kids and behavior kids and you people aren't even trying to help us at all.Plus you are closing our school because we don't have as many students as other schools, but i don't see you closing Gregory and we have more students than they do.Our school is just as good as theirs if they get to stay open than why doesn't ours?

Our school is a good school and we don't care what anyone says. Our teacher don't worry about their pay check the whole day. The kids in this school are smarter than you think. So if i were you i would think this over before you make your final destine. Think about the kids, not you pay check.

Funny That Kids Love a School More Than Adults

By Tyrell Frazier

This is my 7th grade year. I participate in a lot of things at Bethune. I attend after school tutoring for Reading and Math. I also participate in sports. I love football and the coaches here helped me learn more about sports and relating it to life. The school should stay open because I want to graduate from Bethune. I have a chance next year to graduate from Bethune and I just need one more year.

I love my school because there is a lot of interest in me doing well. I work hard in my classes, but sometimes the work gets hard. I then can rely on my teachers. They are willing to let me come in the morning to finish my homework. They will help me when I need it. I can count on them helping me whenever I need it. The teachers make sure that I am in a position to pass all of my classes. They work late and hard to make sure the lessons they give are going to help me pass my ISAT.

Bethune is a safe place for me to be. If we have problems with our peers, the staff will not let any harm come to us. They will fix the issues that we have together. I know for a fact that they want this place to stay safe. I have been in meetings where the staff talks about keeping the playgrounds safe. The school is constantly clean inside and out. I do not see any drugs or bottles anywhere. The people in the neighborhood respect the school and the kids that come here.

I have a big family and I call it Bethune. When it comes to meeting my needs, Bethune is able to help and make things work. The school provides me a daily breakfast and lunch. This helps my mom out a lot. I am able to eat and go to school to learn, all under the same roof. I spend a lot of time here so relationships are developed and friendships are strong. I need the school to stay open because it is more than just books and pencils. This school is my life.

I say it is funny that a kids love a school more than adults but how can we laugh. You know the chances of me doing well are going to be harder if you close this school. I see people all the time wishing they had an education. They have reasons why they did not get one. I can say that I am going to be slowed down from getting an education because my school does not have a lot of students. Really?

Bethune Is the Place for Me

By Isaiah Henry

I wake up in the morning, I put on my uniform. I get myself ready for school. I am on my way to Bethune. 7th grade is an important year. I know high schools are looking to see what I do this year. I have that on my mind. I have other things on my mind too. I have to think about going to another school because someone said the school is not being used well. I have my reasons why the school is being used well.

There are few reasons why I love my teachers. I receive the extra help when needed. I am able to work, but when I am in a rough spot, I know I can raise my hand and like clockwork, I have the teacher to help me. I take notes when needed, but sometimes I am unable to understand. I can raise my hand and get a full explanation of what the notes are about. The teachers really show love and respect for me. I am able to come to school and get positive energy. Any day that is not going well for me, they try to make things better.

Bethune is a great place to be, even after school. I have participated in Bethune sports. I played flag football and softball. I love both of those sports. I used to struggle and not do well. I practiced and got a lot of guidance to do well. I practiced hard and the coaches helped me become really good. By the end of the year, I had won a championship in softball and scored several touchdowns in football.

The most important reason why I love Bethune is because it is safe. I know that I can come to a school where I am protected against bullying and negated remarks. I have not known there to be a knife or gun situation at Bethune. We practice the rules and procedures for wrong doing and disasters. All students need safety and security, especially when young and defenseless.

When I look at all of the things that Bethune has done for me, I really need Bethune to stay open. I have been coming to Bethune for 5 years. I want to continue coming to Bethune. It is the only school that I remember and know. The community needs Bethune because we all try hard when we come to school. Try hard with me to keep Bethune open.

Armani Battles
Apr 24,2013

Bethune School

Save Bethune Bears

Save our school! I love my school because it's like a family, we have sports, and we are able to talk about our problems with our teachers or the staff.

Bethune is like a family because they support us and care about our education. They would give us a uniform shirt or pants if we don't have the correct uniform. They care about our education because if we get an A in our classes then the staff or teachers will tell us keep up the good work.

I love that we have sports because if you played sports for Bethune then you are use to playing with your friends. Our sports affect our grades and our behavior because if you're on a sports team then it will influence you to do better in school.

Bethune shouldn't close because at Bethune the students are able to talk about our problems with the teachers and the staff. For example, if someone has a problem about doing homework then they can just talk to a teacher or a staff member about why we're not doing homework.

In conclusion I think Bethune shouldn't close because we can talk about our problems, we have fun on sports team playing with our friends, and Bethune is like a family. So that's why I believe that Bethune should stay open.

ARIAH.LANGFORD

4/24/13

room:213

7th garde

SAVE OUR SCHOOL!

MY first reason why I love my school is because we are like a family. my second reason is because we can talk are problems out with each other. And my third reason is that we have sports .don't close our school!

This is Important to me because we are like a family cause we care for each other and the staff cares for everyone. And we have sports and the sports are Important cause some kids that are not book smart but they are smart when it comes down to sports and it keeps some over the bad things off their mines. that why we love Bethune.

One reason I think Bethune shouldn't close is cause this school is the only school that most kids can walk to and go to. And because we are a family and they care for use and we try are best everyday.

Although you may think that Bethune should close because all the classrooms are not being used but I think It shouldn't because most of the class rooms are being used like for tutoring and specials and the computer labs this school is our school so save our school!

Please don't close our school.

Lajeeka Bailey

April 24,2013

I love my school

Save our school! I Love my school because you are able to talk problems out here.I like the sports here and our grades are improving much more.

Don't close Bethune!

I love my school because you are able to talk problems out. You may don't really have people to talk to at home so you can come to Bethune and get help with your problems and get good evidence.

Sports is important at my school because if we have sports we can keep kids out of the streets and it will help by keeping a good shape.

At Bethune why our school should not close down because are grades are really improving more then before it turn around.

Don't close Bethune! We have an awesome sports program and why we should keep this school open because sports keep kids out of the streets and have things to do. It is a family and if you close the school we would not have a good relationship. It is killing us form been a family with each other. We really want have that much communicate with each other if it close.

Lashawn Sneed

4-24-13

Save Our School

I love my school because it's like family and it got all the best sport's the teacher and student have good relationship and teacher help student with there work to pass there grade in go to the their next grade so let the school help your kids so they can go to the next grade I love my school because they got smart student's and good school because the school need's smart student's so they can pass to go to the next grade to go to to the next school so let the school help your kids so they can pass to the next grade the teacher can your kids pass so they go to the next grade so help our school don't let the school pay for the thing that need to be payed for

my school
help your kids to pass school grade so If you can help my school let some of your kids come to Bethune School In see if your kids can be smart student's save our school

Dear Board of Education,

Save Our School Bethune

Save our School! I love my school because it's like a family, we have sports and our grades are improving. Don't close Bethune!

The first reason I love my school is because we can talk to each other around here. When things are going wrong I can always talk to a teacher or staff member. Kids don't have family at home to talk to sometimes. So here at Bethune we all are like a family. So please don't break up the family.

Next reason I love my school is because the sports we have here at Bethune. Sometimes kids need something to do after school instead of being on the streets where there are drugs and gangs. Getting good education and being well rounded by playing Basketball and Baseball is our way out of the hood, so please help us save Bethune.

Lastly, the reason that I love my school is the improvement in our grades here at Bethune. So far we had been struggling, but all that has changed since the turnaround. We here at Bethune know that we are going to be at or above grade level here at Bethune.

Don't close Bethune! We all need somebody to talk to around here. We have an awesome sports program that teaches people how to communicate. At Bethune, our grades are really improving.

Sincerely,

Terrance Sanders

Marquita Morris
April, 24, 2013
Bethune School
Room 213

Save My School !!

I love my school Bethune School of Excellence i don't think you should close my school down. We have improve for the last four year. Grades went up student love come in to school in we love to learn.

One reason why i think you shouldn't close Bethune down because if Mary McLeod was here she wouldn't want her school to close. I really think that you should leave Bethune along Because we have great program a little babys really love there teacher like we do.

Next reason why I think you shouldn't close Bethune down because we have great sport a good team in we also have great grades and they are improving. I understand that we is a level three give us a chance so we can take it to a level one or two school.

Last reason I think you shouldn't close Bethune down is we fill comfortable here and if you close Bethune down that mean our school Bethune school spend there money on all of this great stuff that we have for no reason. I have been at Bethune since i was in pre-school.

In I really don't think that you should close Bethune down. We already have to travel two block from our house to Bethune with no problem but you want us to travel nine more block down that is to much. I think you should really leave Bethune a long because Bethune is great .

Save My School !!!

Demarcus Conley
Bethune School

Apr,24,2013
Room 213

Save Our School

The first reason I love my school is because it's like a family some kids have been going here since kindergarden an they stayed at this school for a long time,but the staff at Bethune treats us like family and they look out for us.

The second reason I want Bethune to stay open because it is a lot of smart students in this school and they are overcrowding the classrooms.The sports here is great it's a lot of strong people in this school.We a lot of rewards and trophies.

The last reason why I think Bethune should stay open because of are grades and scores have improve.Like two years ago we a really low now it have got higher.

Don't close Bethune It is a family and if you close are school you'll kill the bear family.We have an awesome sports program that teachers and people know how communicate with others at Bethune School of Excellence I love our school please don't kill our bears.

Save Our School!!!!

I LOVE MY SCHOOL

By Keyontae Chapman

Save Bethune! Bethune has so much to offer to all of its students. I think Bethune should stay open because everyone here is like a family and our grades are outstanding. Bethune sports play a big part in our school experience. Students here know how to communicate very well here. Bethune has the makings of what all students need.

My first reason why Bethune should stay open is because everyone here is like family. The teachers treat us like we are their own son or daughter. The teachers keep you safe and they make sure students get home safely. I have pretty much grown up with other students at Bethune. Teachers have seen me grow from a little boy, into a young man.

My second reason why Bethune should stay open is because our grades are outstanding. Most students earn A's and B's. I, myself have been trying to improve on my grades. At any rate, I cannot improve my grades to A's and B's if you close this school. I want to look back, one day and reflect upon my school days, just to say "This is the school that I graduated from."

My last reason why Bethune should not close is because everyone here knows how to communicate well. Each day that I come to school, I enter with a greeting and I receive a greeting. That is the start of my day. It puts me in the right frame of mind that I am here to interact positively. I have improved my communication skills quite a bit. I once used street slang to speak, but now I use standard English more often than not.

There is no measurement you can use to describe how much Bethune means to me. I am a son of Bethune. I am rooted in this school and do not want to be uprooted. Students, staff, and other people that come to Bethune remark how well the school environment is. We have had visits from the Mayor and other guests. Bethune is a beacon of light in an area of darkness.

I LOVE MY SCHOOL BETHUNE

DeonAndre Murphy

Bethune is important because lots of students have really grown up in this school. Kids have been coming here since they could talk and walk. Students have learned how to read, write, and learn about society at Bethune. My peers and I have made friendships over the years. We have built friendships that will last a lifetime. Bethune is our glue that bonds us together. We do not want to break up our bond.

When I go to school, I feel good about Bethune because of the short walk and convenience. I know it is hard for some students to get to school. I hope I don't have to walk past gangs to get to school and come home. I want to see people I know walking and I walk with them. We all can make sure we get to school on time. We do that now and can keep doing this if you keep the school open.

Bethune has high expectations for students. We learn to read, write, do math, and learn about the world. I know so much more about the world because of Bethune. I watch the news but sometimes that does not relate to me. Bethune teachers make sure that I can connect to what is going on in the world and it helps me to understand what is going on. I want to make a better life for myself and my family. Bethune is guiding me in the right direction.

I think kids at Bethune feel safe. We are not afraid to express ourselves and what is going on in our lives. Some people might not think this is a good school because the school is not full of kids. I do know that a lot of people are moving away and that other schools are opening up. If you stop opening up new schools then people will come to Bethune and stay. It is a lot safer at Bethune than other schools.

If the school closed, some people would have to go to a different school. At a different school, student may not know how to handle the situation. Students that already go to that school may not be able to handle new kids coming. New teachers may not care about us as much. Bethune is the school for us.

Don't Close My School

By Darnesha Harrison

Do you think closing Bethune is the best option? I feel Bethune should stay open. Closing Bethune is one of the worst things you can do. Some people have been attending Bethune their entire academic life. It is what we know and what we have come to love. I know the students and teachers at Bethune. Because of Bethune, I feel comfortable and ready for what life has to offer.

Bethune is important to me because I learn a lot. My teachers work hard. They put in a lot of effort with me and my classmates. For example, my grades continue to improve, whenever I start slowly. My teachers do not give up on me. I feel like when I am working on something and something gets harder, I can do it. My teachers continue to work with me to make sure I understand. They know I am smart and I am capable. Bethune is important because it is like family. We care for our school. It matters, we matter.

I strive for excellence. For instance, my math teacher is a very smart teacher. I go to her class and have learned a lot since the start of the school year. Each day, I learn something new or can do my math exercises better. I never give up on any of the assignments. The teachers have shown me that I can always work towards completion. I look to teachers like family, but I look to them like a teacher first.

Bethune is a safe environment for everyone that attends. We know we are safe, when we are in Bethune. There is not a gang in our school. Our staff and teachers always make sure our needs are met and our well being intact. One thing I know for sure is that when I leave Bethune, as a graduate, I will be successful.

Do not close Bethune; it would hurt me personally and academically. I love what I have come to know about Bethune. I cannot imagine my life having to change in such a drastic way. I know you all think money and use of a building is important. However, I feel that money cannot buy my happiness. I feel like a building does not provide me love and support. The teachers at Bethune does all of that. The building is where we cultivate our lives and relationships.

Dreamer Edwards
Bethune School

April 24, 2013
Room213

SAVE OUR SCHOOL! I love my school because you are able to talk your problem out here, our grades are improving, and also our school is like a family. **DONT CLOSE BETHUNE!**

The first reason I love my school is because is because if you have a problem you are able to talk it out. To the dean and the staffs in the school. After you get done talking out your problems you can go back to class. This is good because you have another chance to go to class and see whats going on in class and get back on task.

The second reason I love my school is because our grade are improving. This school was a turn around school and they got back on track the teacher care about our education they let us make up the work that we did bad on. This is a good thing because if we don't be able to make up our grade we are going to do bad on our report card then our school is going to do BAD!

The third reason I say I love my school is because we are like a family. We care about each other if someone feel down or doing something wrong talk to the about there problem and show them that you care about them. That is what family do! If you don't do that they is going to think that you don't care about them.

I think you should leave our school alone because it is a great school its not the best school in the world be it is to us!

SAVE OUR SCHOOL

Kiana Crawford
April 24, 2013
Bethune School
Room 213

Save Our School!

Bethune is important to me because I have been here since kindergarden and all the people I have met are in my classroom. and I won't be able to graduate here and it change ever since the school turned around.

The reason why Bethune should stay open because when students go to a new school they wouldn't be able to learn what the other students are learning and might in up be behind on work.

Thirdly Bethune should not close because most of us want to stick with one family and not move on to another family that we barely even know.

Another reason is because they provide things that we need and we have sportsmanship and programs during after school to help us stay active and fit and something we might like.

Although you may think that Bethune should close because of the test scores or other reasons but I think Bethune should stay open and just not look at the numbers on a piece a paper and just see how hard students try each day .

SAVE OUR SCHOOL!

Kierra Eskridge,
April 24,2013
Bethune school
7th grade

SAVE MY BETHUNE!!

I love my school because I been here since I was in kindergartan this school ever since the turn around everybody doing what they supposed to do.

Kids grades are getting better we have two computer lab's and a big science lab. Some kids even going to D.C because they did everything they needed to do at Bethune. Bethune had some tuff times but we still mad it everyone in this school are family and friends.

If you close Bethune you will close are hearts when I was in 3 grade school was very hard everybody was fighting and not learning thing's they needed to know until now I learn thing's i never learned about I didn't know what atoms was or cells know I do.

know that am in 7th grade my grades are getting better I finally got on the AB horror roll I never got on the horror roll in my life this school changed a lot know that you closing it I don't know what school to go to know please keep my school open.

Bethune is apart of our family don't let Bethune close PLEASE!!!

Odarius Hudson

Bethune School of Excellence
reading

Keep Bethune Open

Save our school! I love my school because it's like family, we have awesome teacher's and our grades are improving. Don't close Bethune. Don't close Bethune!

The first reason I love my school is because it's like a family. Some kid's have been going here since kindergarden. Some kid's don't have families at home, but the staff at Bethune treats them like family. People look out for each other

The second reason I love my school is because of the teacher's. All the teacher's want us all to pace, and make sure that we are hard worker's. Our teacher's want the best for us. The teacher's would let some students come early in the morning to get work done if we didn't come to school.

The third reason I love Bethune is because of sport's . Sport's let kid's at Bethune stay active after school , and have a good mind during school so that kid's won't sleep during class. Some kid's like to play football with their friends to see how fast each other is. Bethune is a greet school that has greet sport's team's.

Quentin Charles

April/24/2013

Room:216

Bethune school

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best decision you can make? No, I think that this is the worst thing you could do ever do. Bethune is important to me because I like my teachers, they make me feel welcome, and I feel safe.

Bethune is important because the teachers give you help when you need it. I like math because I know what to do when it is time. I like reading because of the work and the teacher. I like the computer time because I learn a lot on Compass Learning.

Bethune is important because they make me feel welcome when I first came Here my 5th grade teacher sad hi. He showed me around the school and students made me feel welcome.

The school makes me feel safe because they have security cameras and they tell you to go home when we get out of school so we can be safe.

I think that Bethune should stay open because the teachers give you work that help you learn and the teachers help you go to the next grade.

Kierra Linton

Keep Bethune Open!!

I remember my first time here at Bethune. It was a very scary experience. A new building full of new faces that I had never seen before but my teacher took me by the hand and said welcome home. I have been with Bethune since I was in Kindergarten. I have grown to love this school. Bethune is important to me because I feel safe here, Bethune has taught me a lot and this school is preparing me for the future. I want this school to remain open so other students can share my experience.

Since I've been here at Bethune, I have felt safe. I feel safe at Bethune because we have lock down and tornado drills to help prevent any safety issues. The tragic events that had taken place at Sandy Hook makes me appreciate my school even more so. We have great ESPs here at Bethune who protects us inside and outside the building. They ensure our safety beyond the walls of this school. If Bethune closes, the safety that many of us enjoy here will be gone forever.

Bethune has taught me a great deal through my studies here at the school. I have learned about history such as slavery and the civil rights movement. I struggled in reading and Bethune was able to get me the help I needed through the after-school tutoring program. I don't know if I would receive the same help at another school but I highly doubt that I would. At some schools they do not have extracurricular activities and small class sizes like Bethune

I really want Bethune to stay open. I know this is my 8th grade year and I will be leaving soon but I want a school to return to next year. I want to be here for the students so I can tell them about high school. Please, keep my school open.

Ariel McMilian

04/24/2013

Bethune School of Excellence

Have you ever been removed from your home? For far too long, we have been taken from our homes since being snatched from our homes in Africa. That's how this feels at my home, Bethune. Bethune has been my home since preschool. When I was behind academically, Bethune helped me succeed. Bethune has changed me and helped me in so many ways. They have helped me in all my studies. Bethune is a place where not only do I want to graduate next year but also come back to and inspire the youth. I am asking that you read my reasons for keeping my school open.

I remember struggling in my studies. At first, we didn't have teachers that supported us in the classroom. They did not come to our aid or even help us with our questions or concerns but that has changed. When we received new teachers at the school, they came in ready to teach me and help me learn. I started getting the support I needed in the classroom. Some of the teachers came early in the morning and stayed late after school to give me support. I was able to show growth in my ISAT test scores. I am able to see the changes since I started here in preschool. Also, I will like to finish 8th grade here in Bethune.

Destiny James

April 24, 2013

Room 216

Bethune School

A New Day Needs To Come

Do you think that closing Bethune School is the best decision you can make? I know it must be hard to be the person to say "Yes." All you have to do is go back to your office and turn on your computer. Your day is not going to change. Just think about all the hundreds of kids' whose day will change. Think about all the parents who have to get their kids enrolled into another school. It does not seem right.

The teachers are nice because they help you stay on task, they put you in a good mood, and they show patience. I like to have fun with my peers and talk about girl stuff. I can do that during lunch, but sometimes you cannot wait until lunch. The teachers do a great job of making sure that I am doing my work and not getting off track. I appreciate that. I know they want me to do well and they help me with my anger. I am easily upset and I use them to help me. Oftentimes, I know students are not fully focused and the teachers keep working with them for as long as needed.

The staff and teachers treat you with respect and concern. If a student has a frown on their face, the staff will help out any way possible. I know for a fact that teachers are not out to harm me or any other student. The teachers will help guide me towards the person I want to become. It is a positive place and I know that all teachers and staff should be like the ones at Bethune.

I just moved to Bethune and in a short amount of time, I think this is the place for me. I do not want to go to another school that may not have concern and respect for me. I have been to other schools and students do not like coming to school. At Bethune, this is not the case. Kids

Lavares Edwards
Bethune School of Excellence

4/24/2013
Room 216

Bethune is Important

Bethune is important to me because the school has nice teachers. Now, at Bethune, the teachers help their students with their class work. If the students do not know how to do their work, the teachers are there to help. Sometimes the teachers will buy students some pizza. Bethune should not close because the staff makes sure all the students are safe from harm. Bethune is a safe school. The staff talks to students about not fighting and keeping the peace. Staff also teaches students to ignore distractions and try to make a positive interaction with students that are having a bad day. When a student is sick, staff will call home for the student and help them get home when needed.

I am happy to be at Bethune since it is also close to my home. The school is only a short 5 minute walk. If you close Bethune, I will add at least 40 minutes to my walk. Typically, you can walk a mile in 12 minutes. How many miles do you want me to walk to school? You cannot shake up my world to this degree. Time spent on getting to school could be spent on other things. Right now, I walk to school by myself. If you close the school down, I will have to make sure I have friends and or classmates to walk with me.

I love Bethune because it has great activities. We have gone on several field trips. We went places that I have never been to. We have gone to many colleges over the years that I have been here. I do not know who else does that. I want to keep going on college visits. I watch the sports at Bethune. The sports are great. We have a team of people that know each other. What will happen to the athletes?

Anthony Bankhead
April 23, 2013
Bethune School of Excellence

Leave Bethune to me

Should you close the school down? What would you gain in destroying my hopes and dreams? Could you feel good about this decision, if I am put in danger each day? No you should not on all counts. I think you should remove Bethune from the list of school closings. Bethune is important to me and my family because it is the first school and the only school that we had attended. It has a lot more activities you can do in sports and academics. Bethune should remain open because the Bethune staff treats each student with respect.

You should not close Bethune. As my first school I have friends from my neighborhood and the school only because of Bethune doors being open. When I came here I knew several of my friends already and they live close to me. This is only because of Bethune. I grew up here and I want to finish my eighth grade year at Bethune. I would feel empty if I could not finish my elementary years at the school I love.

Another reason why Bethune should stay open is because the staff and teacher treats you with respect for example. When I come to school the staffs shake my hand and ask how is your day I feel like a real person and feel as if my well being is important. Since I have only attended Bethune I get the sense that I belong. I have never felt like I was no good. I was motivated to do well and the staff would always make sure I am acting like a gentleman.

Taigee Walton

April 23, 2013

Bethune School of Excellence

Room 216

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think closing Bethune is the best decision you can make? I say, "No." I know what is important to me and I find it here at Bethune. I am happy here. I have not been happy at any other school before. I know that the teachers and staff do what is important and they make sure that I am happy. I know why I need Bethune to stay open. My reasons for Bethune to stay open are because of the sports, the teachers show love and respect, and we have technology that most other schools do not have.

If I leave this school, I would not be able to play football or other sports. I have found a new love for sports here at Bethune. Before, I was not willing to play football or basketball. Now, I am playing football and basketball. I think Bethune is great for all kids because they allow you to grow and become what you thought you could not.

I like to try to do work on my own, but sometimes I need help. I know they are there to help me. I know I can ask for help whenever I like. The teachers encourage me to do well and won't accept me doing poorly. I am pushed harder than I have ever been pushed and I know it will pay off. I am thankful for Bethune and the teachers. I am looking forward to doing big things, if you let the school stay open.

The technology that Bethune has is far greater than what I have seen at other schools. I have not used Study Island before. I have not used Compass Learning much before. I have not heard of Raz Kids until I came to Bethune. These programs have helped me improve my reading and math skills. I am doing better now because of these resources.

Britdon Boyd

April 23, 2013

Bethune School of Excellence

Room 216

Bethune is Better Than Another

Bethune is important to me because I really like this school, the teachers and staff are respectful, the students feel safe, and I learn a lot. I have attended other schools and none of them are as good as Bethune. I did not like school before, but now I am really like it. This is the best place for me to get an education.

Bethune is important to me because I really like this school's location. For example, it is in my neighborhood and I won't be late to school. I live very close by and only walk 2 blocks to go to school. I know it takes only a couple of minutes to get to school. My life would change and not for the better if you close Bethune.

Bethune is important to me because the teachers and staff are respectful. For example, we show respect and they show respect. If I have a problem, I can talk to the staff or a teacher about my problems. There has been a time when I was not feeling my best. I had to go home and the staff walked me home. They made sure that I was going to make it home. They really care for the students.

Bethune is important to me because it make students feel safe. It also makes the teachers safe and the whole school is kept in order. It is not often at all that you will hear about students fighting. I have not seen any punches thrown, just little arguments. They do not last long anyway. I do not know about anyone feeling bullied. When you go to school, you expect there to be a bully. At Bethune, you can be sure that you will get an education.

Malik Sturdivant
Room 216
Bethune School
04/25/2013

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best decision you can make? No! I think that this is the worst thing you could ever do. Bethune is important to me because they treat me with respect, they have great ESPs, and I live close to the school.

Bethune is important to me because they treat me with respect. For example, they do not look at me in a nasty way.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because we have great ESPs. For example, when students get into a fight, they break it up as soon as possible, so that everyone is safe. ESPs are great because they have a lot of respect for parents, kids, and the school staff.

I would like Bethune to stay open because I don't have to walk far to school. Going to Bethune I can walk across the street, which makes me feel safe.

To sum this up, I would like my school to stay open because they treat me with respect, we have great ESPs, and I feel safe walking to school. Please do not close my school.

Emily Lee
Room 216
Bethune School
▪ 04/25/2013

The Importance of Bethune

Do you think closing Bethune down is the best decision you can ever make? No! I think this is the worst decision you can ever make. Bethune is important to me because it makes me feel welcome, it is close to my home and I learn more.

Bethune is important to me because they make me feel welcome. I feel welcome because they treat me with respect. For instance, when I do not have anyone to talk to, they are here to listen.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because Bethune is close to my home. For example, I can just walk out of my house and go across the street and I am at school. I feel safe because I do not have to walk a long way to school.

My final reason why Bethune is important to me is because I have learned a lot from Ms. Hamilton. For example, she taught my class about Shakespeare and Black History.

To sum this up, I want Bethune to stay open because it is close to my house, I learn a lot from my teachers, and I feel safe and welcome at school.

Tyshaun Jennings
Bethune School of Excellence
April 24, 2013
Room 216

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think closing Bethune is the best thing you can do? No, I believe closing Bethune is the worst thing you can do. Bethune is important to me because they make us feel welcome, they treat us like family and they know how to solve problems.

Bethune is important to me because they treat us like family. For instance, when I'm feeling down or I need help with something Bethune staff members are there to help and make me feel better.

Another reason Bethune is Important to me is because they make us feel welcome. For example they want the best for us. They welcome us with open arms. They keep us safe from harm. They keep us motivated and they believe we can do what ever we want if we believe.

The final reason Bethune is important to me is cause they know how to solve problems. For instance, when you are in an argument they will find a way to make you feel better about the situation.

To sum this up, you should not close Bethune because many students and staff members who love Bethune feel safe and really care about Bethune School of Excellence.

Tyler Moore
Room 216

4\22\13
Bethune School

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best choice you can make? No! I think that this is the worst thing you could ever do. Bethune is important to me because Bethune makes everybody feels welcome, I feel safe in Bethune building, and you get a good education.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because the staff feels like family. For example, we work together to solve our problems and when I have arguments with another student they listen to me.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because they keep us safe. For instance, they keep us safe by having security guards; they also give us rules to follow that will keep us safe.

Bethune is good for the community because we can get a good education in a safe environment. With the good education I receive I can help improve my community in the future.

In closing, I feel Bethune should stay open because everybody likes the school and it is close to everyone's house.

Johnajia Boyd
April 23, 2013

Bethune School Of Excellence
Room 216

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best choice you can make? No, I think that this is the worst thing you could ever do. Bethune is important to me because they make us feel welcome, the staff feels like family, and I feel safe.

Bethune is important to me because they make us feel welcome. For example, I feel welcomed when they treat us with respect. For instance, when I don't have anyone to talk to, they listen to me.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because the staff feels like family. For example, we work together to solve our problems. For instance, when I have an argument with another student, they will pull me out the room and get me back on track.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because I feel safe at Bethune. For example, like if a criminal comes to Bethune they will have a drill or they will call the police.

To sum this up, Bethune is important to me because they make me feel welcome, the staff feels like family, and I feel safe. Please don't close down our school.

Aishlin Moses

Room 216

Bethune School of Excellence

April 24, 2013

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best choice you can make? No, I think that this is the worst thing that can happen to us. Bethune is important to me because the staff care, they treat us right and we learn and have fun.

Bethune is important to me because the staff cares. For example, they help you out with any of your work. For instance, when I need help with my math someone would come over and help me.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because they treat us right. For example, they move us away from things that are bad for us and they keep us safe.

My last reason why I love Bethune is because we learn and have fun. For instance if we can work at a level zero (0) we can play games or talk when we get done.

You should not close Bethune because they have people that care for the kids there and love them. If you close Bethune they might never see the kids at Bethune again that is why my school Bethune should stay open.

Jawan Freeman

Room 216

Bethune School of Excellence

April 24, 2013

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best decision you can make? No I think that is the worst thing to do to my school. Bethune is important to me because I feel safe; I like my teacher and staff and it's in my neighborhood.

Bethune is important to me because they make us feel welcome. For example, I feel welcomed when they treat us with respect. For instance, when I don't have anyone to talk to they listen to me.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because I like my teacher and staff. For example, we work together to solve our problems. For instance, when I walk out of class they stop and help me to clam me down.

My last reason why Bethune is important to me is because it is in my neighborhood. For example it is close to my house. For this reason, I won't be late for school.

Finally, why Bethune is important to me is because when I need help I will just ask my teacher for help or I will ask the staff for some help. For example, they will help me with my Reading or Math. For this reason my math teacher lets me stay after school to help me with work that I did not finish. These are the reasons that my school should stay open.

Stevion Davis
Aril 23, 2013

Bethune School of Excellence
Room 216

The Importance Of Bethune

Do you really think that closing Bethune is a good decision? No, I think this is the most worst thing you could do to us. Bethune is important to me because Bethune feels like it is another family to me, Bethune care about me, and I like my teachers/staffs

Bethune is important to me because it feels like it is another family. For example, when you feel down they cheer you back up like a true family member. For instance, when I feel; down they make me feel happy.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me because Bethune care's about me. For example, they do a lot of things for you. For instance, when you don't feel good they make you feel better.

Bethune is important to me because it feel like another home. For example, you be at school for a long time. For instance, you have fun at school and you have fun at home.

Therefore, Bethune is a good school so you should keep this school open. For example, we learn we have fun, we do a lot of good things. For instance, we had to do work before we have fun we go on fun trips also.

Janiyah Lake
Bethune School of Excellence

April 23, 2013
Room 216

The Importance of Bethune

Do you really think closing Bethune is the best idea? No, I think this is the worse think you can do. Bethune is very important to me because they made me feel welcome, they care about us, we are a family as a school.

Bethune is important to me because they make us feel welcome. They make us feel welcome. They make me welcome because they show me respect. For example, if I need someone to talk to they listen to me, They make us feel like family for a example they treat us with respect an they help us with work early an the morning or after school.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because they care about us. Some people have a bus come an get them from home to school so they won't have to walk. For example, if someone has to take the bus home they give you a bus pass.

My last reason why Bethune is important to me is because they make us feel like family. When something goes wrong we as a school try to fix it. For example, if something goes wrong during the talent show we fix it. Say if are music go wrong.

In the end, Bethune is important to me because they care about us, they make us feel like family, and they make us feel welcome. So I think you should not close are school.

Marquell Curtis
Room 216

04/23/2013
Bethune School of Excellence

Bethune is Important to Me

Do you really think that closing Bethune is the best decision you can make? I think that is the worst thing you could do because they make me feel like home, its in my neighborhood, and they listen to us.

Bethune is important to me because they make me feel at home. For example, they listen to us when we are talking. They don't yell at us or bother us period.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because its close to my neighborhood. For example I don't have to get in a car or I don't have to walk far.

My final reason why Bethune is important to me is because they listen to us. For example, every time somebody hits us they listen to us.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because they have a lot of sports here and we won a lot of championships. Bethune has good kids in here that know how to play every sport. We are smart here at Bethune School of Excellence I trust the teachers and what they teach us.

Therefore that's why Bethune is important to me. One more thing Bethune is important to me because its is the best school in the world that's not a opinion it is a fact.

Kayla Strickland
Bethune School of Excellence

April 23, 2013
Room 216

The Importance of Bethune

Do you think that closing Bethune down is the best idea you can make? No I think that this is the worst thing you ever did Bethune is important to me because this school is in my neighborhood I like the staff and they make me feel welcome

Bethune is important to me because. This school is in my neighborhood. For example, I don't have to walk far. For instance, I only have to walk one block to get to school.

Another reason why Bethune is important to me is because I like the staff. For example, when they see me doing well they tell me to keep up the good work. For instance, they motivate you to keep doing a good job to be successful in life.

My final reason why Bethune is important to me is because they make me feel welcome. For example they ask me am I "ok" when they see me. For instance they show how much they care about us and Bethune.

To sum this up Bethune is important to me because the teachers and staff make me feel welcome as in individual. PLEASE DON'T CLOSE OUR SCHOOL

Jovan Johnson
Bethune School
4-24-2013

Save Bethune!

I think and the other kids and adults think that you shouldn't close the school. Kids learn here at Bethune and learn more things from all the different programs they pay for and give us. They have to pay with there own money for these programs, so we can learn more because they care and so should you. You can keep the school open so we can learn some more and have a great life.

Here is another reason you should keep the school open. We have to make a lot of changes at home. It's going to be a big change. Some students have things going on at home that this school helps them with. This could be a problem at another school.

My next reason for keeping Bethune open is that going to a new school will be another change. So after we got to make the changes at home, how we got to do it at a new school. Some of these kids can't make that many changes it is too much pressure for the student.

I think what you should do is save Bethune. Remember these kids are going to be someone in life. A lot of the good people in the world were poor or very low in life and look at them now. Do you think we can be something like that? But we are not a low school so that makes it better for us and we can be better than them.

In the end, I hope that what all I said means something to you. I hope you keep the school open the kids need this school. Changes are good but this change is not a good one. We have an excellent staff and we have great students. If you close the school and put up stores you will need people for the job, but you close the school. The learning will stop. Now it will take longer to pass.

Kierra Carr
April 23, 2013
Room 208
Bethune School of Excellence

Save Bethune

Every kid wants a place to call home, and to me Bethune is home. Bethune is important to me because the school does not accept failure, the teachers are supportive, and the climate is comfortable.

Bethune is important to me because they do not accept failure. For example, Bethune has morning and after school classes so I can be prepared for class and for life outside of school. Bethune also has learning incentives so I can track my progress through the year. For an example, we work on compass learning as a resource that has all the curriculums that will help gain points for the NWEA Map test.

Another reason Bethune is important to me is because the teachers are supportive. For example, they have morning tutoring sessions to help me understand yesterday's lesson. They also stay after hours to help students with S.T.E.M projects, essays, and homework.

Last but not least, Bethune has a comfortable climate. For example they have extra curricular activities like softball, track, karate, and ballet. This really keeps the students more active during the weekdays and weekends. They also have air conditioner in every classroom for the kids to be comfortable.

Bethune was the first school I really ever participated in for extra curricular activities. In my opinion Bethune is a great school and I think it would be the worst mistake ever in life closing my school.

Dionta Grayson
Bethune

4-24-13
Grade: 8th/208

Why Bethune should stay open

Bethune should stay open because lots of kids cherish memories, we been on top of our game, and always give them 100% everyday at school for our education and attendance.

Bethune should stay open because kids have cherished memories since 2009 when the school was first turned around. Before our former principal Mrs. Hightower left, kids where having exciting trips for achieving goals and doing well and meeting standards.

Another reason my school should stay open is because we stay on top of our game in regards to discipline and more. Every day when teachers come to school they know what their kids are capable of doing and always know how to get them back on track.

Finally Bethune should stay open because we put 100% into everything even on attendance. Students come to school ready and prepared to go over big obstacles. We are always responsible and what we turn in is not garbage. Our work is something that teachers would accept.

I learned from Bethune that to always cherish your memories and never give up on whatever you need.

Jennifer Caldwell
Bethune School

April, 24, 2013
8th Grade

Bethune Closing Down?

Do you think that closing down Bethune is the best idea? I don't think so! Bethune is important to me because this feels like a family here, I feel very safe here, and I like my teachers and staff.

One reason why Bethune is important to me because its like an family here. For example we are all close to each other and defend one another. When we feel that somebody is treated wrong we would say something about it to the student or even the teachers, but in a respectful way.

Another reason Bethune is important to me is because I feel safe here. For instance we have a lot of ESP's here walking halls making sure we stay in class and do drills for the "unpredictable" emergency situations. You don't have to worry about anybody coming up in here and harming anybody.

Finally, Bethune is important because I like why teachers and staff. Even though I'm graduating this year, I still would like to come back and tell the teachers and staff how I'm doing school wise. And also I know most of the others like them as well.

Bethune is important to me because I've been here for 4 years and this has been my home. If you close this school I wouldn't have a school to come back to. This is a very bad mistake that you all need to fix and I would surely be waiting, on your final decision.

Juaquita Bell
Bethune School of Excellence

April 24, 2013
208

Keep Bethune Open!!!

Before you close our school, understand how I feel. Bethune is important to me because it feels like a family, it's in my neighborhood, and I feel safe.

One reason Bethune School shouldn't close is because it feels like family. This school makes me feel wanted and happy to wake up and come to school in the morning. Bethune also treats you like family. This is like a second family to me and for people that don't have family that cares. Bethune works together to make sure all students are successful.

Another reason Bethune shouldn't close is because it's in my neighborhood. The school CPS is trying to send Bethune kids to is a long walk. The walk is so long a lot kids will be late. After being late so much, kids are going to give up and just drop out. Then you would have to close that school. CPS schools are needed in the neighborhood. Some kids will be afraid to go that far because of gangs.

Lastly, at Bethune, I feel safe. Its about five staff members standing outside when the students come out the building. Sometimes the staff will walk students home if students are afraid. They make sure they know if anything is wrong before you walk out the building. They make sure it's a staff member walking on every floor.

At first Bethune school was not the greatest school but now it's a turn around it's the best. Our NWEA scores are higher. Bethune students come to school more. The ISAT scores are higher. Please don't close our school because we love it and need this school.

Tucorey Wright
B.S.E

4/22/13
Room 208

School Closer Essay

Is closing our school really the best option? No, I think closing our school is not the best option because some students love Bethune. Some students love Bethune because they learned a lot here, Bethune is the only school they've been to and they feel safe.

Some people I know don't want Bethune to close because they learned a lot here. For example when some students first got to Bethune their scores were low but around time ISAT came their scores went up and they passed the ISAT.

Most students at Bethune probably wouldn't want Bethune to close because this is the only school they've been to. A couple students in my classroom been here way before the AUSL turn around. Now they stand in 8th grade but they got younger siblings that go here and their parents probably want them to graduate from here too.

I think a few students here probably don't want Bethune to close because they feel safe here. The students probably feel safe here because the staff here is always checking on people to make sure everything is okay. Even though there is a lot here most of it does not end until it gets to the staff. That's when they get the choice of what could happen. The next day everything would be cool.

For these reasons, I think some people wouldn't want the school to close because they learn a lot here, this is the only school they've been to, and they feel safe here.

Tavaris Ray
Bethune School
April 23, 2013

Don't close our school...

I feel safe at Bethune because the school is secured, all the adults take there time to listen to students, and they staff treat us like were their own children.

One reason why I feel safe at Bethune is because the school is secured. For example, when you close our school doors they would lock them and at the main door you can see who is ringing the bell. I think Bethune is a perfect example for CPS schools.

Another reason why think I feel safe at Bethune is because all adults take there time to listen to students. For example, sometimes a student can come to school sad, up tight or just don't feel like being bothered, but teachers at Bethune take matters into their own hands to help them. I believe Bethune teachers are reliable meaning that you can count on them.

Lastly, I feel safe at Bethune because they treat us like we're their children. For example, some students and teachers actually call each other mom, dad, son, and daughter and that shows them how much they care about them. Think that our school shows others how to be respectful, responsible, and ready.

Some students might prefer our school to close, but me being the young man I am I want our school to stay open because our school is secured, all the adults take there time to listen to students, and they treat us like we're their own children.

Breshun Edwards
Bethune School

April 24, 2013
Room 2018

Don't Close Our School!

Do you really want to close our school? No! Bethune is important to me because, its in my neighborhood, this feels like family, and the climate is comfortable.

One reason why I think that you shouldn't close Bethune is because its in my neighborhood. For example most people don't have a car to travel to other schools. Another example is most kids and families don't have enough clothes and money to wear and buy new clothes if its out of uniform. Also most kids can't go out of the neighborhood because of gangs and violence.

Another reason why I think that Bethune shouldn't close down is because, this feels like family. For example the staff at this school cares about me and the other students that attend Bethune. The staff prepares us to be successful in the future. They also treat students like a team.

Last but not least, you should not close down Bethune because the climate is comfortable. For example they treat us with respect. They give us good food and they spend lots of money on us. They supply us with lots of things such as trips, parties, back to school picnics, etc.

I believe that you shouldn't close Bethune because its in my neighborhood, this feels like a family and the climate is comfortable. This is what makes Bethune important to me.

Verkita Hunt
Bethune School

April 23, 2013
Ms.Hamilton

Save Bethune School

Many students like calling their favorite place home, for me Bethune is my home. Bethune is important to me because I learned a lot, it feels like a family, and it's in my neighborhood.

One reason why Bethune is important to me is because I learned a lot. For example, last year my math NWEA was low but now this year my teacher is pushing me up, telling me to keep trying and just do my best. So, I did what she told me to do and now my math NWEA scores look way different from last year. They went up.

Another reason why I say Bethune is important to me is that it feels like a family. For example, the teachers and staff members prepare the students as a whole to be successful in the future and to help each other as a team.

Last but not least I say that Bethune is important to me because it's in my neighborhood. For example, it's closer to the kids houses and it's also no gang or too much violence. What I mean about no gangs or violence, is kids can walk to school by themselves or with a group of other kids and not be bothered.

Bethune is important to me is because I learned a lot, it's feels like family, and it's in my neighborhood. So I advise you not to close the school down because these kids and I call Bethune our home.

Jessica Neal
Bethune School

April 23, 2013
Room 208

Do you have a heart?

Have you ever lost a place you love? Such as a school, a house, a park, or a very special place? Well, I have and it's my school. I don't think closing Bethune is a good idea because there are many reasons why my school should stay open. I think Bethune should stay open because it's a safe, intelligent, and a helpful school.

Bethune is safe because you never heard of any child getting hurt in Bethune. In my opinion Bethune had good luck because in some schools kids get hurt mostly every week. Bethune kids do not get hurt by the school, in the school, nor on their way to school because Bethune keeps their students safe. Bethune does not even have many fights. If it does happen it's like every two to three months because Bethune does not play about that. Bethune is very safe it is as safe as it can be.

Bethune is intelligent because you will never see Bethune with more than 20 students with F's. We are intelligent because of our teachers. Some people may call Bethune dumb, I can tell you one thing and that is the fact that Bethune may be dumb but the students aren't. There are many students in this school succeeding because they teach us what we know to succeed.

Bethune is helpful because they never let us give up. They push us to the point where we don't like it, but its helping us succeed. The teachers and staff in Bethune will always help you no matter what you need help on they are there. They push you through the easy things and help us through the hard because they know we can do it. When we say we give up or we quit or we don't know they say, "You know you just have to try".

Arianna Walker
Bethune

April 24, 2013
Room 208

There is a struggle for many parents to find an affordable school for them to be accepted in but by Bethune being an option it is school and one that I live around. I attended the school before the turn around in grades K-3 and I transferred back this year. At first I was hesitant about attending again but I noticed that the changes that were made are superior.

The academic levels have become stronger, there are many programs offered and many things for us are supplied. I strongly support Bethune elementary school because it is a place where I can strive. I am surprised to see how many scholars are willing to support their school. I think about how the scholars of or school can accept it and act like everything is cool.

I don't believe the capacity level should be the interference. There are 300+ students in the school but it is still making a difference. It may be a small amount of people but it's easier to get to know everyone and for the teachers to interact with me. The staff and scholars help each other and we stick together like a family.

For many parents, Bethune school is right across the street. Gregory is dangerous for most kids traveling blocks away and especially if traveling on feet. It is a safety issue, could increase violence and causes a lot of stress. Parents wonder how they can afford to get their child to school and that makes them very upset.

But what I want to be taken from this is the understanding of how many young lives will be affected. Some younger kids that don't fully understand the concepts wonder why there school would close there doors and it makes them feel neglected. Not only will they feel neglected but feel violence and rage. Do you ever stop and think about how

Labrenda Dobbs
April 24, 2013
Room208
B.S.E

Don't Close Our School!

Is closing our school really your best option? No, I don't think so. Bethune school is important to me because I feel safe, I love Bethune, and the academics are awesome.

Even though I'm graduating this year I still feel Bethune shouldn't close because I feel safe. I also feel Bethune shouldn't close because this is our younger sibling's neighborhood-school. It isn't right because they will have to walk at least 7 more blocks which is one block away from a whole mile. I say I feel safe at Bethune because everyday at least 3 or more E.S.P.s will be there to supervise the kids like watch out for the kids while they are walking home. Either way it goes, I know that Bethune will be there when I need it.

I love Bethune for everything they have done for me. When I first came to Bethune I thought it would be terrible. I learned to never judge a book by its cover. Bethune school is great in many different ways and every child is smart in their own way. I also love Bethune because we have City Year to go to if we need help with homework or class work that we are struggling with.

The academics at Bethune are awesome. Bethune academics is awesome because all my teachers break things down to me that I don't understand. For example, when I'm in math and I don't understand what the question is asking me, my teacher will give me many examples and tell me don't give up. They push us to the limit where we know we are going to get it eventually.

Robert Woods
Bethune School

Room 208
April 23, 2013

!!!SAVE OUR SCHOOL!!!

There are many reasons Bethune School of Excellence is important. But here are my reasons why it is important to me. Bethune is important to me because it's a good school, kids feel safe here, and kids have people to look up to.

One reason I think Bethune is important is because Bethune is a good school for all kids that need help with any thing. Also the staff here take care of kids like it's there own. Also here at Bethune if the teachers are in a bad mood they let the students teach.

A second reason I think Bethune is important and should stay open is because kids that attend Bethune feel very welcome and comfortable around the adults here and other students that attend Bethune.

Finally, I think Bethune should stay open is because kids here have people to look up to as in the staff parents and etc. Also if there's a child in need there's someone at Bethune to look up to, talk to, or help them out.

Those are my reasons why I think Bethune School of Excellence should stay open because it's a good school a safe place and kids here have people to look up to.

Fifth Grade

Trevion Turner

Why Bethune is important to me because Bethune is my only school. I enjoy being here I feel safe I hope Bethune have esp's to stop bullies at fights I love Bethune because the teachers teach things and words I enjoy being with my friends in school also outside. I learned alot from here don't close Bethune please. If you close Bethune our teachers will not be able to work here. I like most of the teachers but I don't go along with some of them.

Bethune is important to me because it is right down the street and you don't have to walk so far. It is also important to me because I have a lot of favorite teachers and they teach me a lot of fun stuff I need to learn.

I feel safe at Bethune because it don't let people in side at least they coming to pick up a student. They don't let people in cause we might get shot. They keep us safe from getting shot.

I love my school because its fun and you don't have to do just work you can have fun and and do work at the same time that way I love my school.

love
Pacecece
Davidson

Ashleigh

Dear CTS

I need Bethune to be open because we all love Bethune. We have lots of memories in this school. We all learn lot of things. We will never see our friends or teachers. Bethune has helped me with sports, so I can do things with my life.

I feel safe at my school because we are with the teacher, it's closer to my house and we safely go out for a walk.

Every school doesn't have ESPs but we do. I love my school because we do fun things at this school, we learn with fun things and if I don't want to play I can read. We have all specials. Because

→

Name: Kayla Nicole Hill Date: 4-24-13

Why I ♥ Bethune

Bethune is important to me because I have been here for 6 years and it has changed a lot. It used to be a fight every day before the turnaround. The E.S.P.s did not pay attention to the kids. Neither did the teachers. I feel safe at Bethune because when someone is about to get into a fight a E.S.P. breaks it up. They will not just let you fight and hurt yourselves they would suspend the both of you. That's how I feel safe. I love my school because the teachers are very nice and they pay attention to you. We even have special curriculums such as music, art, gym and computers. We have fun after school programs like tutoring and soccer.

PLEASE DON'T
CLOSE OUR
SCHOOL!!!

Name: Jasmine

Bethune is the best. Bethune is important to me because if Bethune is close down then kids will have to walk far & take buses or trips in the cold. That is very unsafe because Bethune is the closest school to kids around here. My school is also important to me because I have been here long enough to know this school. Somethings that I know about this school is Bethune has changed alot of schools. And I know kids have changed alot. I fell safe at Bethune because when someone else a teacher or adult solves the problem. I also fell safe because teachers make sure no one is doing →

anything unsafe and if they do, the
teachers make sure they stop. I love
my school because we have a lot
of activities & at most schools they
don't have a lot of activities. Also at
most schools they don't have activities. I also
love my school because I love my teacher.
to me they are awesome.

Sincerely

Jasmine

I don't

close

my school

~~my school~~

Demario Drummer Jr

Bethune is important to me because they help me to become a basketball player. They help me to work on my jumpshot. Also my layup skills. They help me work on my defense.

I feel safe at school because they prepare you for worst thing that could happen at school. They prepare you if someone come inside the building that is not supposed be in there. They get us ready for things that could happen before it happens. We do these drills every year just in case the other kids do not know what to do. The reason our attendance went down is because kids graduate. Kids graduate every year so that is why our attendance goes down, that means that the teachers are doing what they are supposed to do. The kids that graduate they go to high school then to college to be successful.

Enyce Hurley

Dear cps

Bethune is important to me because?

Because I do not like to walk
so far, than my legs will hurt
and I love Bethune.

I feel safe at Bethune because?
It is a safe school because when
I cut my elbow they had
the tools to fix it.

I love my school because?

It feel like a safe school and
I have been going here for 7 years
and I hope I graduate from here
that why I love my school.

Save our school

Love
cps.

Date: 4/24/13

Name: Ekelia Trivinnan Jones Room # 201/2011
Bethune is important to me because you can learn things that other schools do not learn. We have so many things other schools do not have. We have a music room, a Key Board lab, an art room, a mac lab, and a computer lab.

I feel safe at Bethune because there is teachers you can talk to about anything, and who is going to walk their kids to another school were their's shooting.

I love my school because there are teachers you can talk to when something goes wrong, you can sit down with them and tell them what's on your mind.

Love,
Ekelia

P.S. Please don't close our school down.

Bethune IS IMPORTANT
Bethune PS a very good school.
Bethune work PS for our world.
I Love my Bethune friends.

I feel safe at Bethune because
If I get into a fight they there
If I am lost they are there.
If I am hurt they are there.

I Love my school.
I Love my Teacher.
I Love my friend.
I Love the work.

TO: CPS.

From: Hanna

Bethune is important to me because my favorite teacher is Miss G. She helps me with a lot of stuff. If you close the school down, I can't learn real good. I would feel sad and mad because my school is closing down and I can't see none of my teachers. I love Bethune because we go on many trips and we have fun. We have a Apple computer lab. The teachers make work fun.

I love my school because my friends go here. I wouldn't be able to see them anymore. My friends are like my family.

Jamar ion Gray 4/24/13

Why bethune is important to use

① Bethune is important to me because
one I need to learn.
two it's a good school.
three I get to learn a lot of things.
four I like learning.

② I feel safe at bethune because
one thing I feel safe about is that I get
to learn and my teachers protect me and I
have good friends.

③ I love My school because My teachers are
cool and they help me with problems I
don't know and if our school
closed. I won't see M friend
any more that's why I love bethune.

Kendra

oneal

4/22/13

Bethune is important to me because it's like a family and it's a place to learn and talk about how are we doing. I started 5th grade here at Bethune and I've been in love with the school since. I never been in detention.

While I was in Bethune and I will not go to Gregory I will stay at Bethune until I graduate.

I feel safe at Bethune because I walk to school almost everyday and I'm safe around teachers and students. You don't see crime by Bethune you probably see those things at Gregory and many others schools.

I love my school because we have after school at Bethune and many others things that goes on at Bethune so please don't close my school. I am upset about my Bethune being closed.

DuJuan Barnes 4/23/2013

Bethune is important to me because my favorite teacher is Miss. G. She helps me with a lot of stuff. If you close the school down, I can't learn really good. I would feel sad and mad because my school is closing down and I can't see home of my teachers.

I love Bethune because we go on many trips and we have fun. We have an APPLE COMPUTER lab. The teachers make work fun.

I love my school because my friends go here. I wouldn't be able to see them anymore. My friends are like my family.

Good afternoon I came here today to talk about a great school about being closed. I'm talking about Bethune. Bethune is a family environment we care about each other. I feel so safe at Bethune because we get along with each other. We won't let you break this up. I grow in reading and writing daily. Teachers are the best in the world. Like Ms. Servais has helped me so much. I was not the best reader but last year I've grown. I love this school so much, it will be a crime to close it. Please keep my school open!

From Antoine Myre

to C.P.S.

THANKING

BETHUNE IS IMPORTANT TO ME
BECAUSE...

THE TEACHERS AT BETHUNE HELP ME
LEARN.

BETHUNE HAS A LOT OF ACTIVITIES

I HAVE BEEN AT
BETHUNE SINCE PREK.

I FEEL SAFE HERE.

I FEEL SAD THAT I WILL
HAVE TO BE IN A NEW PLACE.

April 24, 2013

Dear CPS,

Bethune is important to me because I learned new things this year. And it's like my other family. I've been here since 3rd grade; that's why you should not close Bethune. This is my favorite school because I have lots of friends and family here. I feel safe at ^{Bethune} because teachers respect all of their students and Bethune should be a level one school. I love my school because we have lots of great esp and staff. The school you are closing is not bad we are trying to make it better by improving our reading and writing. I don't want to go to Gregory so please don't close Bethune down.

To: CPS

From: Quintrelle Motley

Fourth Grade

Rear, CPS,

4-21-13

Bethune is important to me because they have longer days and they are helping my little sister ever day. She is getting better.

I feel safe at Bethune because they have staff to make sure that their students are safe that's why. I love my school.

I love my school because they make sure I am smart and learning.

Vanaria Brackens

April, 24, 2013

Bethune soc

Room: 203

Dear cps,

Bethune is important to me because I love the teachers and I like the school because when you have a problem the teacher take their time to listen to you and at the other schools some teachers don't listen. They might just say they don't care right now.

I feel safe at Bethune because they have security guards and they teach us lock down and drills so we can be safe and be ready.

I love my school Bethune because they do fun things and stay active. I want to get my education from my school Bethune because it's my favorite school.

Love,
Vanaria
Brackens

ps. please keep my
school open
C.P.S. it's my
favorite school
since kindergarten
please please keep
Bethune open!

4-21-13

TEON HARRIS Bethune

DEAR CPS,

Bethune is important to me because Bethune help me get my grades up in reading. And Bethune is fun they can help me pass the 4th grade.

I feel safe at Bethune because Bethune does field trips and field trips

I love my school because they help me if I mess up. My name is TEON.

Sincerely TEON

Aysiah-Sims-Green

Bethune School

April 24, 2013

Room 205

Dear Chicago Public Schools,

Bethune is important because when we get to eighth grade we are going to get a great education. The reason why I want to be at this school because when I first came to Bethune I thought about it. When I stepped in this school I had discipline to my self and for the school. I love this school because this school give me good grades, and we feel safe at Bethune.

Sincerely,

Aysiah

Jalen Carr
Bethune

4-24-13
Room 203

Dear Board of Education,

Please don't close Bethune because Bethune is so important to me because it's close to my house. Another reason is I feel safe at Bethune because the school has ESP's making sure all kids are safe. My last reason is I love my school because it has decent colors.

Sincerely

Jalen Carr

P.S. Think about the children not yourselves or the city any adults just think about the children's education.

P.P.S Bethune can give great food.

Dearia Conley
Bethune School

April 24, 13
Room 205

Dear CPS,

I'm writing this letter to you because I want Bethune to stay open. I've been going there for 6 years since the turn around. I love Bethune they help me when I need help they even ask me ~~do~~ I need help. I feel safe at Bethune because we have ESP's that protect us. Please keep Bethune open.

♥♥♥ Love, Dearia Conley

#11

Tameyia Huff

writing

April 24, 2008

Bethune Soc

room 305

Dear CPS,

Bethune is important to me because
You can get your grades up and Education.

I feel safe at Bethune because
when tornado drills come you have
to put your knee on the floor and
put your hand over your head.

I love my school because you can
do your work at a level 1 and you
can share what you and your
partner said about new things to
learn.

Sincerely,

Tameyia Huff

Dontoyia Jones
Bethune SOE

4-24-13

room 253

Dear CPS, Schools

- Bethune is important to me because I get good information from every one in Bethune even class mates!!!

- I feel safe at Bethune because it's a lot of ESP's to help keep the kids safe.

~~I~~ I love my school because the teachers help us to grow up and get a job and not to be on the street and stay in school and go to college and most important Books before boys.

Sincerely,
Dontoyia,
Man Paul,
Jones

Antwanae mejee
Bethune school

April 24, 2013
room 203

Dear, cps

Bethune is Important to me because you can get your education and you can get your Grades up.

I feel safe at Bethune because we have fire drills just so we can be safe. And we have ESP's in the building and every time we come and the school they say were you safe coming to school. And we say yes. And why are the Great Schools closing down and the bad school are staying open.

I Love this School because it keep us safe and it make us get our education, and they discipline us so we can get our education. In so we can finish Intermediate and middle school and high school and college strong. And we can get a job.

Sincerely,

Antwanae

#23

Monica Woods
Bethune SOE

4/24/13
Room 203

Dear C.P.S.,

— Bethune is important to me because my whole family what to be here and finish I will like to finish at this school to.

— I feel safe at Bethune because we have ESP at this school. At my old school we had one ESP. I feel safer at Bethune.

— I love my school because the teachers are nice and the school is fun. It is fun because we have gym, music, art and computers and some schools don't have this stuff.

Sincerely,

Monica Woods

Essence Ellis APR 24, 2013
Bethune SOE Room 203

Dear CPS

I think it is
important for Bethune to
stay open because Bethune
is one of the highest
schools in CPS but that
is just from my perspective.

I think Bethune
is a safe place because
there are cameras in every
corner of the school and
there are ESP all over
the school.

I love my school
because the teachers are nice
and they always help you with
your work.

Sincerely,
Essence
Ellis

Room
203

Bethune SOE April 24, 2013 #29
Mrs. Nixon 4-24-13 2013 Room 203

Dear Cps,

Bethune is important to
me because I can get a
good education and good grades. I feel
safe at Bethune because they keep
the doors close and the windows to.
So if someone try's to take any one we have
Esp to save us.

Sincerely,
Brook & Anisha

Taniah wilkerson #31
Bethune April 24, 2013

Dear cps,
Bethune is important to me
because the teachers
are nice and teach
different and are very helpful.

I feel safe at bethune
because bethune has
brill's to stay safe and
have cameras in the school.
School. I love bethune
because you can eat
breakfast and that is all
I can say.

Sincerely, Taniah
wilkerson

Third Grade

Irevall, Dixon

Be thuse is important
to me because it helps me grow
my brain. And It is nice we
never have police coming in
school. But we have Gym, music
and science lab. We have nice
teachers and they take time off
of other things they have to do.

love,

Irevall

Keshawn Williams

4-24-13

Bethune 3rd

I like being at Bethune because Bethune is a school that teaches students stuff they never knew and teachers reteach things that other students may have forgot and thats why I like Bethune.

Alicia Johnson 3rd Bethune

I Love Bethune so much
and I don't want our
school to close.

Bethune is a great school.

There are great teachers and
staff that my older sister graduated
from Bethune and I want to
graduate from Bethune too.

Sincerely

Alicia Johnson

Caroln. Mitchell, 4/21/2023.

It's not right to close Bethune because I appreciate this school. All of my teacher, principals, deans, computer teacher, art teachers, music teachers, and my p.e teachers love me. That's why I love them. If you close Bethune, just let me spend a little time with my teacher, friends, family, and my school. All of my friends and teachers love me and I love them. I can't go to another school. So please don't close my school. We have really good sports like, ballet, Aikido, football, basketball, hip-hop dance, hip-hop yoga. The first day I came to this school I was shy at first until I met a lot of new friends.

Nicolas Turner

3rd

Bethune

I love my school because they
keep me safe at all times. They love me.
They are fun. This school is amazing. This
is a big school. They feed us.

TERRACE FOSTER BETHUNE B^{Ad.}
Bethune is important to me
Because we have good teachers, and
good students. I love Bethune because
it's safe.

Jalen Simmons 3rd grade Bethune

I love my school because it's a safe haven foundation and they make sure we get home safe. We have safety drills. I feel safe at Bethune because it has cameras. Bethune is important to me because they care about our work and they don't throw it in the trash. Bethune is an educated school and they care about our education.

Laila Huff 3rd grad., Bethune

I love my school because,
they help us learn, and get us ready
for college. I feel safe at
my school because nobody can come
through the window and ESP are
downstairs. Watching who comes
in then if they know them they
will let them in. Bethune
is important to me because
they help us get ready,
they help us stay safe because
they do drills.

Deandra 3rd grade Bethune

Bethune is important to me
Because the staff are amazing
Because my teacher and the rest of the
staff keep us together like a
family.

I feel safe at Bethune because.
We are having fire drills and other
drills so if it happen like the staff
we have drill for it that stuff happens
we know what to do. If we are having a
~~problem~~ ~~problem~~ problem they know exactly what
to do to calm us down to calm mode
mode.

TASHANTI English 3rd grade Bethune

Bethune is safe to me because if an intruder comes in they will warn us. If we get in trouble they will walk us home. I love my school because it is clean. They give us a uniform if we need one and they will give us recess even if we don't deserve it 😊 Please don't close Bethune! A lot of kids need this school and it deserves to stay open.

P.S

A lot of kids depend on this school!

Love

Tashanti

Destiny Robinson 3rd Grade Bethune

Bethune is important to me
Because we learn things we Don't
know. I feel safe at Bethune
because I Learn things I Don't
know. I love my School Because I
have friends here and they are the Best
friends ever.

MY NAME IS JASANI FREEMAN 3/11/98

Belmont is important to me because I feel safe at Belmont because it allows me feel safe everywhere in the class room and outside. I love Belmont because it is a good religion and more safe. My friend told me she said that it is a good thing to have in our lives. The safe feeling in Belmont is a good thing to have in our lives.

Bethune

4/24/13

Tyannia Wilson Grade 3: 205

I Love my School Because
This is a school of
excellence. my dad was at
this school. Then he got
out. So can you keep
this school open? I want
to see how this school
really is. I Love this
school so much.

Thank
you U

Bg: Tyannia Wilson

Maniya Epising Beethone School #208

I love my school because it is amazing
we have programs that other schools don't
have. we have math plus tutoring.
we have great teachers. Principal Williams
takes care of use.

Don't close Beethone!

Jada mayes 3Grade BeThane

I Love my school Because They help you
and we have Really good programs.

we have a mac book computer Lab.

They care to give us money.

Lashyla Goodman J Grad 03

Please Save Bethune

Bethune is Important to me because they help me learn. They help people stop bullying.

They help us stay safe too.

The principal works hard for us too.

I feel safe at Bethune because if an intruder came in we will do one of our drills. If one of us get shot they will take care of us to make us stay alive. The teacher make sure no one touches us or hits us. If it was a tornado they will make us do the tornado drill.

Love,

Lashyla

Goodman

Kirkham Graham 3rd Grade Bethune

Bethune is important to

me because there are so many
great programs. Bethune provides
me with with tutoring that I really
need.

I care about all my teachers,
friends and students at Bethune.

This was my first year at Bethune.

I like Bethune so much better.

than my old school because I feel
safest at Bethune.

Jacana Tatum

I feel safe at Bethune because we have security guards so we can be safe. principal Williams keeps us safe by hiring security guards who have really good teachers. This is the best school I have ever went to in my whole life. we hope they don't close it down.

Breyonce Edwards Third grade Bethune

I Love my school and learn new things and we are a Bethune family. we listen and learn. we always do our best.

Bethune is important to me because we have ESps and they help us if something is going on.

I feel safe at my school because nobody never broke in our school we have esps all over our school.

KEVON 3rd Bethune

Bethune is important

to me because

I have been here for 3 years.

I love my teacher.

The staff are amazing.

Bethune is the best school

on the block.

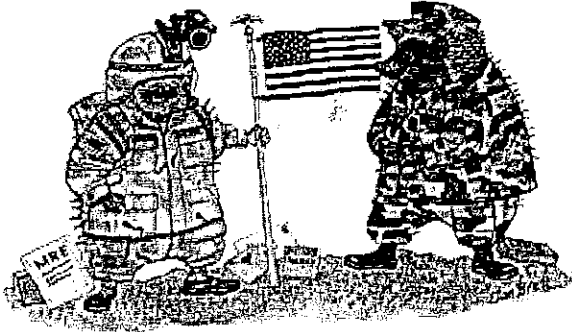
Bethune has some

things called math plus.

It helps us learn more

math, and become safe.

I love it at Bethune!



Together We Stand

A Friendly Letter

CPS

APR 11 22, 2013

Dear CPS,

I want my school to stay open
because they help me learn math, writing,
science, social studies and reading. They even
have computers to help us
learn. The teachers will always help us.
I will always want to come to this school.

Thank you,
Theresa Roache

Irma Williams

4-42-13

Bethune is important to me because I don't want to go to Gregory. We are trying our best to make Bethune a level one school. I've been going here since Prek. I don't want Bethune to close because we got the after school like cheerleading.

I feel safe at Bethune because before we get suspended Mr. Knight our Dean at Bethune School always talks to us. I know I have somebody looking out for me.

I Love my school because
I Love Bethune because

4-22-13

Dear CPS,

I don't want you to close

Bethune down. It is a good school

I get A's and B's every quarter

I Love this school. Thank you.

Love,

Dentrell

2nd and 3rd

Grade

Dear, CPS

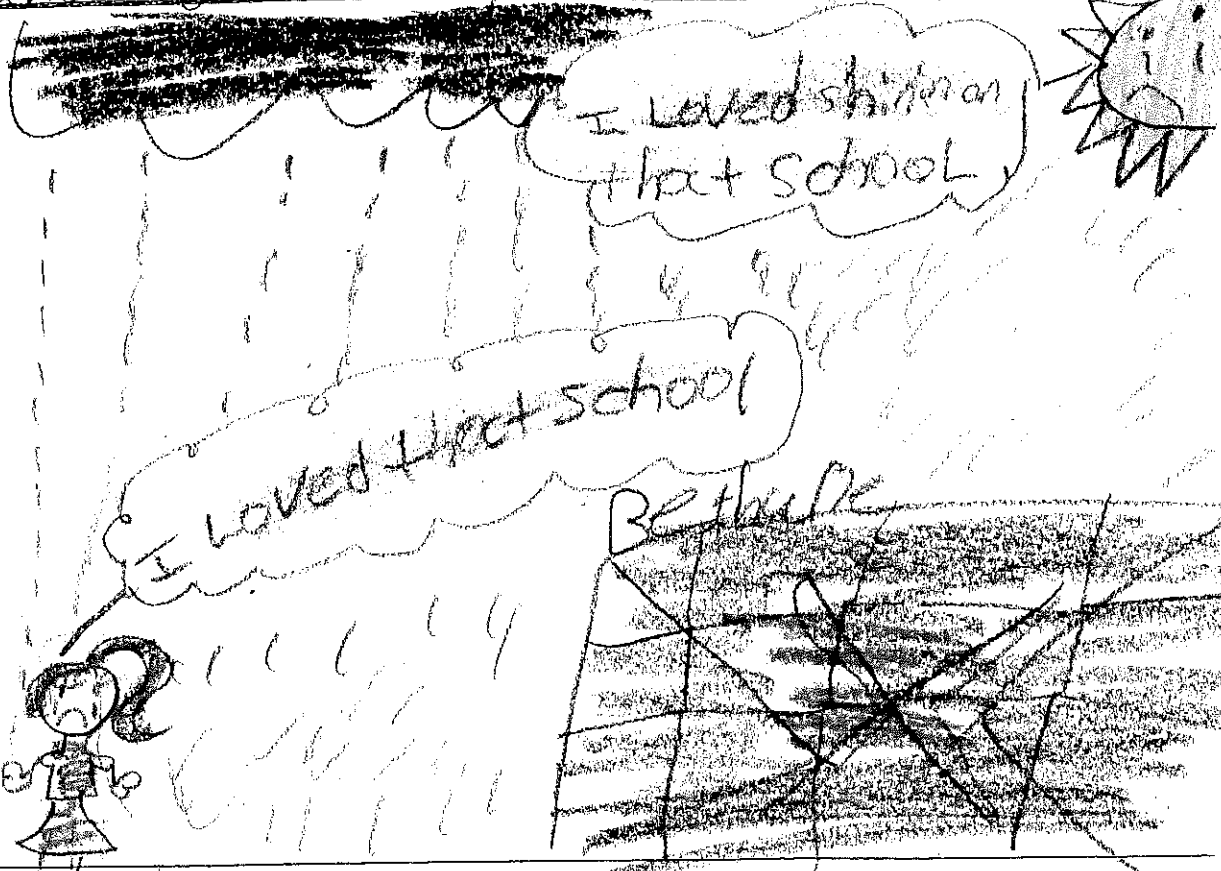
301

Name Tyneice Latise Broughton ROOM 301



I Love Bethune Because I won't to learn
and I got Best Friend in this School and they
mean a lot to me they like my sister in Broughton
to me and I got a Best teacher to Please don't
close are school Down this the Best School
I never hurt and my life I pray that are
school will not close Down every Night I go to
sleep I Love Bethune with all my life Please
Just Try your Best to Keep our school open and
I will Be so Proud of you guys to Keep our
school open Please Just keep it open Please
I will Be so happy Sincerely Tyneice
Latise Broughton

Name Karen Marshall Room 301



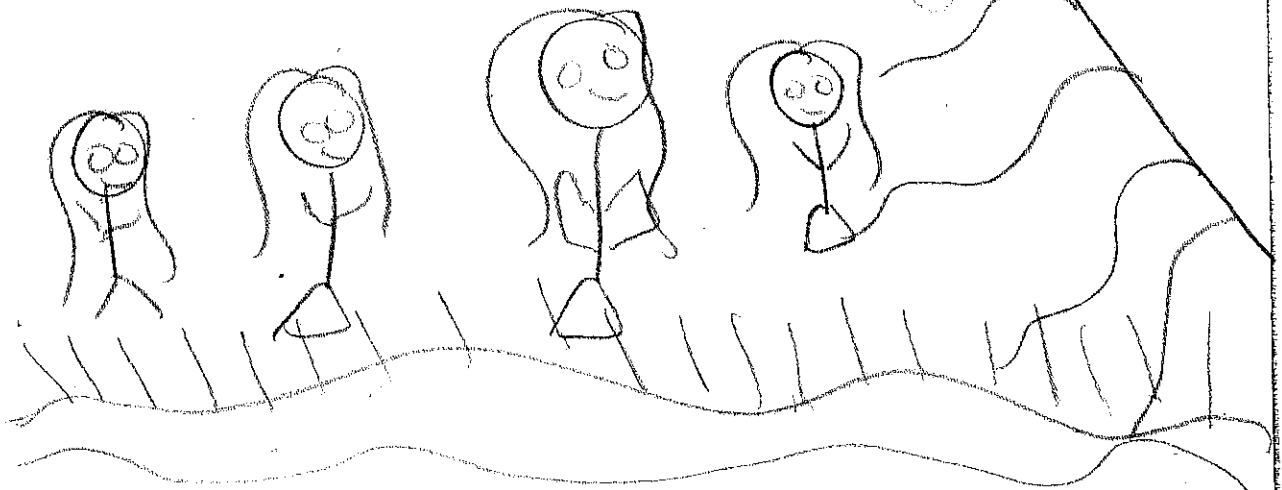
Dear cps

Bethune is important to me because
this is the school I want a education at.

I feel safe at Bethune because I can
talk to any teacher about anything.

I love my school because it's a
whole lot of nice teachers here.

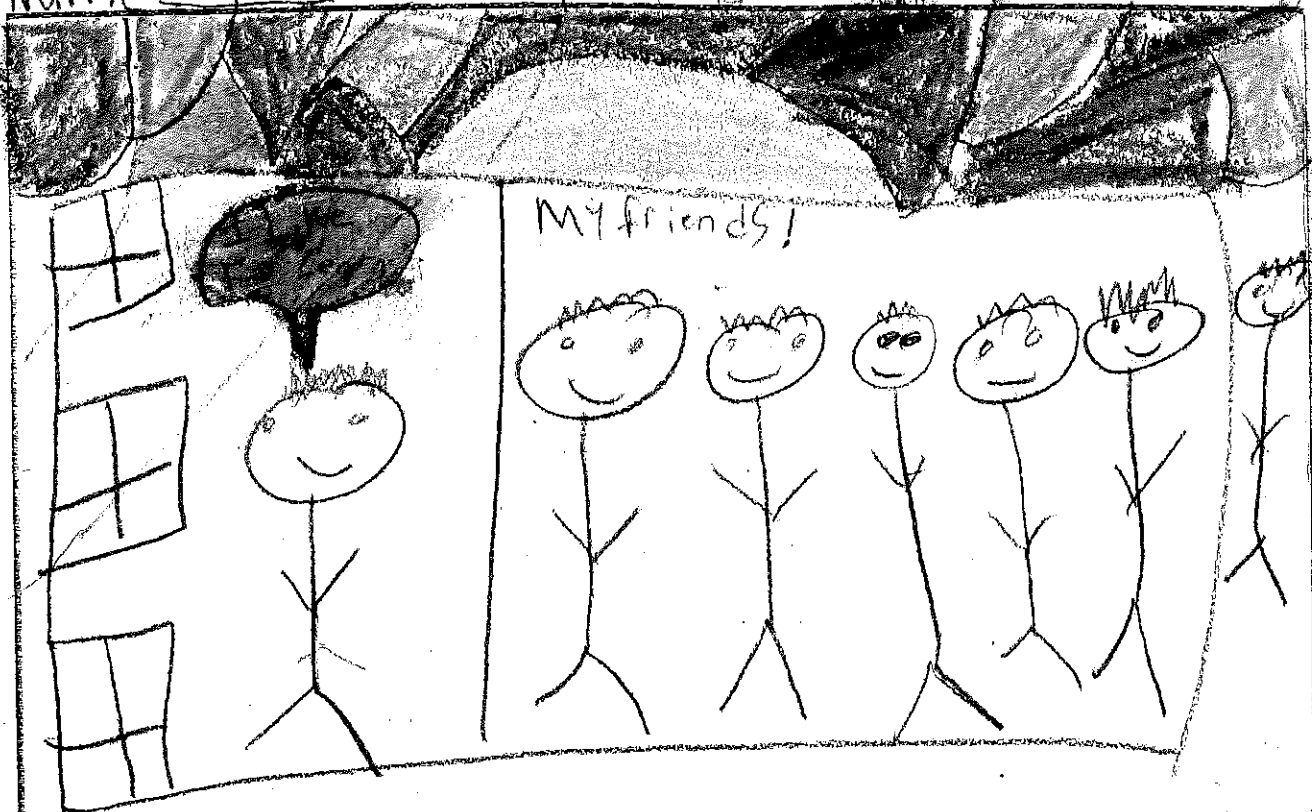
Veniah Johnson 4-24-13



This is the Best School in the hole
word! I Love my School this School is
keep you Be good the teacher is nice
to me I Love them I Love my Principal
Williams is the Best Principal in the
hole word! I Love Mr. Carley he is the Best
teacher my school is the Best

I feel safe in this Because the teacher
keep me ok in they keep out Bad People
that whr I Love this School
they keep use good in nice
we Love you Bethune School of

Name Jeremy Pryor Jr



Dear Mrs Bethune is important to me because
I have teacher to help me learn and I learn a
lot of things at Bethune and I been at Bethune
for a long time ~~from~~ ~~pre~~ to 2nd grade now it
have to close not cool. I feel safe at Bethune
because when we have drill just and case it happen
for real. I Love Bethune because I have friend
to play with and I have lot of teacher
that I like.

Sincerely

Jeremy Pryor Jr

Knette Bryant

Dear CPS

Bethune is important to me because they help me learn that make me more smart for you can get better in learning this is the best school i went to this is the school that help you learn even better than you learn better in this school is the best school ever ~~here~~ this is the school that make you learn even better if you do all your work

Sincerely, Knette Bryant

Knette Bryant

Bethune

Dear Ps

I feel safe at Bethune because they do fire drills for so people want get hurt when they do the fire drills I like when we do the fire drills that is safe because if you leaving out the building you will be safe.

Sincerely Knette Bryant

Wnette Bryant

Dear EPS

I love my school Because they help you with you work that is what make you smart if some body help you that is why the whole school is smart Because some time you dont need no help some people do need help.

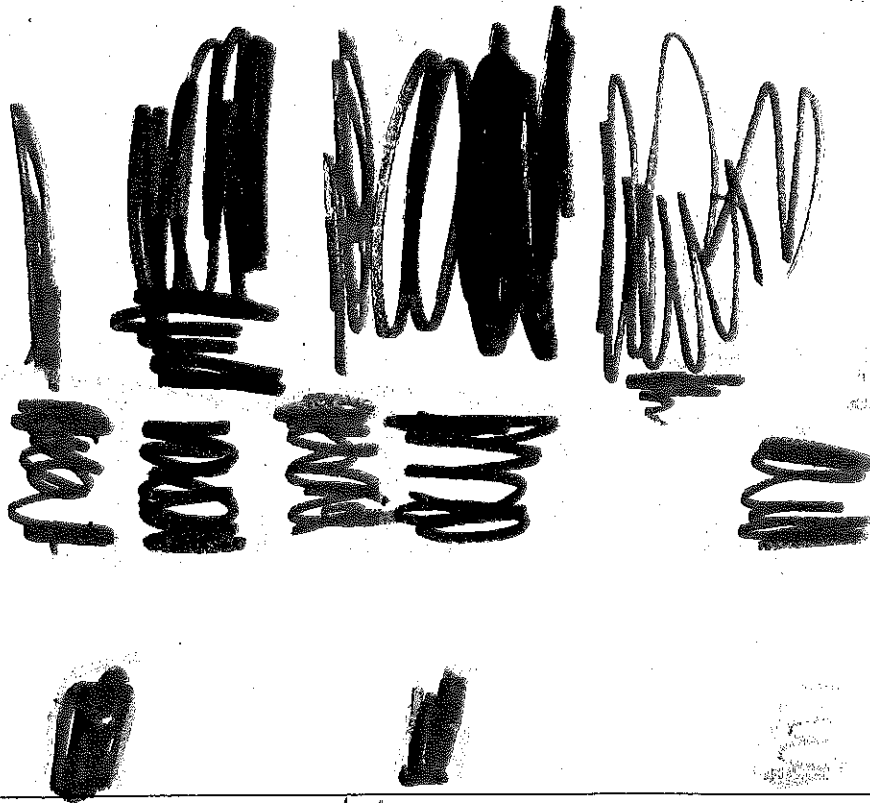
Sincerely Wnette Bryant

Ravshan

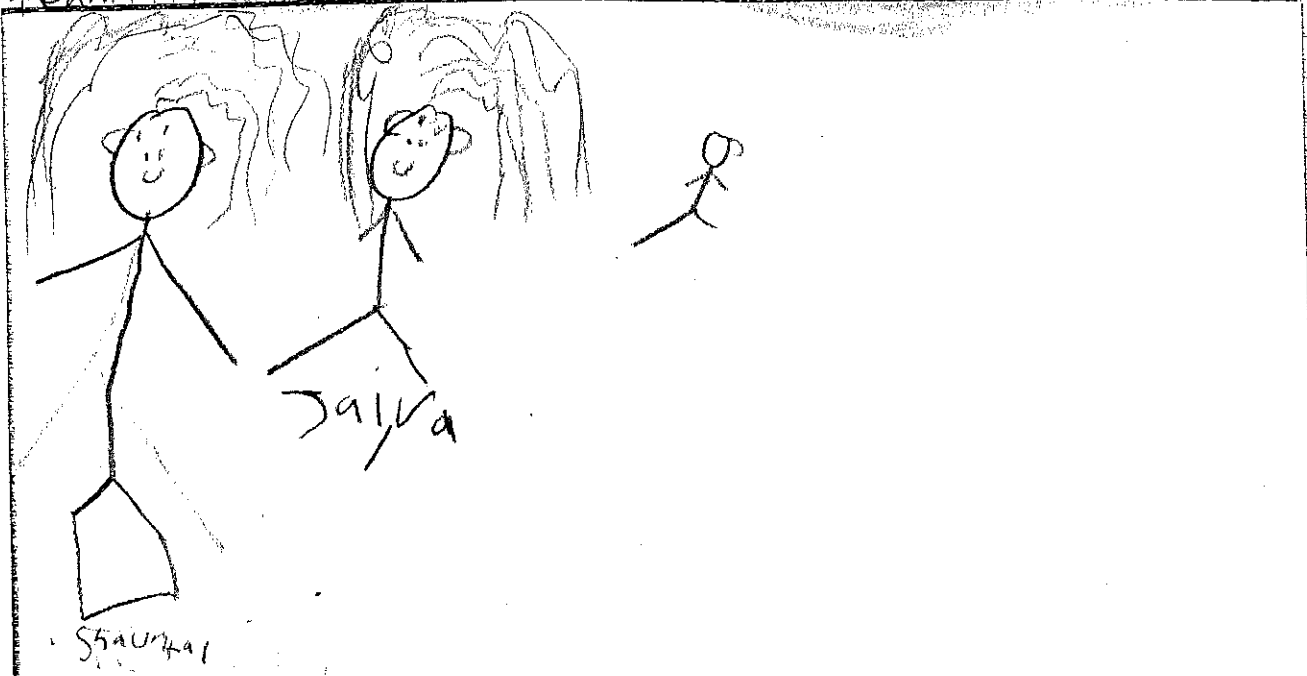
Davidson

Bethune is important to
Me because I get education at
Bethune I feel safe at
Bethune because the staff
I love my school because
my teacher there and
my friends here
at Bethune

Jeremiah



Dear CPS. Bethune is important
to my because I get A# and
I get a education. I feel safe
at Bethune because we have
faire drill.



Dear UPS,

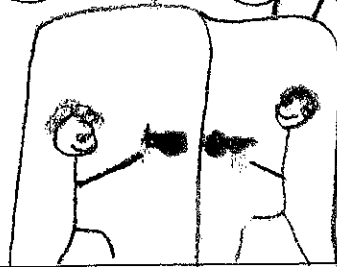
Friendship is important to me because I am smart
It's is a friend of mine

Curmiller Hayes

4-22-13

BETHUNE

School of
Excellence



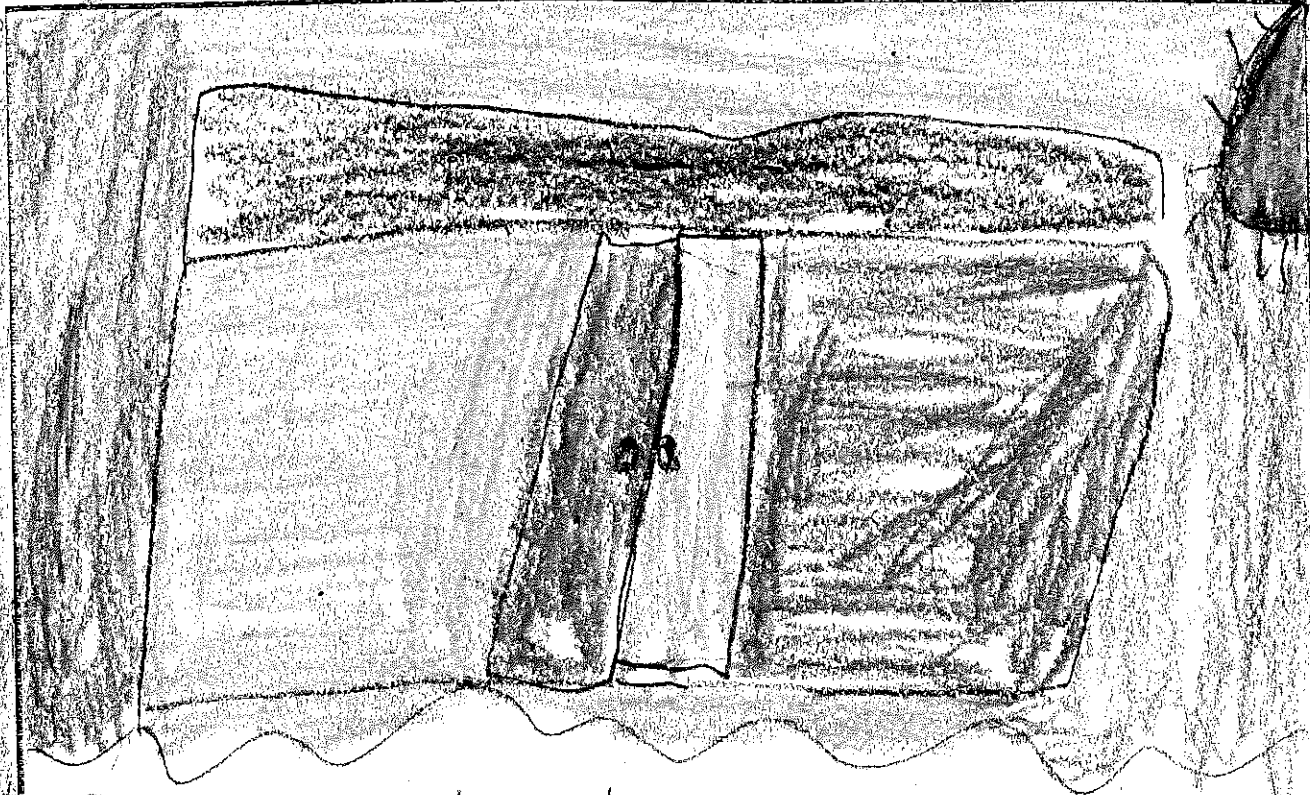
Dear CPS,

Bethune is important to me because I get to learn alot. I feel safe at bethune because they give us drills so we can know what to do when something really happen. I love my school because I can get really smart.

Sincerely

Curmiller

Bryanna 4/22/2013



Bethune is important to me because the ~~teachers~~ help the children and they help us to learn math.

I feel safe at Bethune because we have alarms.

I love my school because the ~~teachers~~ are great.

Sincerely, Bryanna

Curmiller 4-24-13

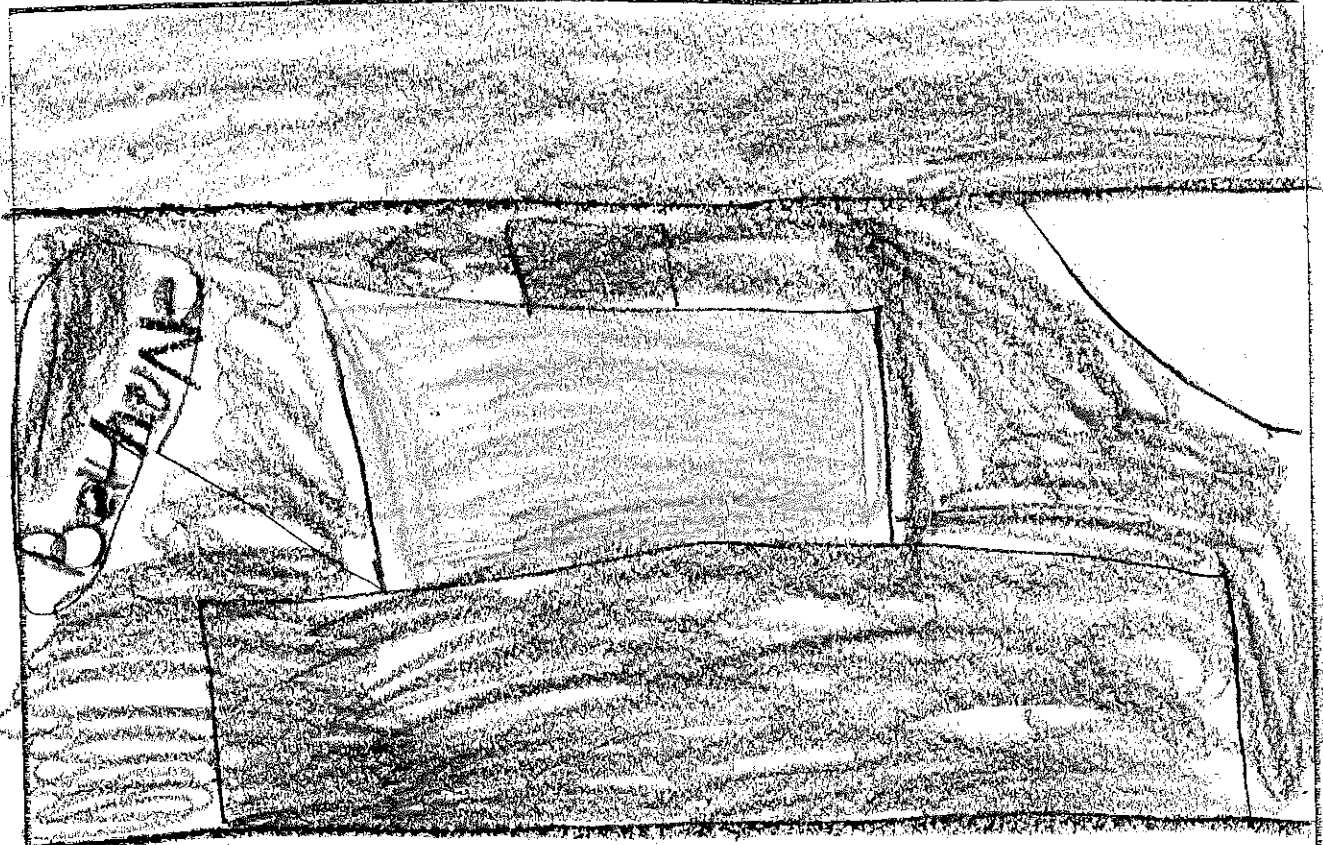
Dear CPS,

Bethune is important to me because I can get very smart. I feel safe at Bethune because they will never let nobody do anything to us. I love my school because I will never get hurt and I can get smart. Please don't shut our school down!

Sincerely

Curmiller

LAREN



Bethune I S Important to
 me because They teach you what
 you need to learn I fell safe at
 Bethune because if a fire drill
 go off they come and tell
 you to be come and tell you to
 be safe I love my school
 because I was hear last year
 an Mrs. Suttan was hear Ms. Stal
 Every body was hear last year
 I don't want Bethune to close
 down Be safe Bethune.

I love my school because we do fun
stuff and they help us when we
need help. 1

Bethune is important to me
because the other school don't
have the stuff that we
do. 2

Sincerely

Athen Wang

Nicolas
4/22/13

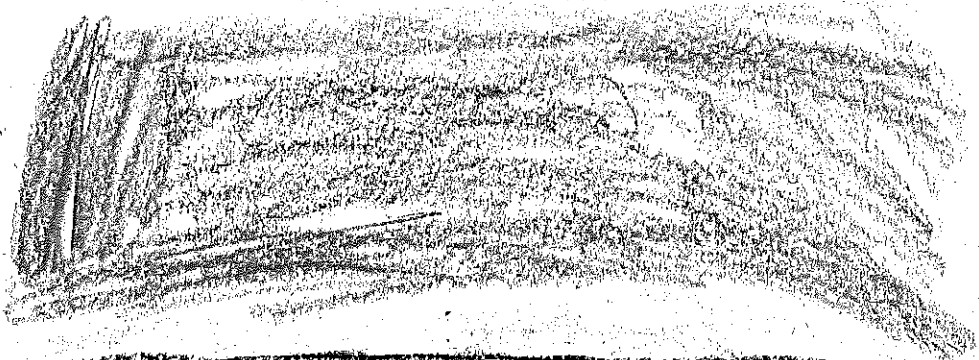
I Love Bethune Because
People Be Nice to me and
I Like to Learn a lot
and they Don't yell or
get mad and They ~~are~~
are smart and I get
education they Let us
knew it it an emergency
and They keep us safe
From Bad People they
help me. Bethune is the
Best School I went to.

Sincerely
Nicolas

CADDS

Dear Mrs. Bethune is important
to me because she told
I feel safe at Bethune because
I trust her.

Imafan



Bethune

Be +

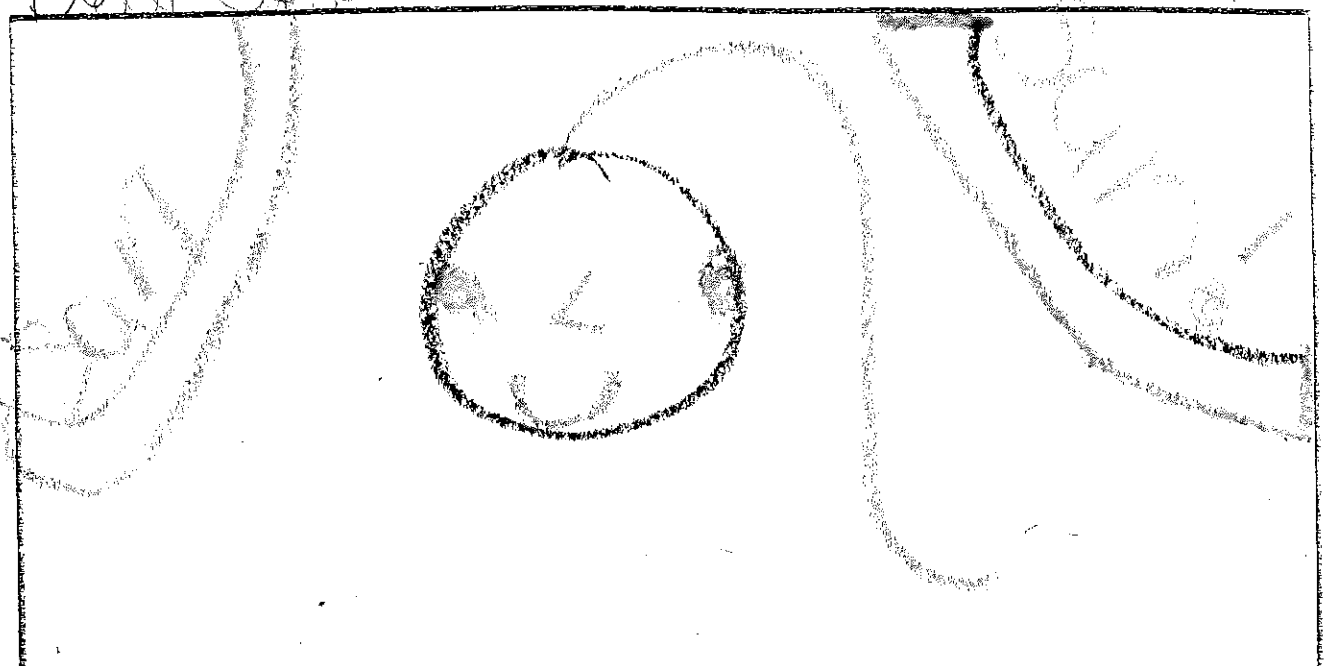
Dear CPS, Bethune is important to me because you can get a lot of education. I feel safe at Bethune because if it's a fire they will help if it was a police in the school they will put you on lockdown, I love my school because teachers make me do math.

Sincerely

Name: Renita Lewis

Date: 4/22/23 2013 room 302

Dear Mrs.



Bethune is important to me because to learn and become to people and teacher I do not lives Bethune school of EXCELLENT WE are smart and bethune. I feel safe at bethune because I'm always safe and bethune. I Love my school bethune I always love bethune they got people pizza we is a team and so we have fun and so.

Areonna Holman Room 301 #

Bethune School

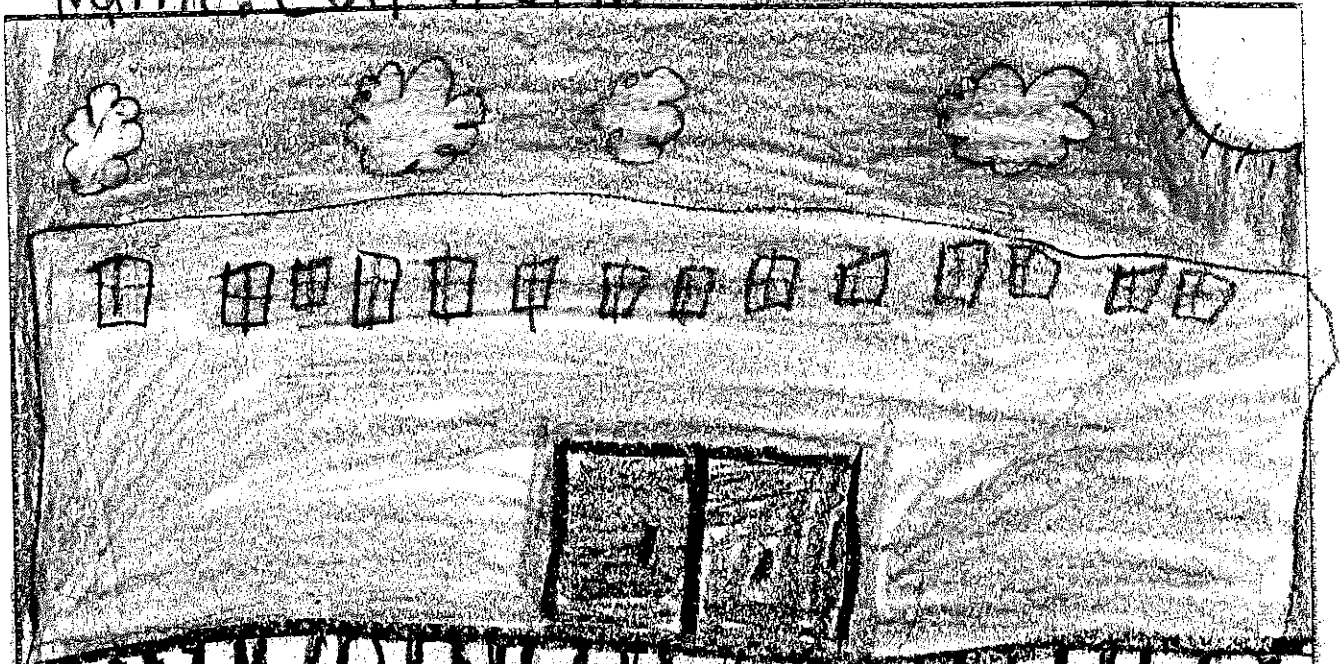


Dear CPS Bethune is important to me because it help me learn to get ready for I can more on get education. I find all the school close down it will be no school for us I feel safe at Bethune because we got a drill for we be safe.

I love Bethune it help me learn help use be safe it important to me I want to learn at Bethune school

Sincerely,
Areonna Holman

Name: Catherine Winton

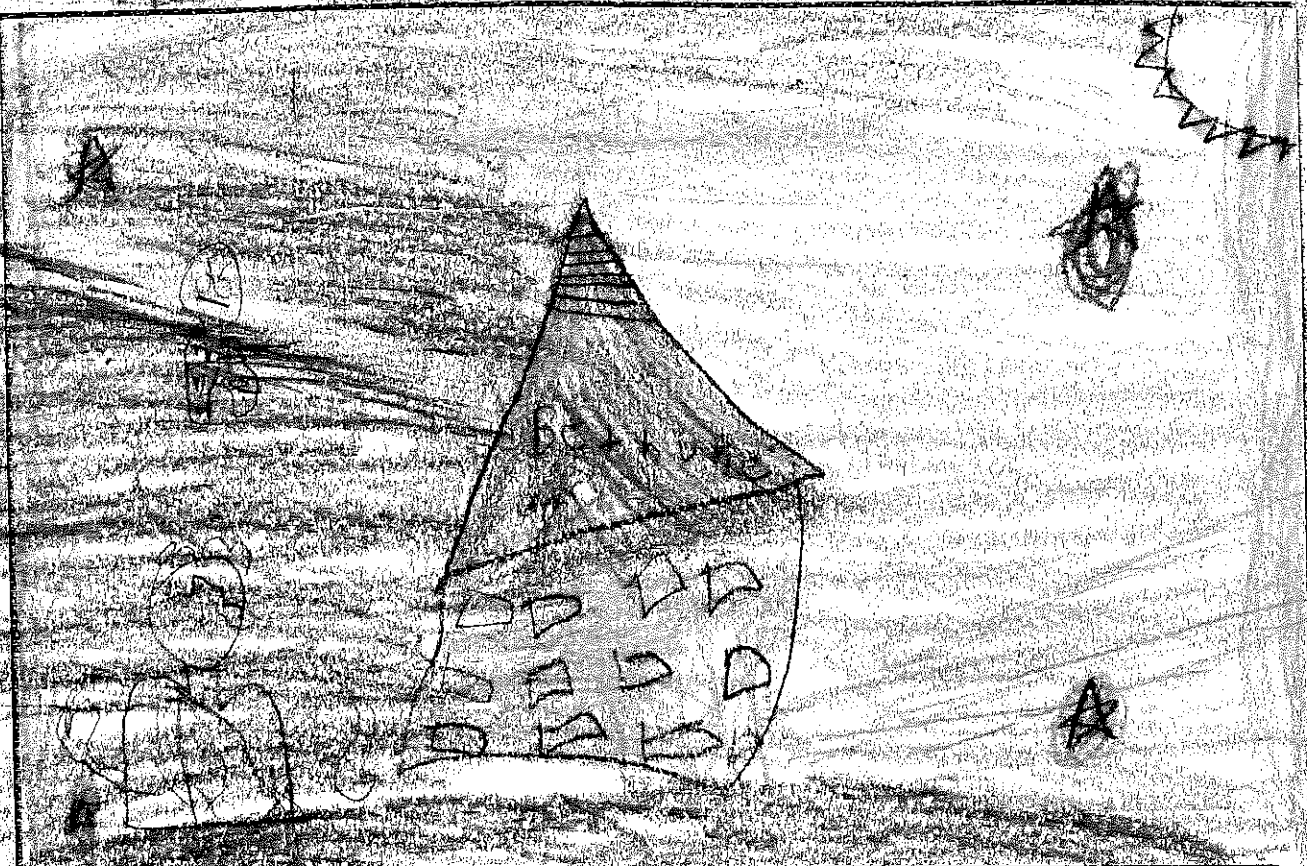


Dear CPS,

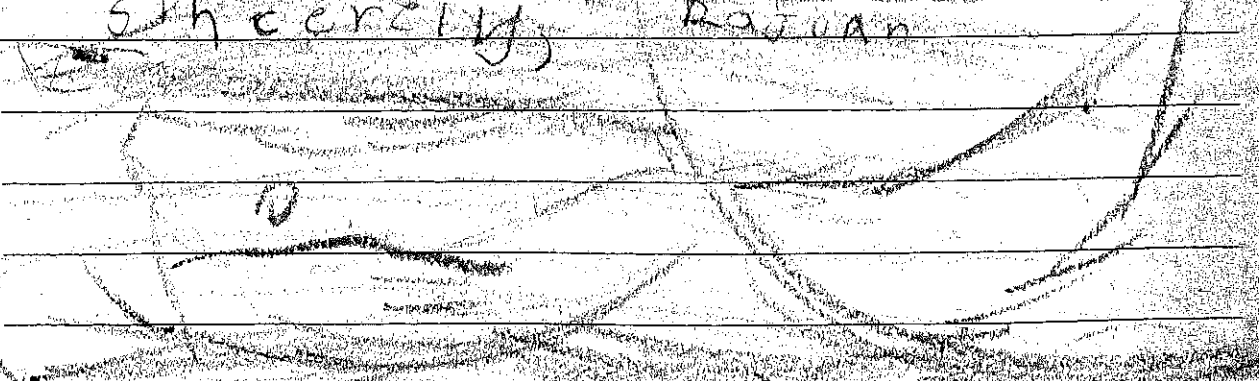
Bethune is important to me because they teach me a lot, and I feel safe because we have drills and we will know what to do in case of an emergency. I love Bethune because all my friends and they treat us nice.

POURNEE

POURNEE

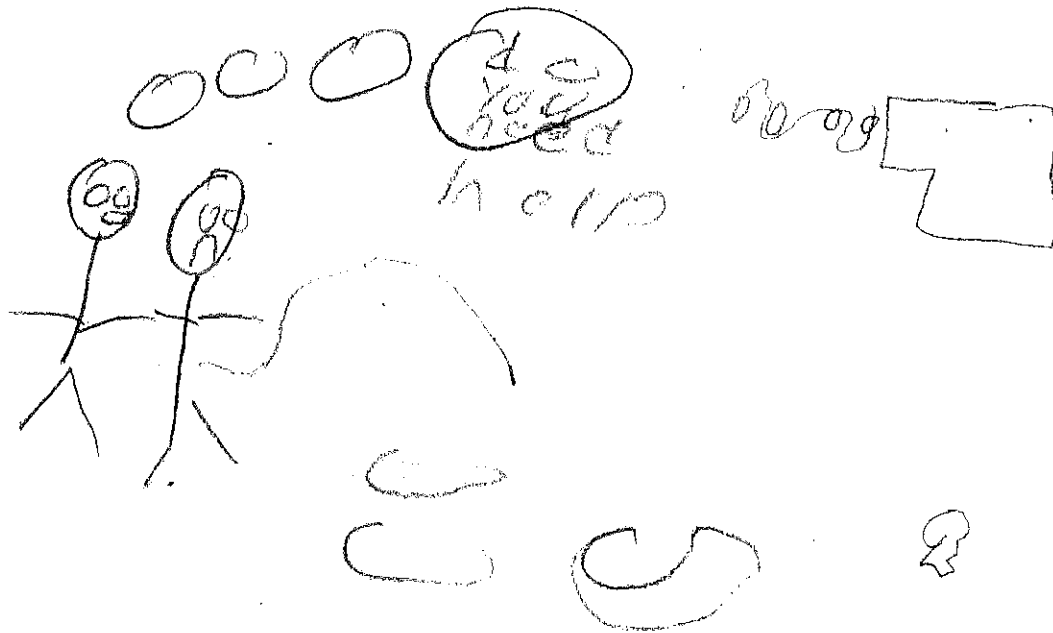


methune is important to me
 because they help me get my
 education. I feel safe at methune
 because I have teachers that support
 me. I love my school because
 I have great teachers.
 Sincerely, RAJUAN



they help get education

Amor Das



I love my school because
if you have trouble you
can ask some one
and you can learn from
and I love my school
because it is the the place
if you don't like I do
this is the only the school
that I will go to
I don't like those

VONNELL STURDIVANT

U N E : t e f o r m i a

U e r o n k H e o v e n



Dear CDs

Bethune is a M D O A M F to be a me
you can be a smart D M I E

Dear CDs

I fee I sa feat BETHUNE
because I can.

Love Vonnell

at Pearl's School

Base Friends School

F R N E P L E S H O M P K O

CURMILLER

terrence A. Reynolds

LOA UREN

18 March 1998



DEAR CPS Behunc is important
to me because I love this

at school so much. I feel safe
at Behunc (because we

have fibroids so we please do
not close it down. I love

Behunc I love school because
I just want to crying so

much sincerely Kuhlmiara to be it

Behunc is my school so much

Please stay open I love Behunc

♥ LOVE Behunc so much I love

my Principal so much I LOVE

all of so much you all spru

I love my school Behunc

so much I hope you all can

not close. love I love

I want to get my Education

Kuhlmiara

Love Principal Williams

Kuhlmiara



Second Grade

Name: Antonio Winters Date: April 23, 2013

Bethune is important to me because people are nice, kind, helpful, ^{and} caring adults. We are prepared for our future. People love us here. I feel safe at Bethune because we practice for emergencies, there's no dangerous adults, and teachers protect us. I love my school because the teachers are always helpful and supportive. I always help people and I learn lots of stuff and I get good grades and I feel happy.

Name: David Harper

Date: _____

I love Bethune land. I feel
safe at Bethune because we never have a
real lockdown or tornado drill. Other schools don't
have a lot of books, computers, toys, tablets
and desks. Bethune is the best school! The
teachers taught me how to be respectful,
responsible and ready.

Name:

Ramya

Date:

Bethune is important to me because they help us learn, and teachers love us. Other schools don't have computers, iPads, scooters and other teacher something are not nice at other schools. I love my school because the school is decorated and it has a lot of thing like white boards, ^{and} storys. I feel safe at bethune because other people died or got hurt ^{at} other schools but I always feel protected at our school.

Name: Nikayla Thompson, Date: April, 23, 2013

I Love my School
because, the teachers are
nice. The teachers help us
learn a lot of stuff.
I feel happy at this
school. They help me get
better grades. The teachers
help me learn new words.
The other schools don't
have computers, iPads, books,
games, markers. I LOVE
Buttue School. Love Nikayla

Name: Rubi Jackson Date: April 23, 2013

Bethune is important to me
because I learn a lot at this
school and other schools will
not have iPads or computers or lunch
tables. I love my school
and I don't want it to close.

What if other schools don't
have a gym or a lot of books
like Bethune? What if we don't
even get to go to a new school?
We will have to sit on the
floor because they don't have
a carpet to sit on. Don't close
our school!

Name: Andre Pett's Date: _____

I Love My School because

all of the other schools

don't have all of the math games.

This is the school that I come

to learn more and more

so I can be smart and smarter.

so I will learn more $x - \frac{1}{2} =$

and read more. I will be

smarter so I can keep learn-

ing. Love Andre.

★

★

Name: Vontasia Smith Date: April 23, 2013

I love My school because
adults take care of us. They
watch out for us. They do
stuff for us. They love
us and we love them too.
We always will take care
of them. They will take care
of us. We love Bethune
School! We love Bethune
School! We care for
Bethune. We always
will watch out for Bethune.

Name: endriya Gan Date: April 23, 2013

I Love my school because
to get good grades. In
We can get our education
with the other schools
Don't have computer's like
our school. We should
not close. It should be
open so they can be happy
and the parents can
be happy, and the
picble's be happy too.
We can too, so all of us
can be happy.

Name:

Jacob

Date:

I love my school because it is safe.
We are respectful and responsible. Teachers
here us and protect us with all your
life every day and night. I
like all the teachers and my teacher
Mrs. Paroma and I love my school!

Name: Mariah Date: April 3 2013

Bethane is important to me
because teachers help with my
work. When I have problems
and they help me with them.
Also, they show unity to me

Name: Darqiana Williams Date: April 23, 2015

I want to save

my school so I can

be safe please.

save my school

because I have

nice friends and I

love my teacher.

I hope my school

don't close we don't

have danger.

I'm happy we do

not have danger.

Name: TERRILL SMITH Date: _____

I LOVE MY SCHOOL BECAUSE I

GO TO FRIENDS AND HAVE FAMILY HERE.

BETHUNE MAKES ME SAFE BECAUSE

WE PRACTICE ^{for} EMERGENCIES.

BETHUNE IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE

WE GET TO LEARN, WE GET TO PLAY,

HAVE FREE CHOICE, WE

GET RECESS, READ, AND HAVE

FUN! WE LEARN ABOUT

DINOSAURS, WE GO TO THE

COMPUTER LAB AND SPECIALLY.

I HOPE THE SCHOOL WON'T
CLOSE

TERRILL

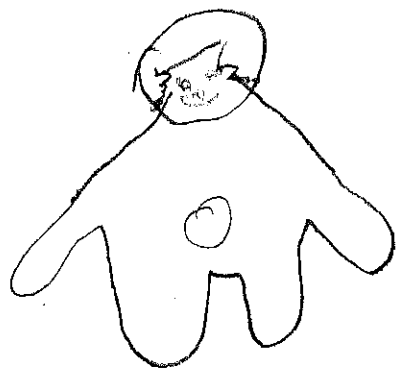
Name: Martinez Williams

Date: Apr 12 2013

I want this school
to stay open
because every one
is nice in the
building. They are kind
and respectful.

Name Isaiah

Date _____ * _____ *



Being here is important to me because






I love this school.

We are a family.

We learn a lot from our teachers.

Isaiah

Extended Response Checklist:

- use own ideas 
- Write about the story 
- make a text to self connection  +  + 

Editing Checklist:

- Beginning Capital A =
- Word Wall Words
- I have spaces. 
- Ending Mark 

JUAN



Bethune is important
to me because... you get smart.
I feel safe at Bethune because
it is safe.
I love my school because
THE TEACHERS ARE NICE.

JUAN

Name ANJOINE

Date _____

Belonging is important to
me because I feel safe because
I love this school -
I have teachers that support me.
We are a family.
We learn a lot from our teachers.

Extended Response Checklist:



use own ideas



Write about
the story



make a text to
self connection



+



+



Editing Checklist:



Beginning
Capital



Word Wall
Words



I have spaces.

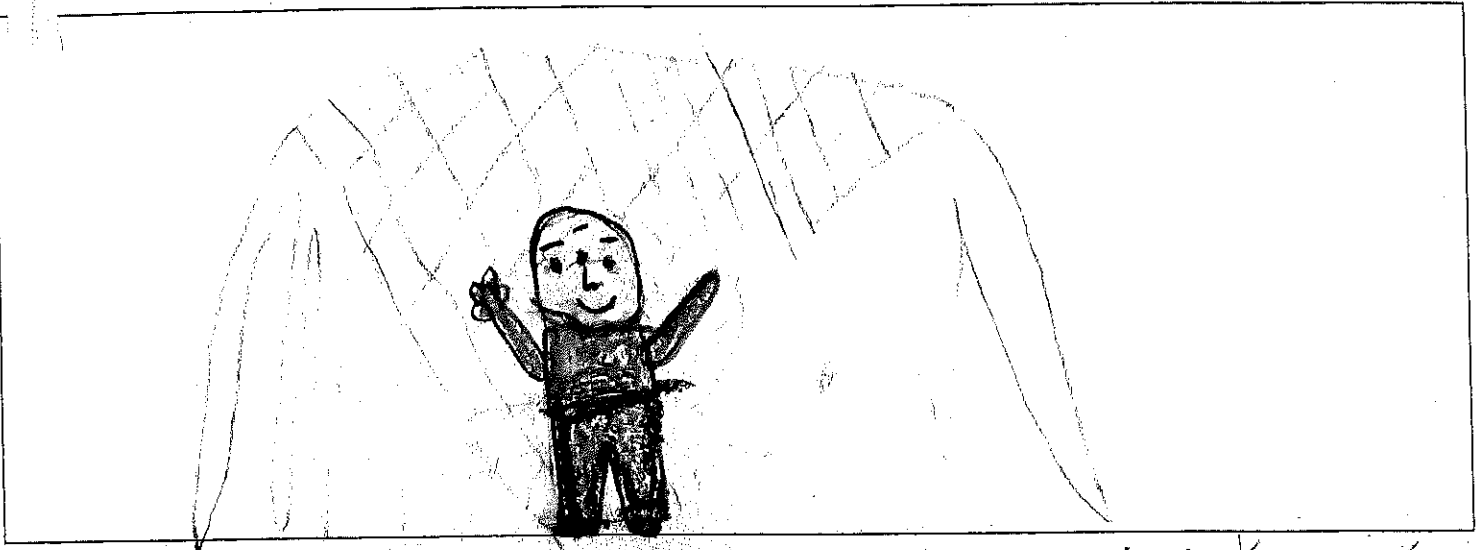


Ending Mark



Name MATTHEW JONES

Date * *



Bethune is important + home be ka

I Love Bethune

I Like Bethune

I Like Bethune Bes

Extended Response Checklist:

use own ideas



Write about the story



make a text. to self connection



Editing Checklist:

Beginning Capital

A.
=

Word Wall Words

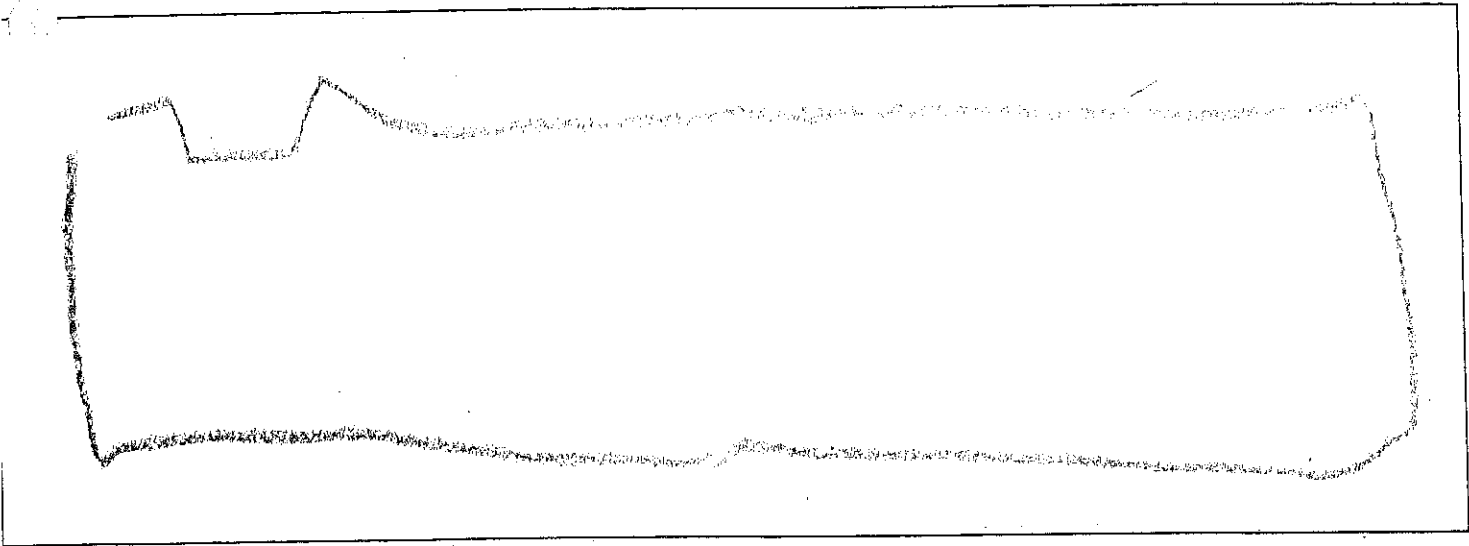
I have spaces.
↑ ↑

Ending Mark








Name David Meebers

Date * *



Bethany is important to me because I love this school
and we are a family. I feel safe because
I have teachers that support me.

Extended Response Checklist:

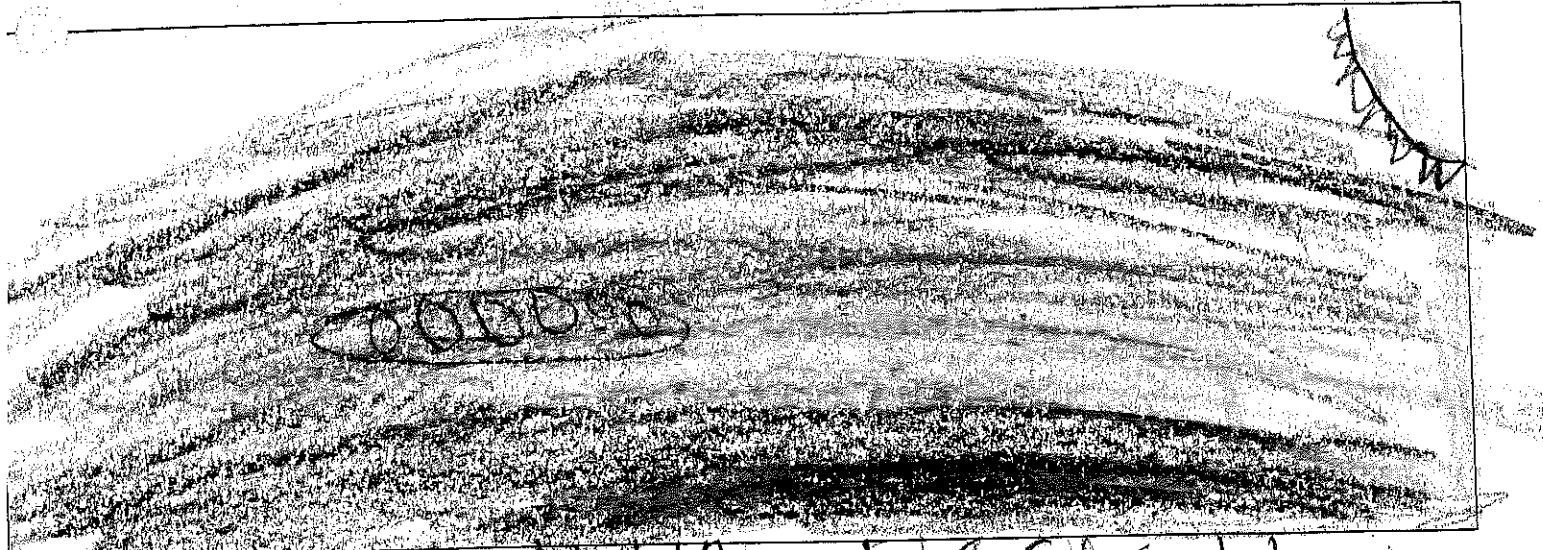
- Use own Ideas 
- Write about the story 
- make a text to self connection  +  + 

Editing Checklist:

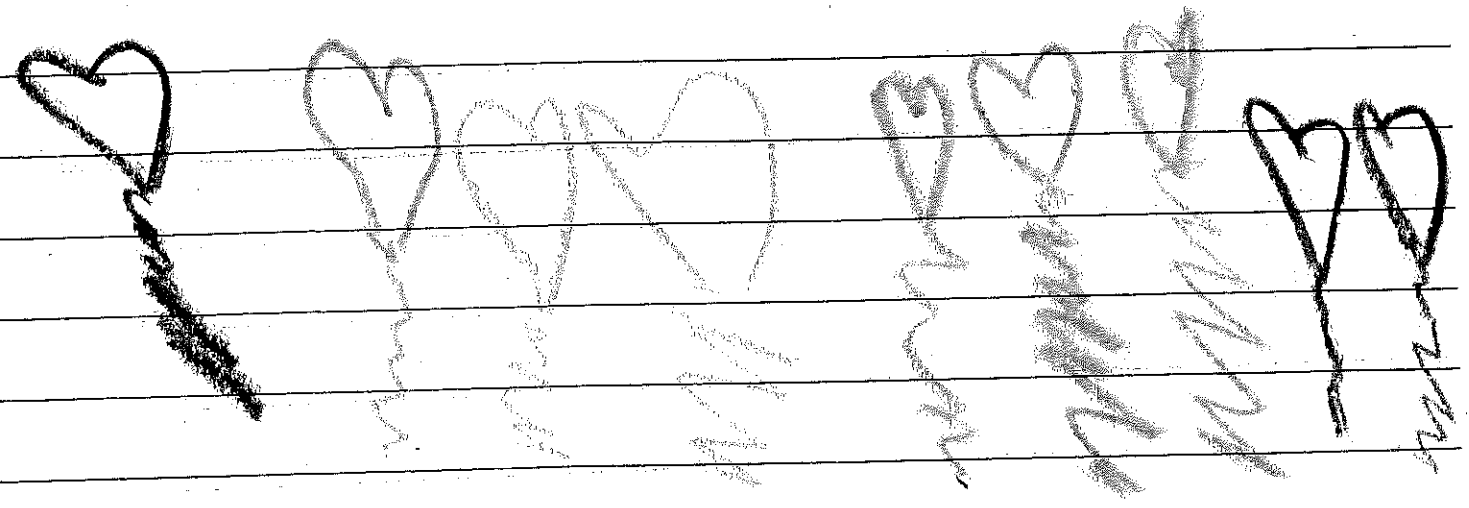
- Beginning Capital 
- Word Wall Words 
- I have spaces. 
- Ending Mark 

Phillip






Name _____ Date _____







I LIKE Bethune because they
give us PIZZAS PASTYS
I LOVE MY PRINCIPAL
Phillip



Extended Response Checklist:

- Use own ideas 
- Write about the story 
- make a text to self connection  +  + 

Editing Checklist:

- Beginning Capital 
- Word Wall Words
- I have spaces.  
- Ending Mark 

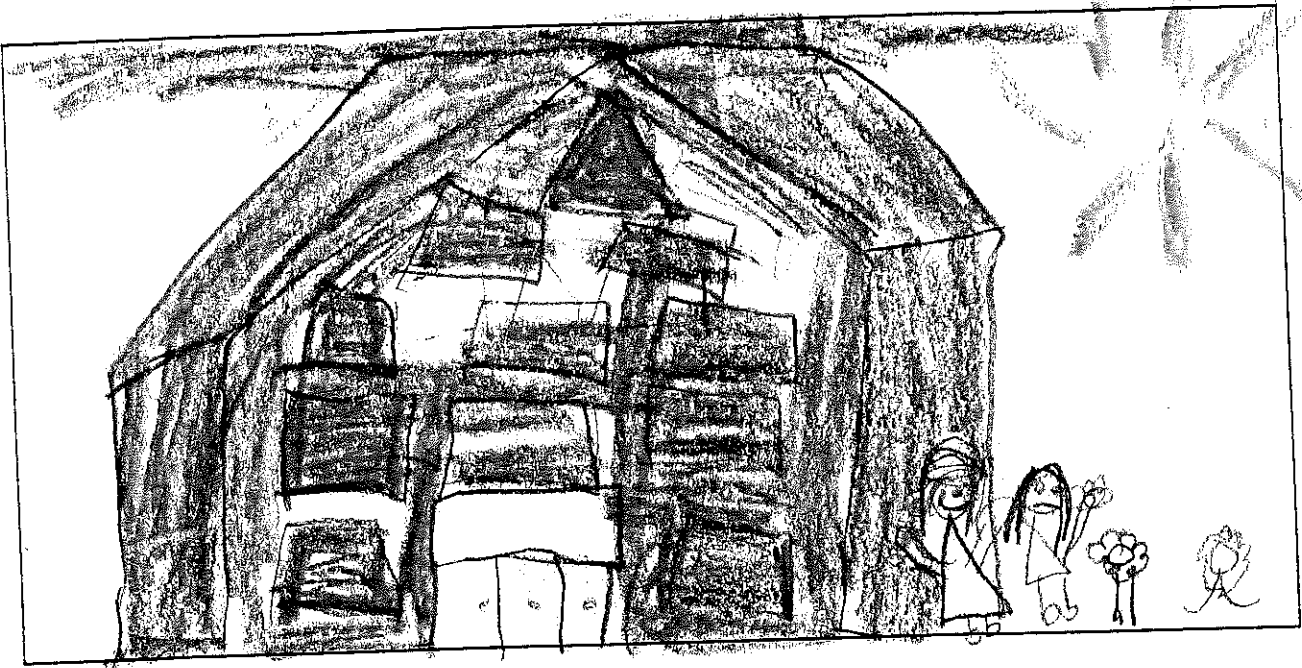
First Grade

Name

Ramya

Date

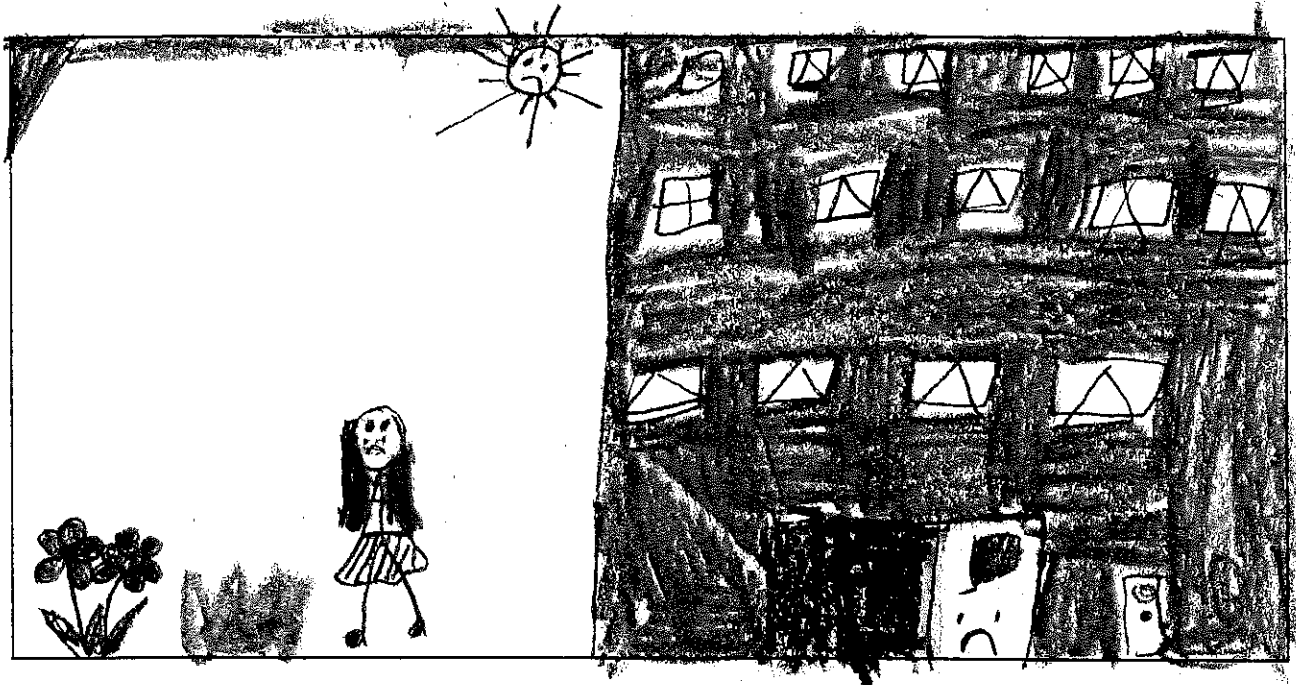
APRIL



I feel safe at because the
teachers protect us, They teach us
a lot of stuff, We learn about animals
and We learn in Brothers and we
learn Math and we learn are rights
words and are centers are great, We read,
we write, we study, we learn on
the teachers mates, we learn Phonics
we learn time, we learn shapes, we
learn ^{writing} progress, we shape are writing,
we learn greater than and less than
and equal to. please don't close this
school down.

Name Lalego

Date



I Love Bethune Because I Love

All the teachers. And I Love to read, math

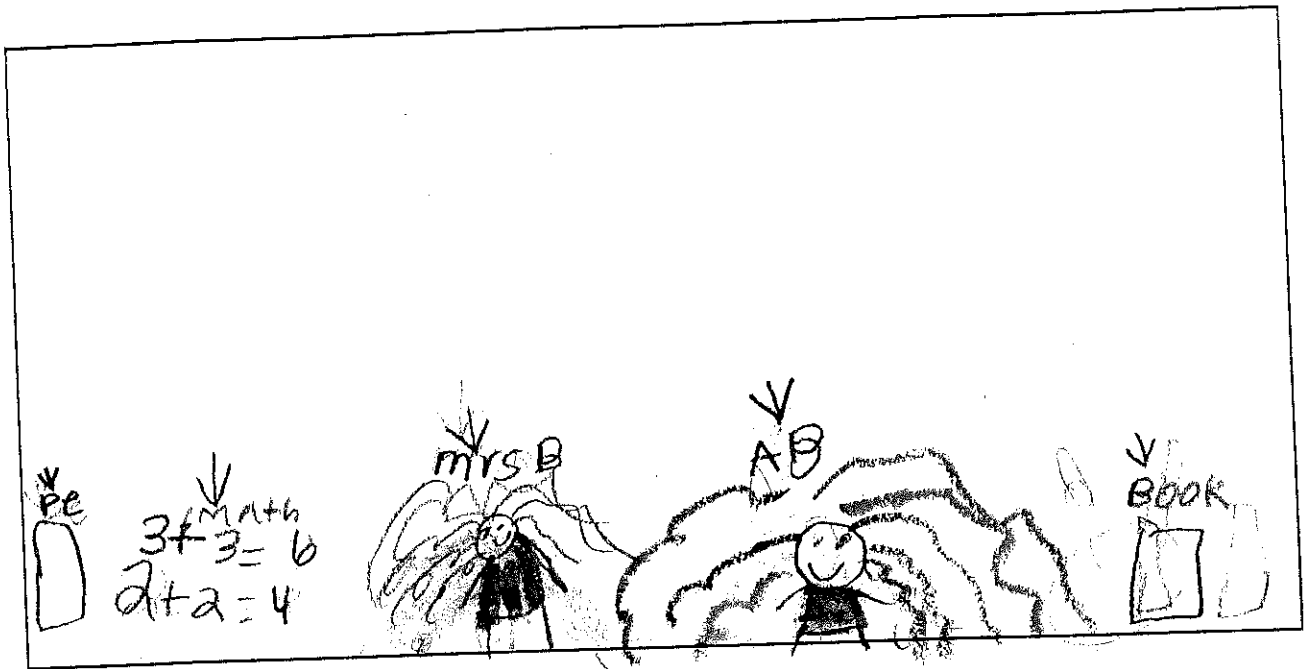
Specials, we learn new things every day.

Bethune is the Best School you can't

close this School down.

Name Makiah S.

Date 4/22/13

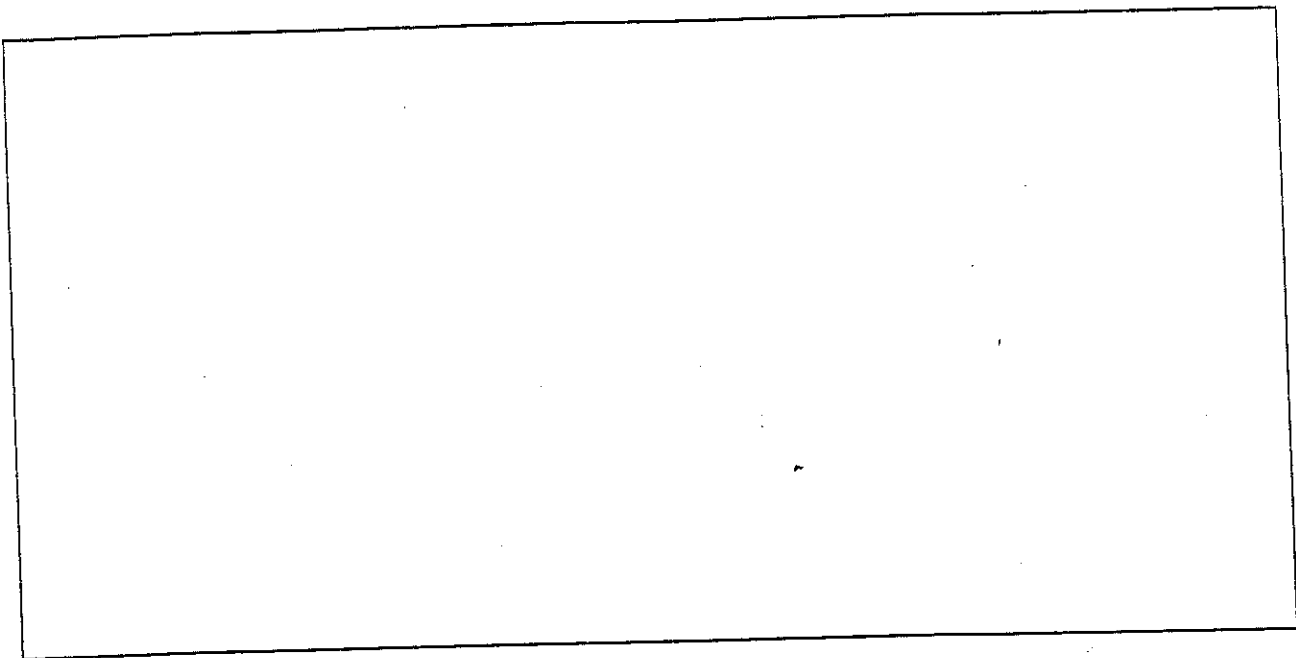


I Love Bethune because the teachers
friends leaning the classes.

Read Math Writing Unity Song Schema
Song.

Name ADAM WONG

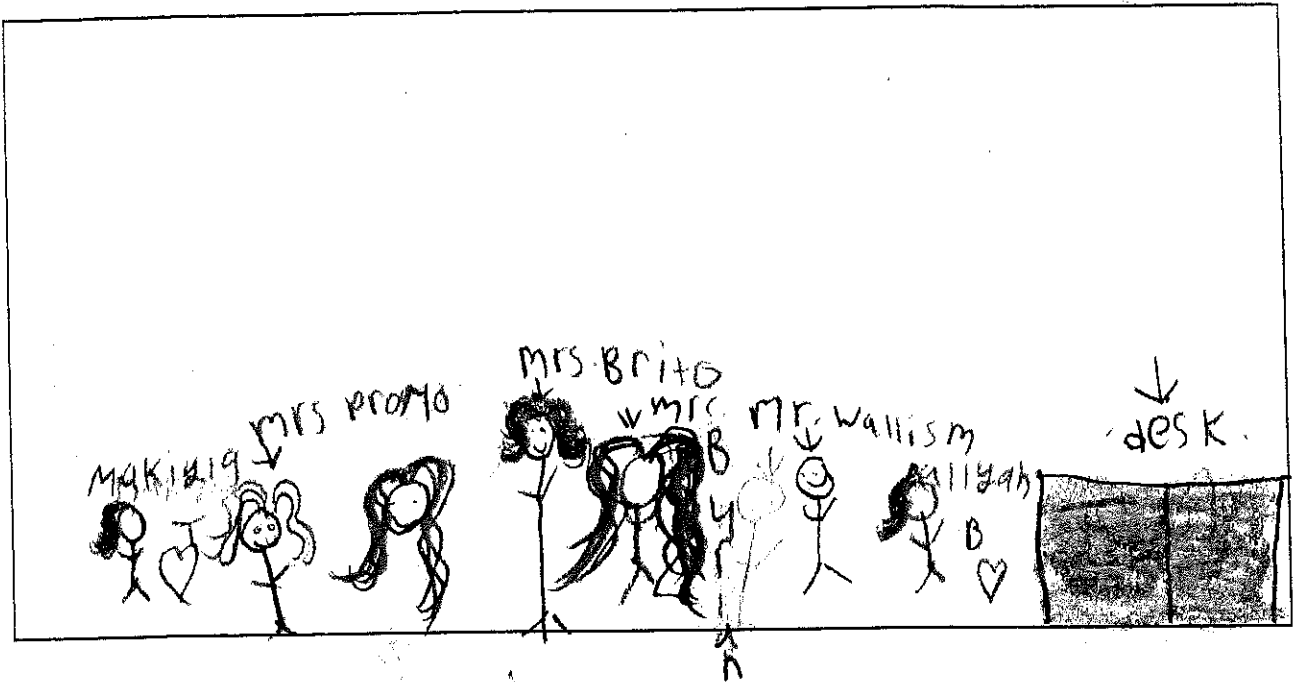
Date 4



I love bethune because i get to do math and reading and
centers and the number of the days and i'm mad and i understand i
miss the teachers and i get to play at the end of the
day and we learn a lot

Name Makiyati

Date 9/22/13



Bethune is important

because u teach us.

PLEASE DONOT close down

The school. it is crazy good.

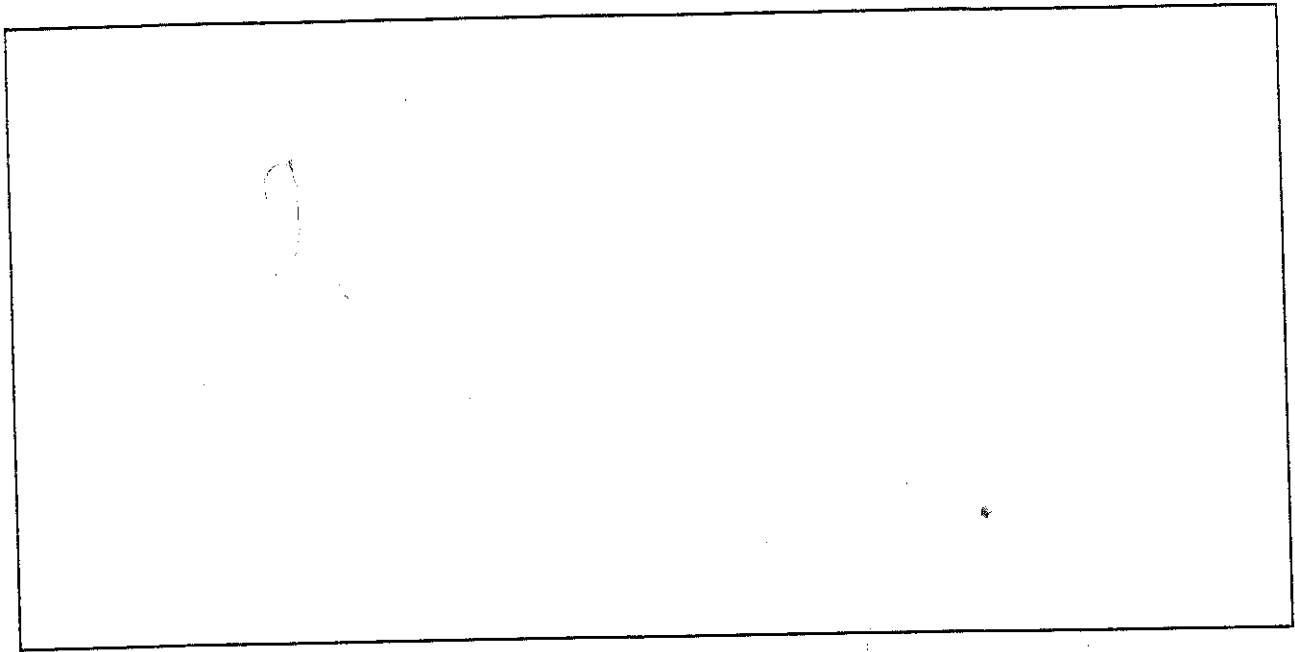
everyBODY Loves it even

You so please donot close

it down.

Name Kimoni Hooper

Date 2.2.2

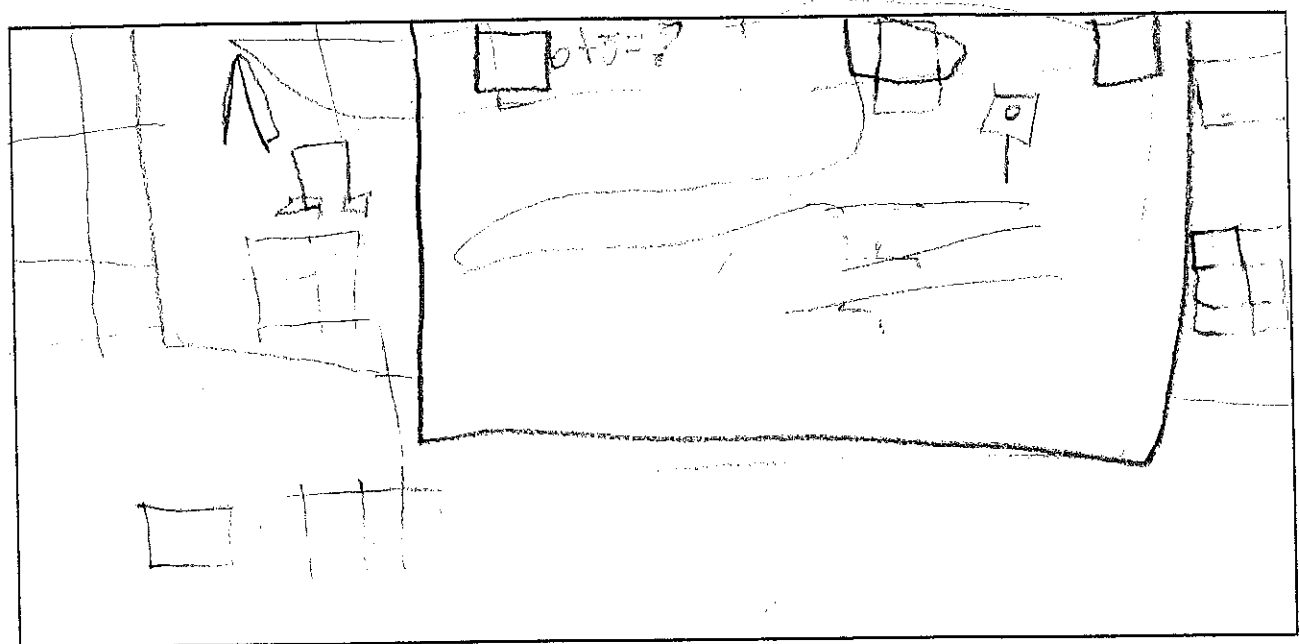


I feel safe at Betham
Because teachers protect us
Learning, Measure, Adding, Subtract
doing number of the day, 74P,
and this is the bestest school
I ever went to. I will
miss Mrs. Brito, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Durian the
most.

2

Name Alyah Brooks

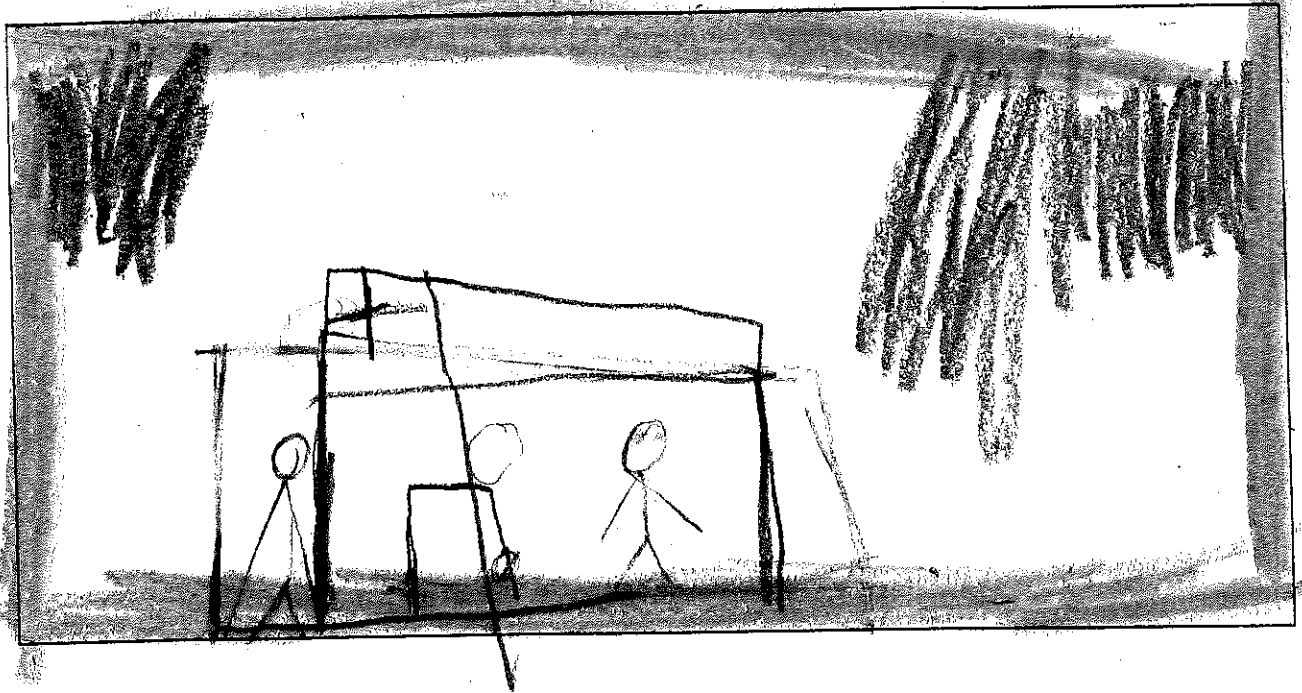
Date 4/22/13/ Pat



I love Bethune because we learning better and better.
 We read and do Math and all respect the teachers, please
 Save Bethune o o o

Name Noah

Date _____



Bethune is important because

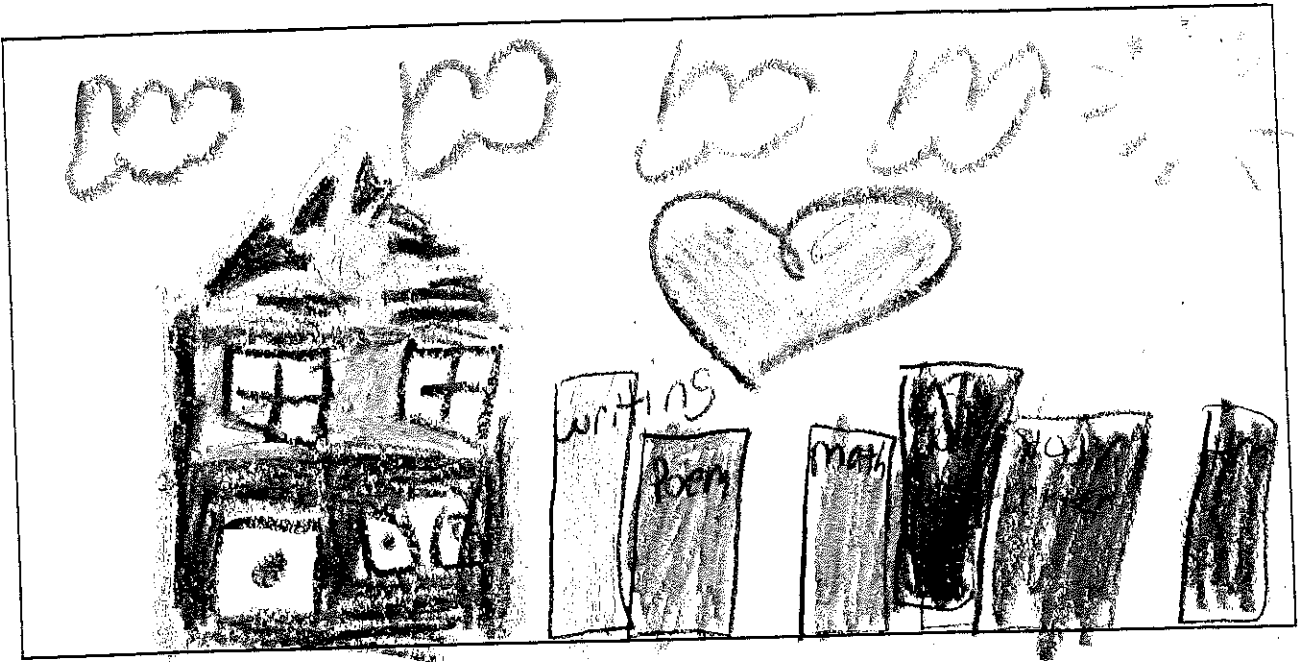
they teach us not to think in

Teach us so much.

I love Bethune so much

Name Aaliyah Patterson

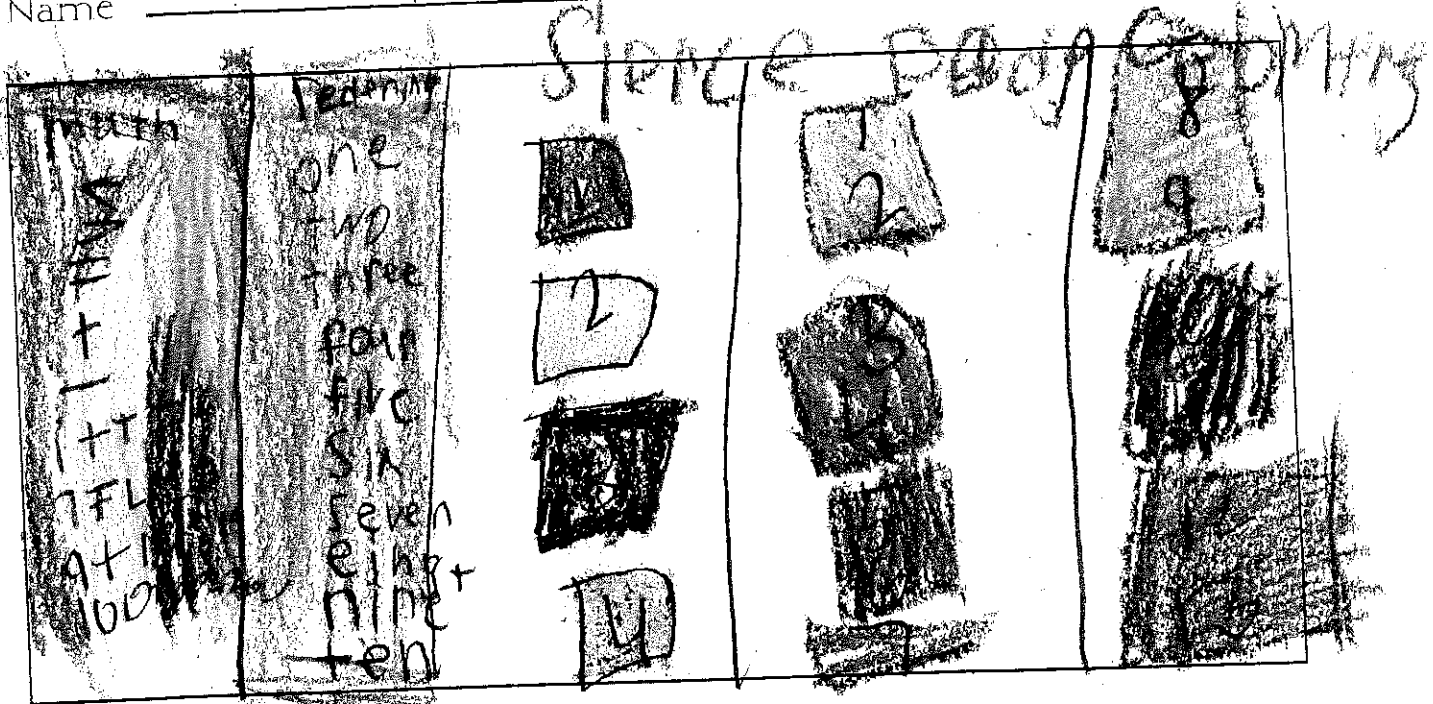
Date 4-22-13 APRIL



Bethune is important because I do not
want it to close. I learn about
human body and I love to do math
and read and do centers and
writing because I write a lot of stuff
and do poem and study centers and
teacher make and I like computer and
love my friends

Name Tama

Date 4-22-13



I love bethune Because
it help me learn math
and I do a lot
of things in my
class like the number of
the day and I do hard
work every day in math,
in reading, in art, in music
in gym, in centers, in science, and
I love this school
because of all
the teachers and the parents.

Name Jariah.c

Date 4-22-13



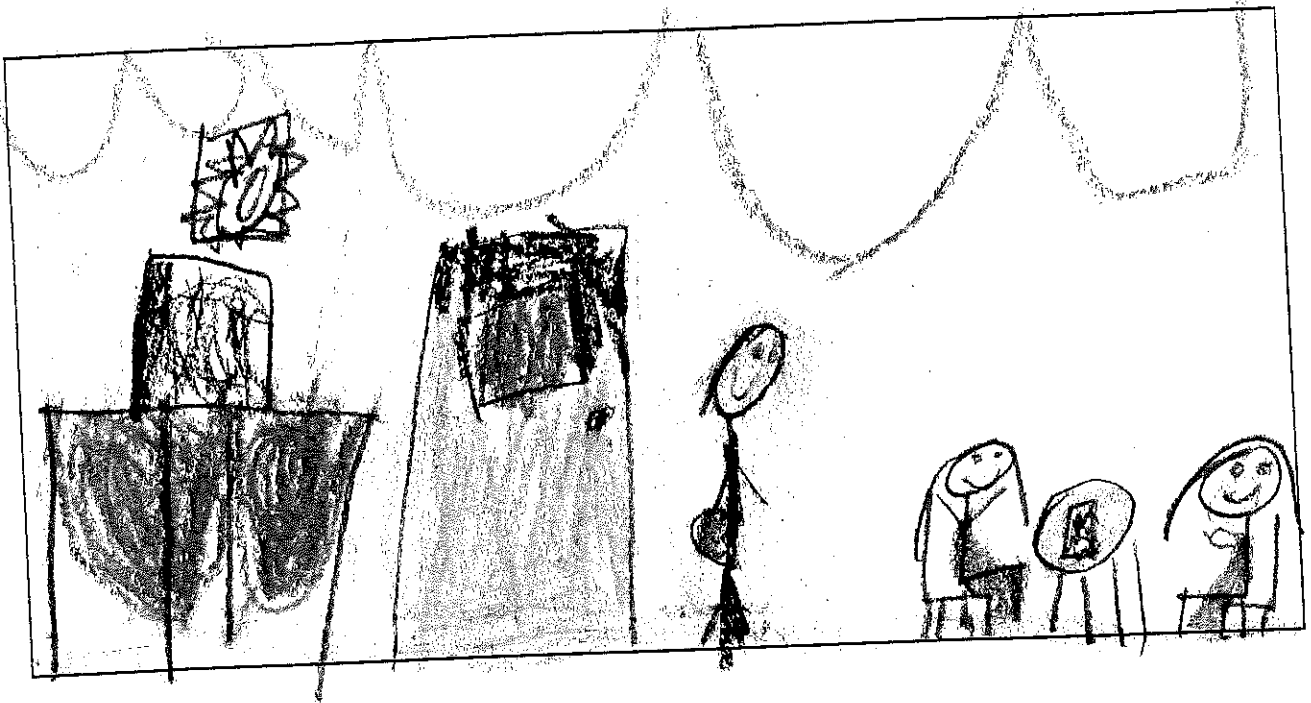
I LOVE the School
BECAUSE we are learning
more and I'm going
to miss the teachers
and my friends. It is sad
the school is closing. I
hope they don't close
it.

Name

Precious

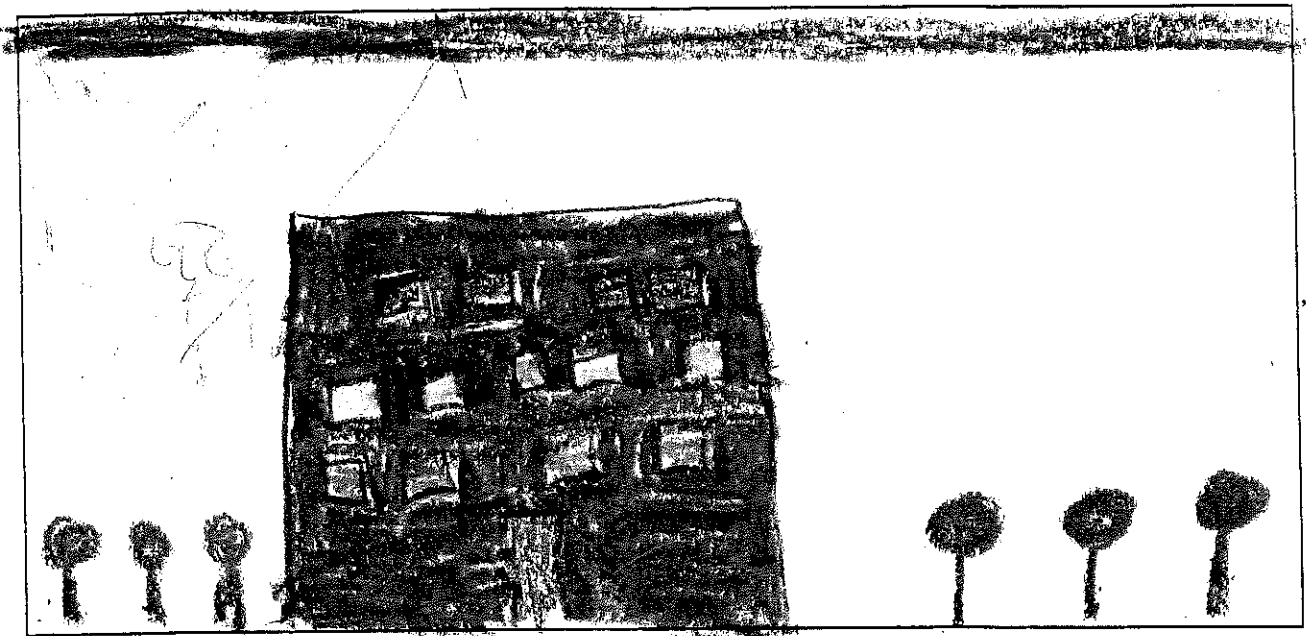
Bowen

Date



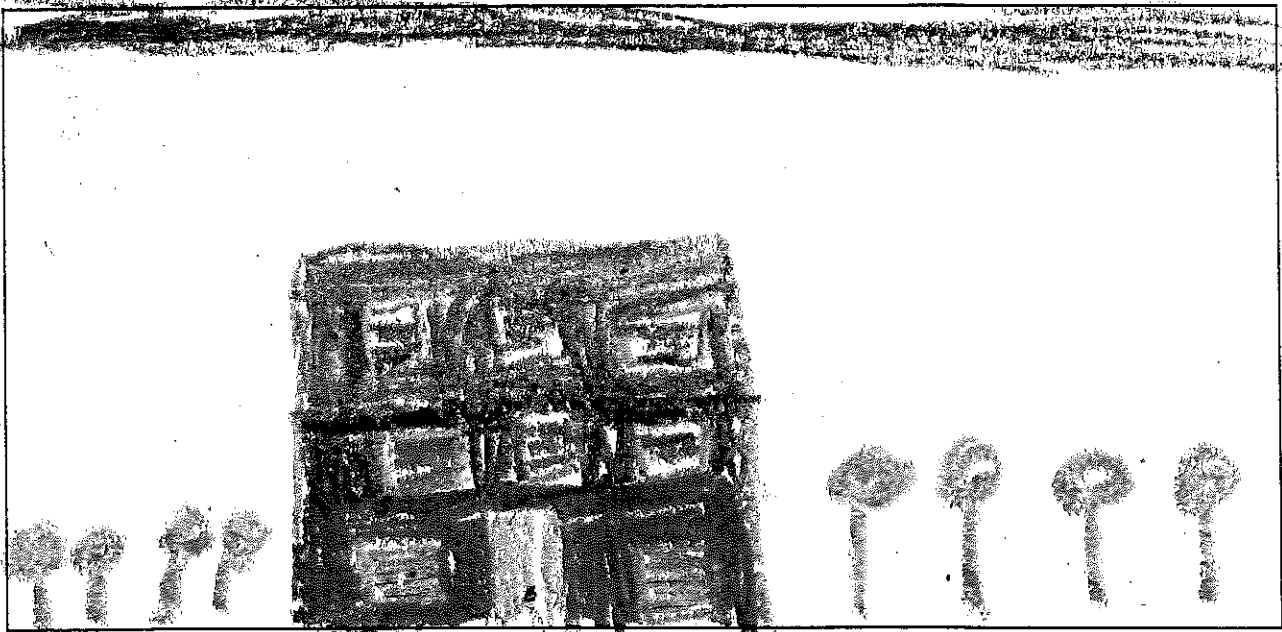
Bethune is my hero because
the people I love I do NOT
what the people to love are
school because they work hard
they have a good job too.

Name chya . mitchello Date 22' 2013



I love Bethune because bethune cooks
the best nachos, if you get to learning
how to measure things with your body
and you get to subtract and add too.
Subtract is when you use a take away
sign. Add is when you use a plus
sign to add. I love this school. This
is the best school I ever went
too and I will miss this school
for ever ever ever. This is the
best school. we get to play
game's like head's up seven up.

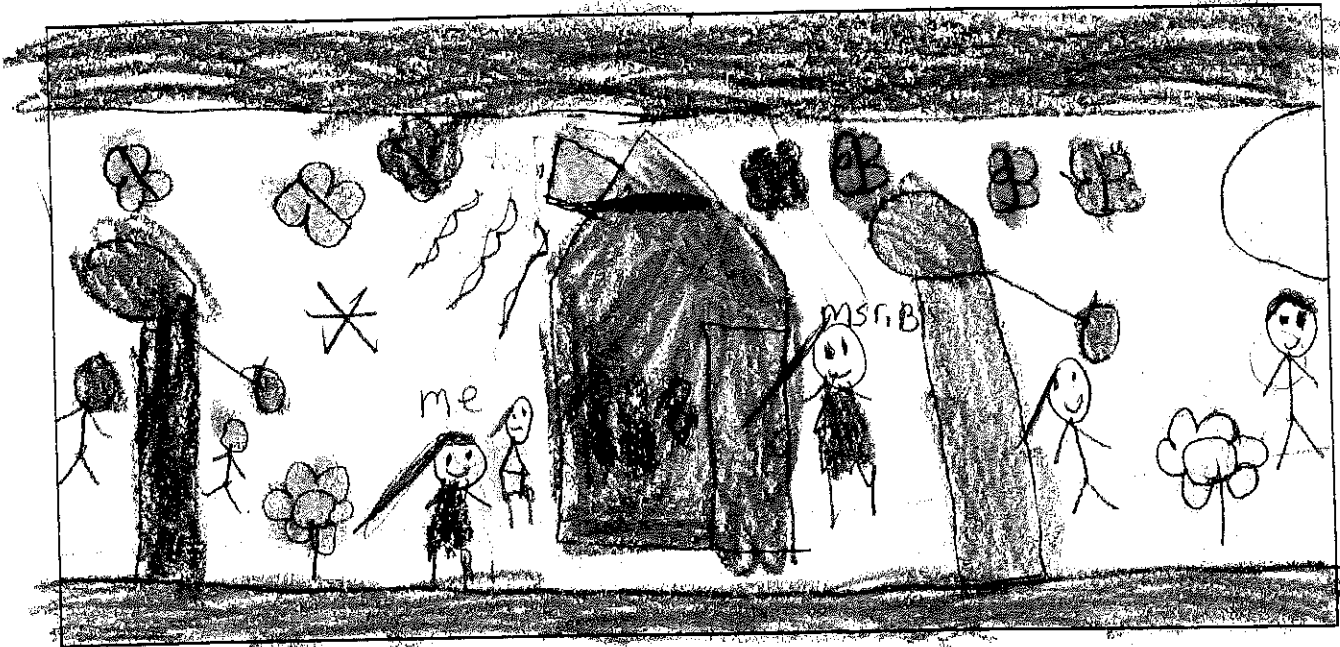
Name Chya Michelle Date _____



Bethune is important because when you
are in trouble with something they will help
you. When you are in danger too, please
do not close the school we get to
watch brain pop.

Name KIMIE KEEFER

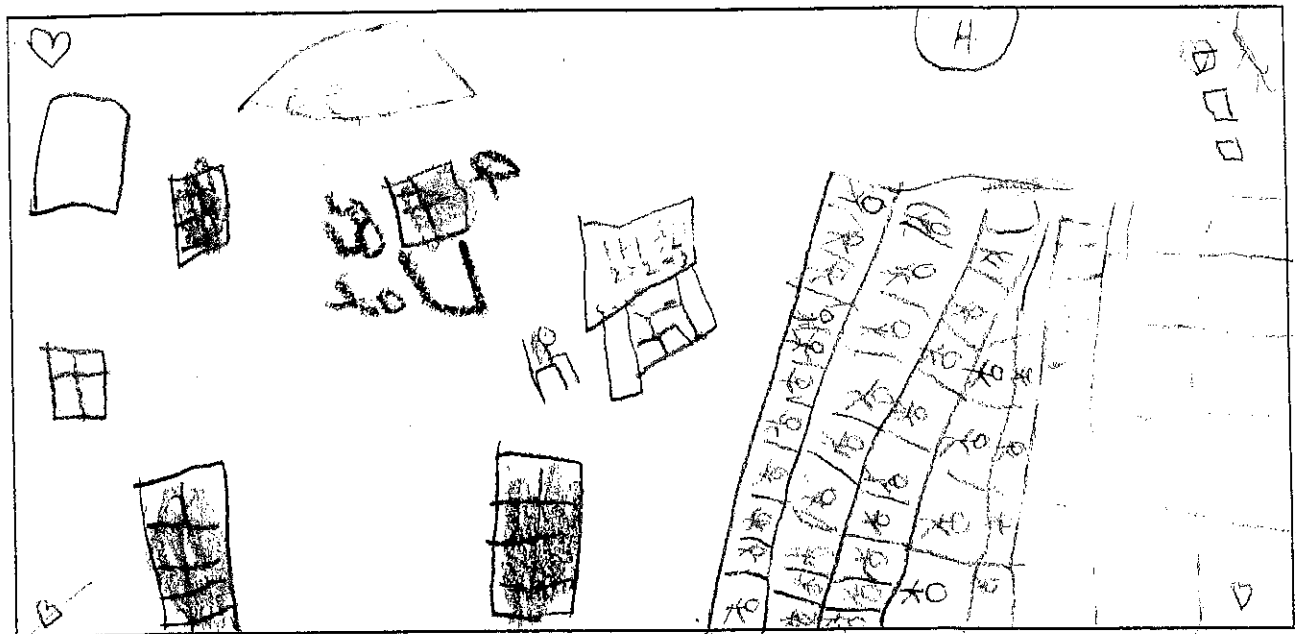
Date 4-22-13



I love Bethune because they are the best.
I want you to stay here I am sad.
I do not want you to leave and I love
learning. I all who's learning math and
I love math because it's fun and I love learning
and I love the teachers and I love read.
I love learning compass learning. Bethune is
the bestest ♥ Love you

Name JASON


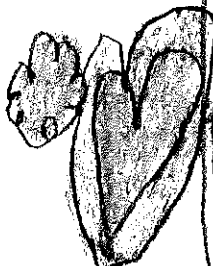

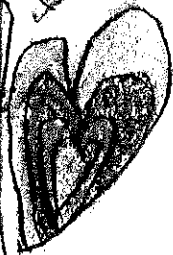

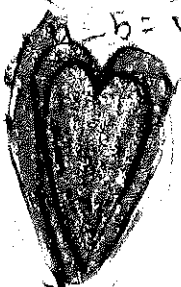
Date 4-22-12



I love life here
because because we
have a lot and food

Name Emari Monay

Date 4-22-13

<p>math</p> <p>add and Subtract</p> 	<p>Centers</p> <p>buddy reading</p> 	<p>learning counting</p>  	<p>reading</p> <p>Dunne B. Jones Books</p> 	<p>add up</p> <p>$2+2=4$ $4+5=9$ $5+4=9$ $9-4=5$ $5-5=0$</p> 
---	---	--	---	---

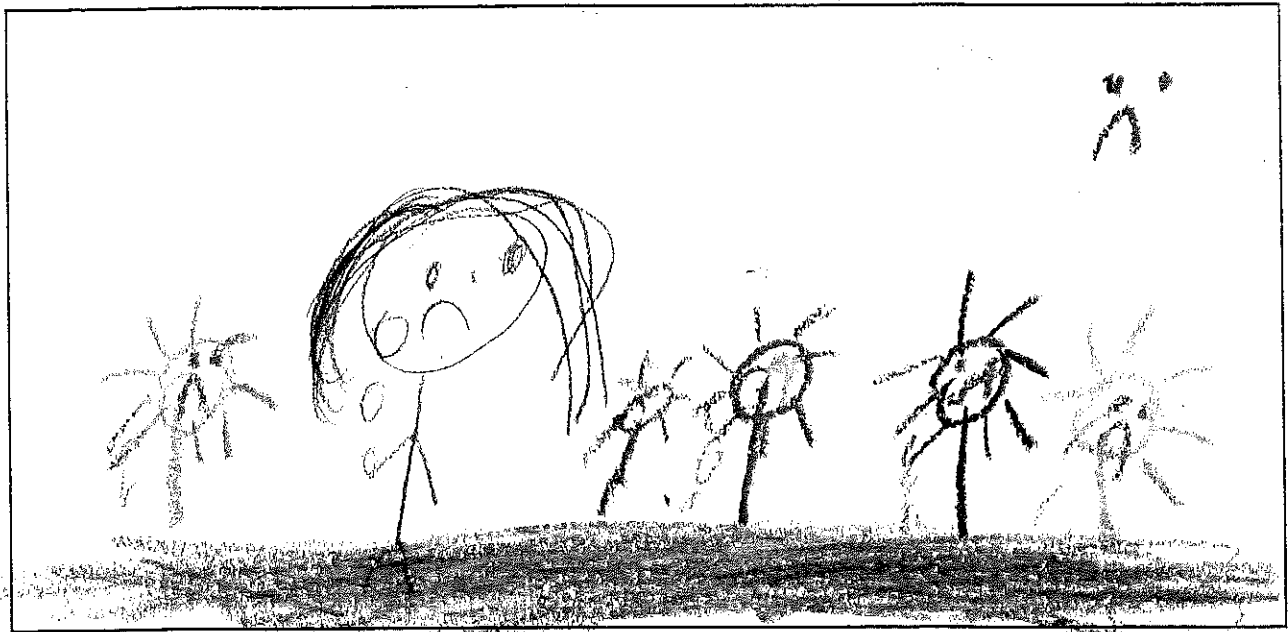
Bethune is important because it is a lot of stuff to do and a lot of kids and I learn math and we go to Centers and I learn a lot of stuff every day all day. And reading a lot too and it is so important and you can add up. I love Bethune because I learn about the Woman Badge.

Name

Keoni Wong

Date

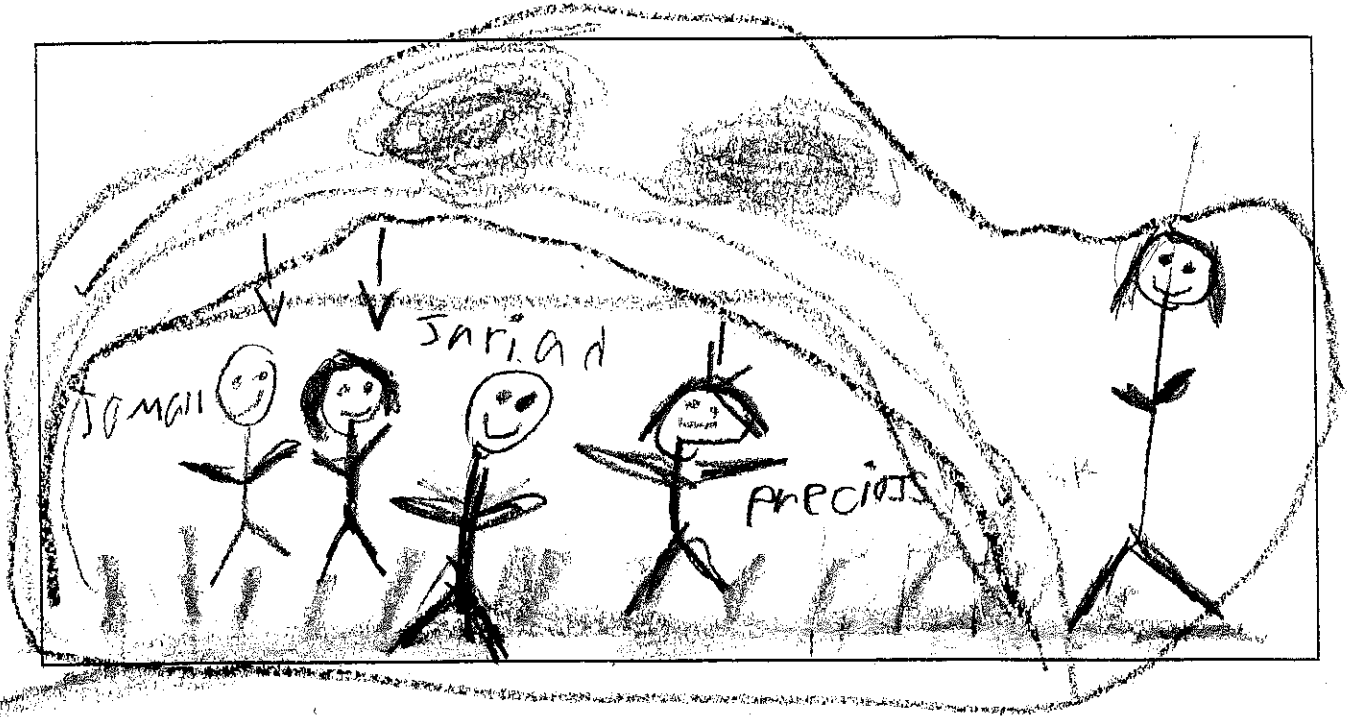
4/22/13



I feel safe at Betnure
because we get to learn
to do every thing

Name Chase

Date 9-22-13



I love Bethune because we play
heads up ~~up~~ and we learn
short on short and long.

All of that stuff, I love so please don't
close it down. I love love love math.

I love adding and subtracting.

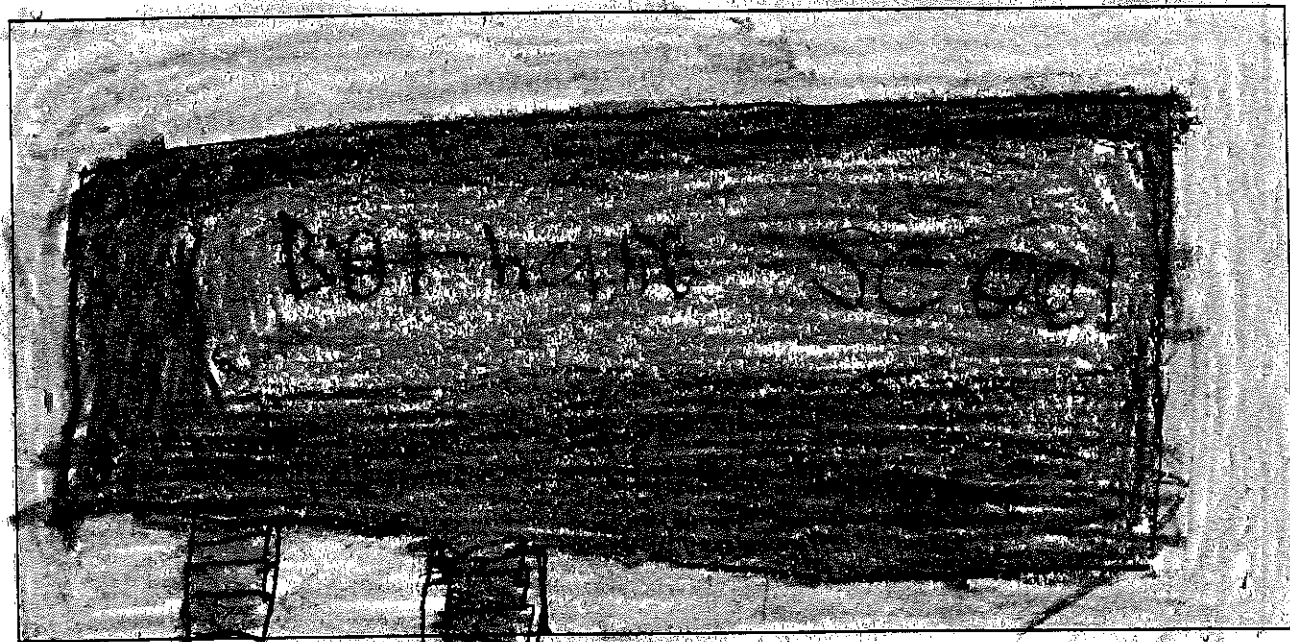
It means so much to me, I will never
forget this school, in this class room
and my friends, I love ev

Name

Chris Epper

Date

1-23-13



I feel safe at
Bethune because
the teachers help
the kids to be
safe and I do
not feel
because I like
Bethune school can
you open the school
and I like to
go at on my
wed wall test.

Name Cecilia

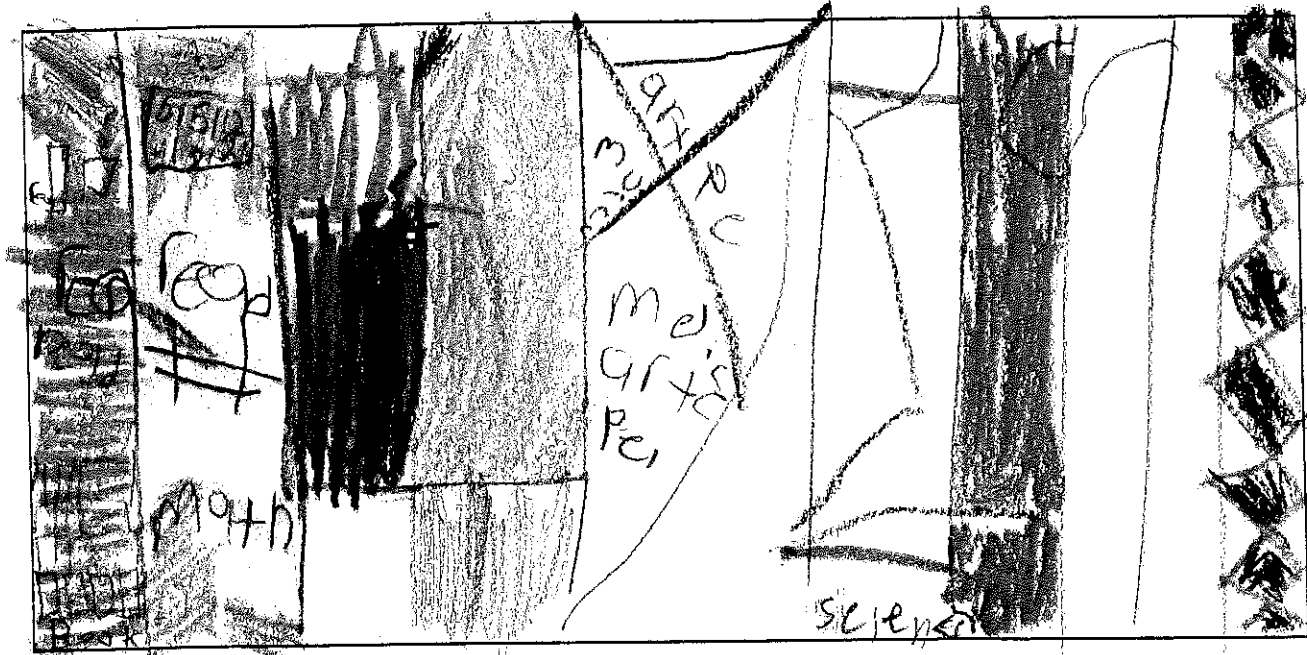
Date 4-22-13



I Love Bethune Because

I love it + so much I love it when
to @pire we is come to
crie and crie to we for
to sleep we we go to

Name Demetri #1/9/11 Date _____



I love Bethune because I love the
teachers and learning and ~~and~~ of the
day and, Bethune helps me learn.
I miss friends, miss
Pe, art, music, teachers!

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

JAVARI ON PAXTON

I LOVE

BOTH OF YOU

BECAUSE

YOU ARE SO NICE. I CAN

WE LEARN.

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE BUTHROU

WE LEARN A LOT OF MATH

AND YOU LEARN THE KNOT AND PER PEG

THE TEACHERS ARE NICE.

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE BUTHROU

IT IS A NICE SPACE TO LEARN AND TO



SCOW

Among our books
we have both

because

it's a nice

we can

it's a canning

it's our favorite

we can a lot of things

we can have a computer

the teachers are nice

we get an education

the teachers are nice

the teachers are nice



we love Bethune ^{Let h qniel} Jones

bec

Bethune is.

nice.



Schae

it's a nice.

We learn a lot.

It's a caring place because.

please do not close Bethune.

can you leave the school open ^{floor!}

The Teachers are

beautiful. Can you leave

the school open

please?

I love my school



I AM worry

Angelo Chavours

• It's a nice school

• We learn a lot

• We get to na

• We learn a lot

• the teachers are nice

• Please do not close Bath one

• can you leave the school open please?

• we have friend school

• we get an education



Cynthia Spence

We love this

klas room ples

bot klas this

klas room ples



bot kep it open

for we can see your

teacherse we well be

your bast kep it open

for we can go out

so for we can

for we love his teacherse



TOMMY

ITS A NICE SCHOOL.

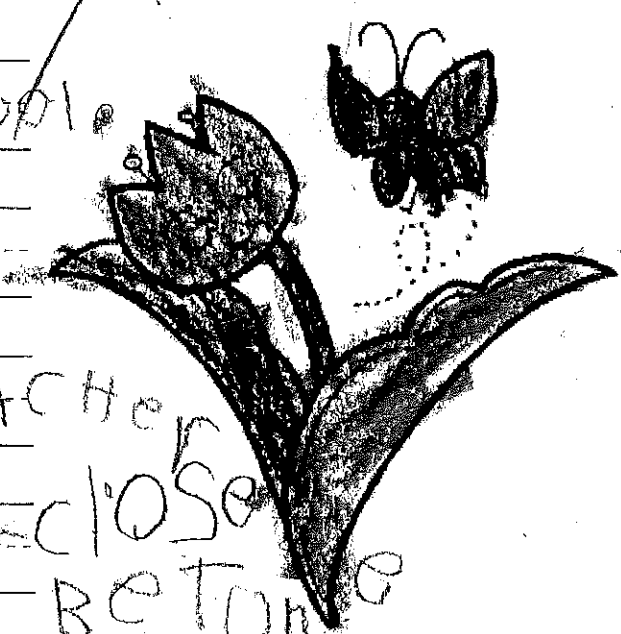
WE LEARN

IS THE BEST TEACHER

PLEASE DONOT CLOSE
BE TOPIC

CAN FEW MAKE THE SCHOOL

THAT OF THE HAND

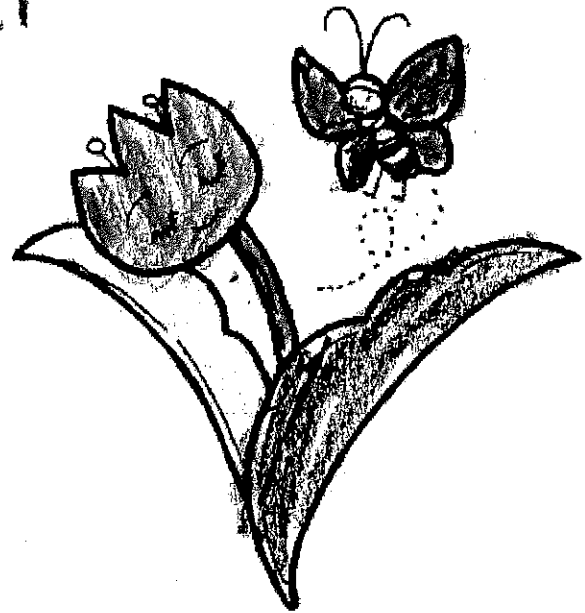


Kasmine Palmer
We Love Bethune

Because.

Bethune Love's us.

Bethune care



About us. We get education.

This school is educational.

We learn and when we learn we get

educated. The teachers help us

learn. We like to learn don't you to.

You don't know what it is like

for us. Please don't close Bethune.



Tha Vanna Mack

We love Beth

because

It's a nice

• Wanaefama

We learn a lot!

• It's a caring place

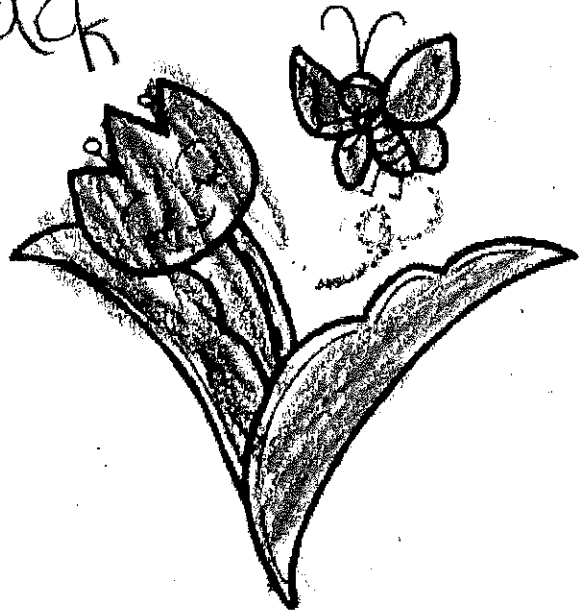
• Please do not close Beth

• Bethene! Utoohama ck

• Thema tanae tau

• Friend Tam a amc

• Can you leave



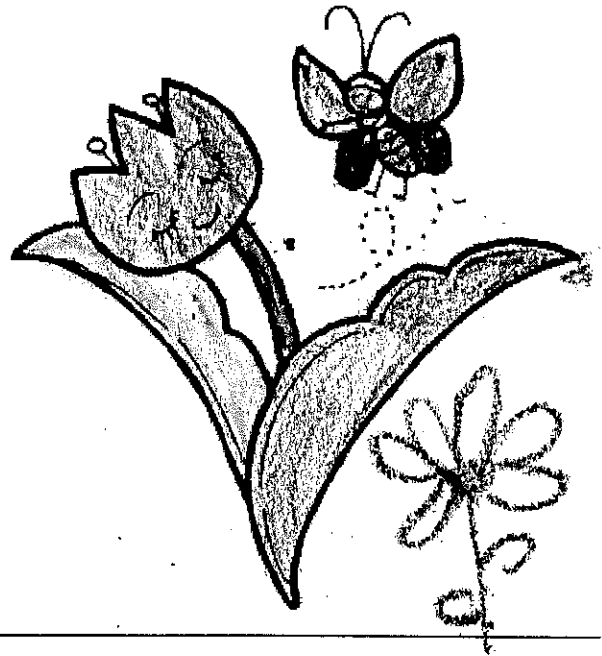
Makayla

We love Bethune

Because it's a nice

School.

I learn a lot.



It's a caring school. We get to have recess

It's our favorite school.

We learn a lot of math.

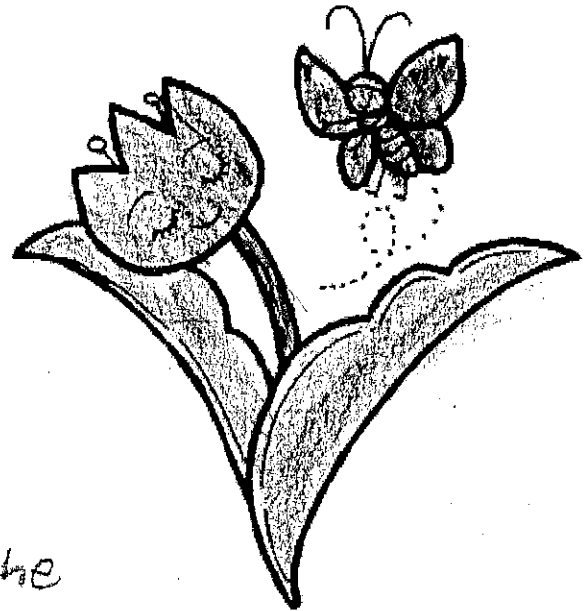
We have a computer lab.

We have friends here.

The teachers are the best here.

The teachers are cool.





We love Bethel
because

it's a nice school.

We learn a lot!

it's a caring place.

We get to have recess.

It's our favorite school.

We learn a lot of math.

We have a computer lab.

We have friends here

We g



AMAR ILLS
I LOVE BECAUSE IT
BECAUSE IT
ON NICE SCHOOL
WE LEARN
LOT IT'S A COOL
PLACE, WE GET REVE
IT'S OUR FAVORITE SCHOOL
WE LEARN A LOT OF
MATH WE HAVE
COMPUTER LAB, WE
FRIENDS HERE WE





Because
Desmen

- its a good School.
- Because they
- teach us math.
- and they teach
- us How to Read and they
- teach us to get our
- education Because then we would
- not no what to do. they
- Pleas do not Close.
- Bthune Can You Leave.
- the School Open Pleas.



Jays

Jays Horizon

OB

We love Bethune

BECAUSE

ITS A NICE SCHOOL

SO MANY AWARDS

WELCOME



A MONTE MCGEE

I LIKE BETHUKE

BECAUSE

WE CAN BE DO

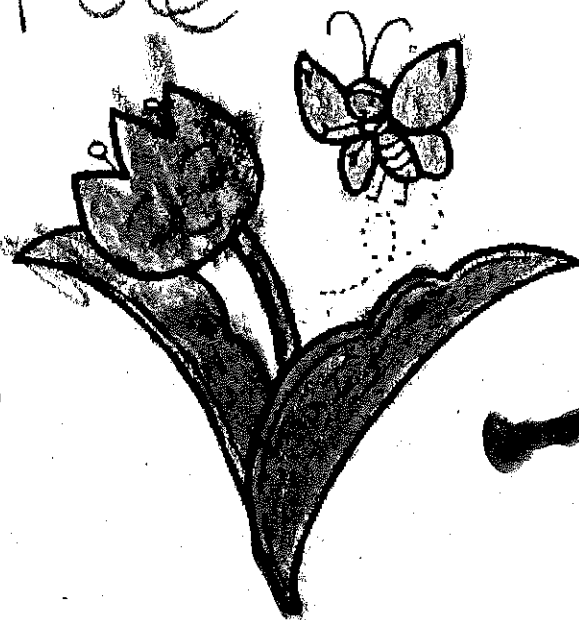
A LOT BUT WE

DON'T CLOSE THE SCHOOL

BECAUSE WE LOVE THIS SCHOOL.

I LOVE THIS SCHOOL PLEASE

DON'T CLOSE SCHOOL



We love Bethune

at JoAnne School

please do not

Bethune
Community Trust

to get to work

We hope



DOLOVRIKI We love BETHU
BELOVRIKI BELOVRIKI BELOVRIKI

THIS IS THE BEST SCHOOL

WE LEARN A LOT

IT IS GREAT TO SEE

THE NEW TEACHER

THE LETTERS
ARE NICE

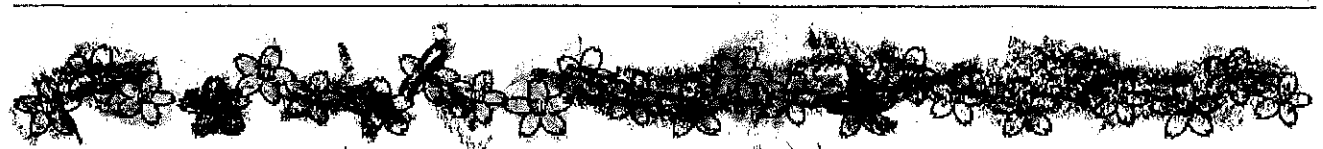
PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE
BETHU!

CAN YOU LEAVE THE
SCHOOL OPEN PLEASE?

I LIKE THIS SCHOOL

IT IS HAPPY THAT THE SCHOOL
IS OPEN.

WE HAVE A COMPUTER LAB.



Teve NeSmith

we love Beth hah

becca

TRIA GROS

ARE WOTNE



ANUCALCASSENE

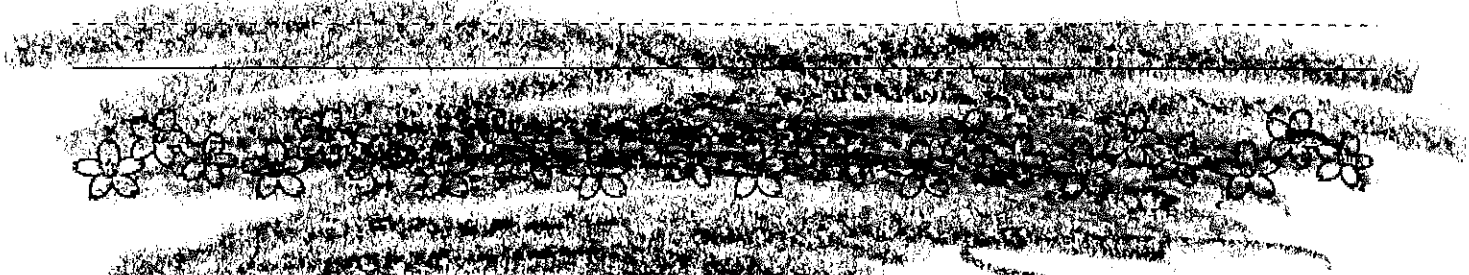
I love N

WE CAN RIT

W CAN TATTHSCO CAN LOVE

PLES DONO CLOS DRSCOLE

FORAS COLB ethhah



Roggy

We love Bethun
because

it's a nice school.

We learn a lot!

it's a caring place.

We get to have friends.

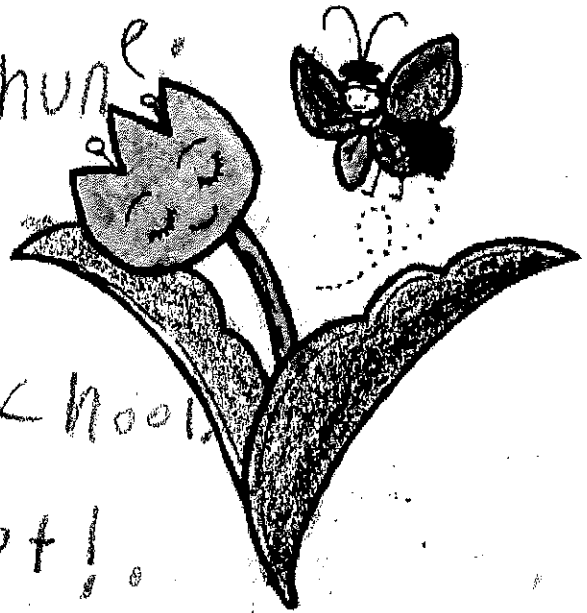
it's our favorite school.

We learn a lot of Math.

We have a computer lab.

We have friends here.

We get an education



Shimaya Phillips

We love Bethune
because

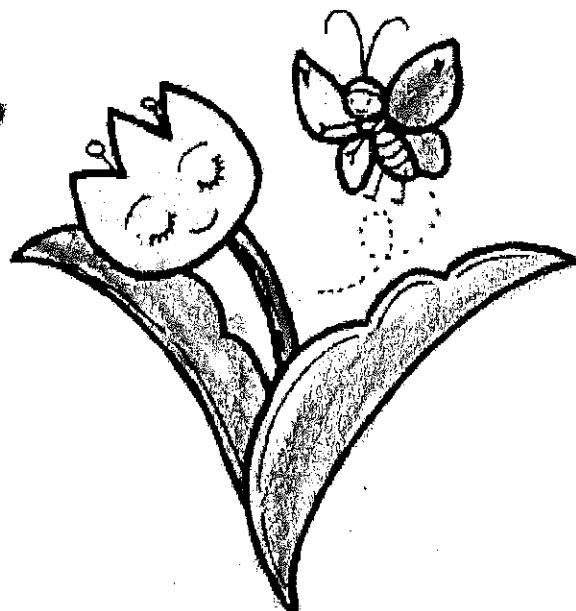


- It is a nice school.
- We learn a lot!
- It's a caring place.
- We get to have recess.
- It's our favorite school.
- We learn a lot of math.
- We have a computer lab.
- We have friends here.
- We get an education.
- The teachers are beautiful.



To: Lya Moore

We love Bethune



- because
- It's a nice school.
- We learn a lot.
- It's a caring place.
- We get to have recess.
- It's a caring

Please do not close Bethune



Rickeydorr 4-22-13

I Love Bethune

because

it's a nice school

we learn a lot!

it's a caring place.

We get to have recess.

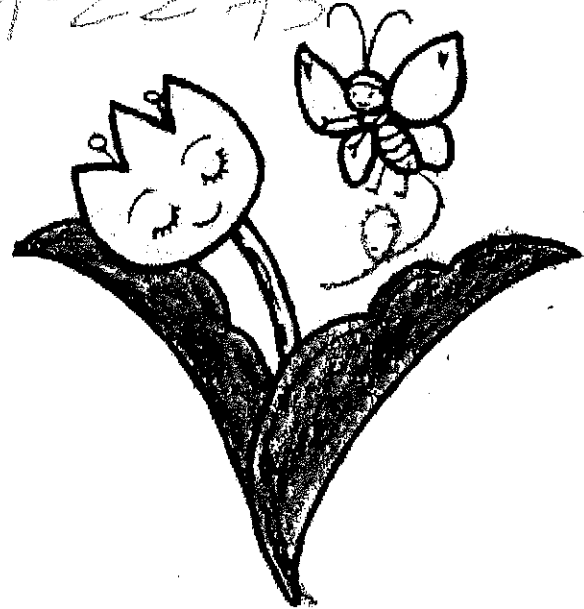
it's our favorite school.

We learn a lot of math.


We have a computer.


We have friends here.

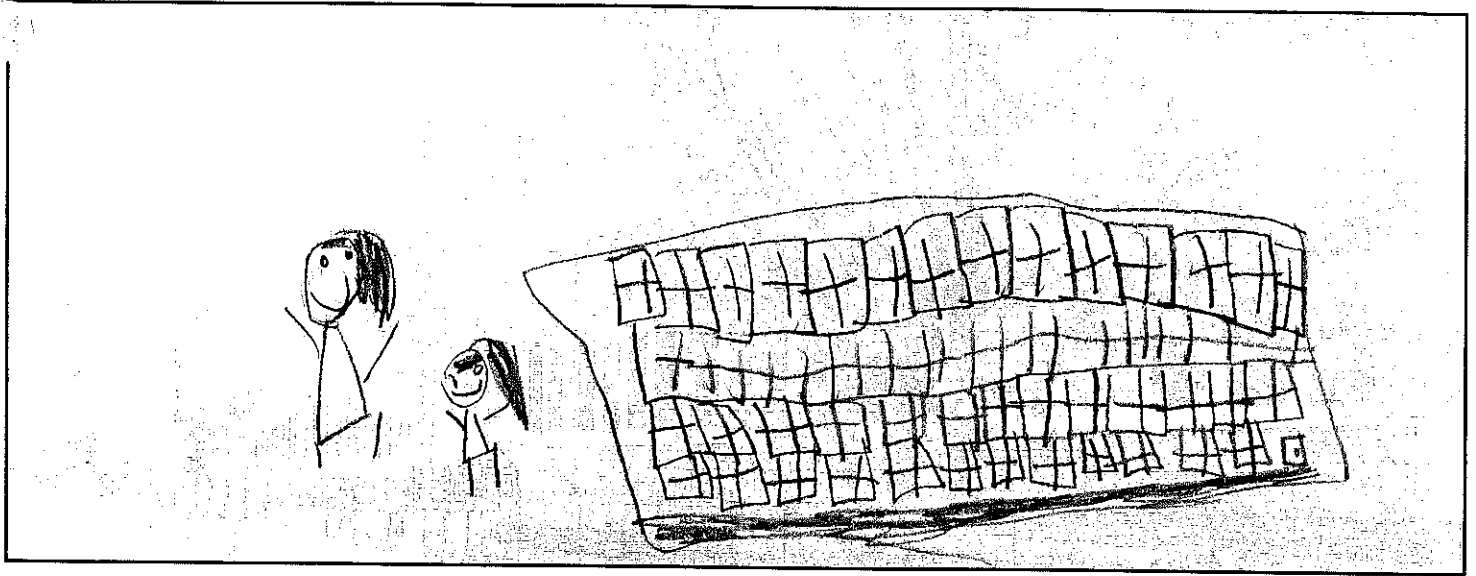
please do not abuse Bethune!



Kindergarten

NAME  AKI POI HOWELL

DATE  APRIL 22, 20



I love my school

because I love teacher

I love school, I love teacher

I love my teacher I love school

I love my school.

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark

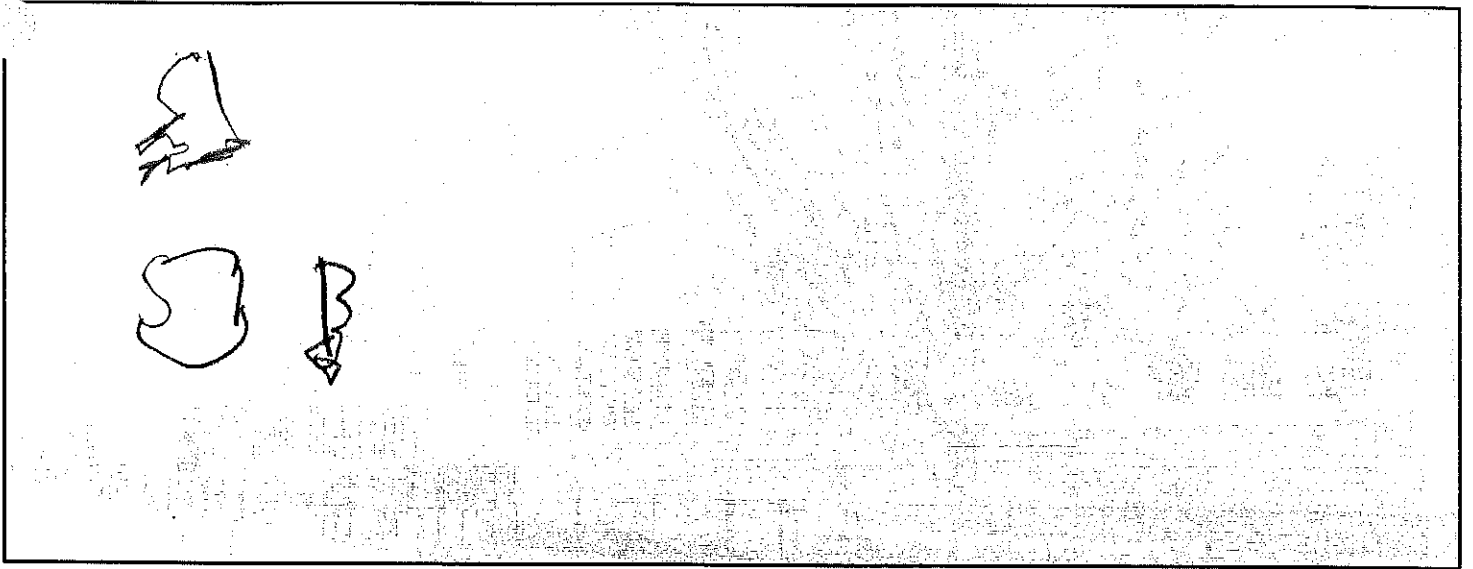


NAME

Lashawnti

DATE

DATE Tuesday



I, love math 2

ok use 00 / 4 I have

cut ishge tta shai Inaehae H/Rc

haehae haehae uen haedit

haehge w nehge is/ri

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark

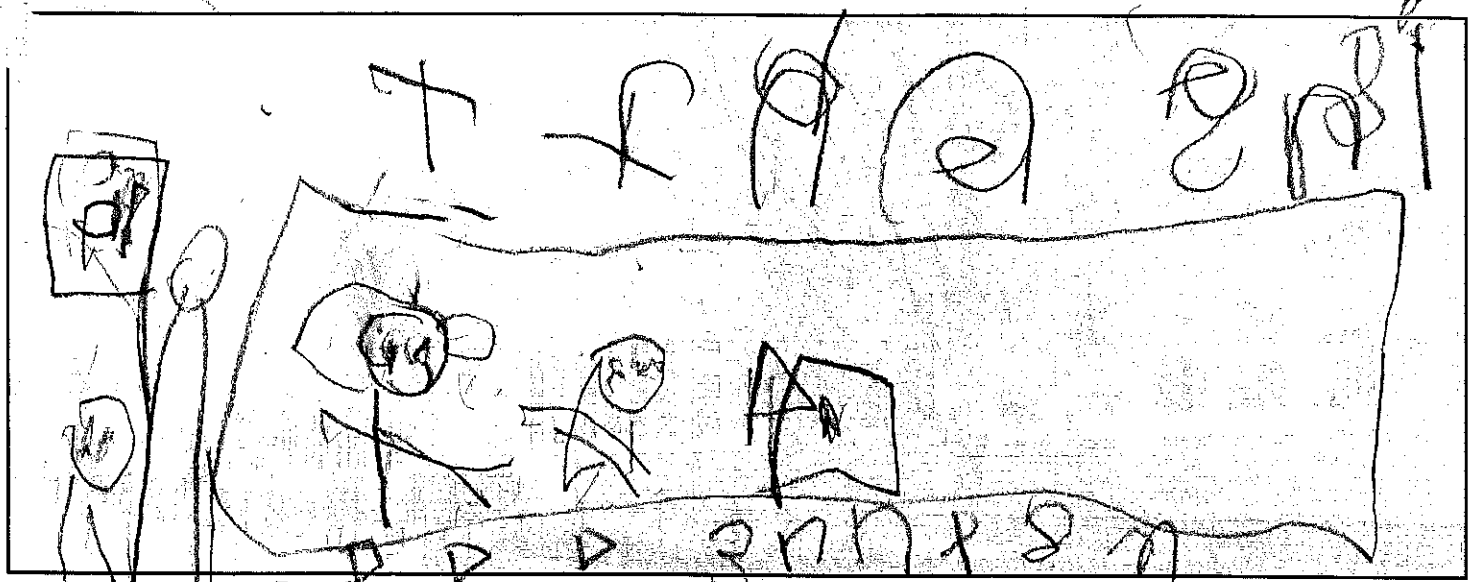


NAME

Penhal

DATE

April 22 01



I can read

book

each

with

books

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME

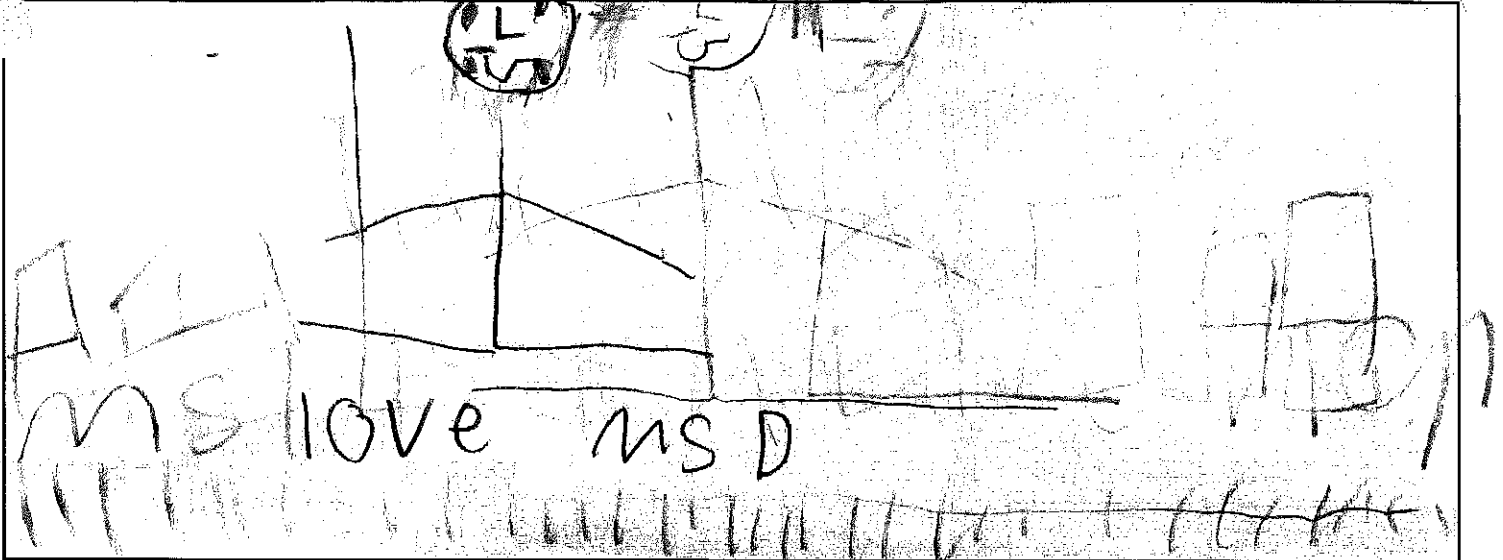
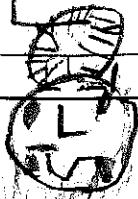


JALIDAN

DATE



FOWLER



I, I love the the the the

the the the the the

base use

M - 500 00115 + no

Bas

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending M

NAME

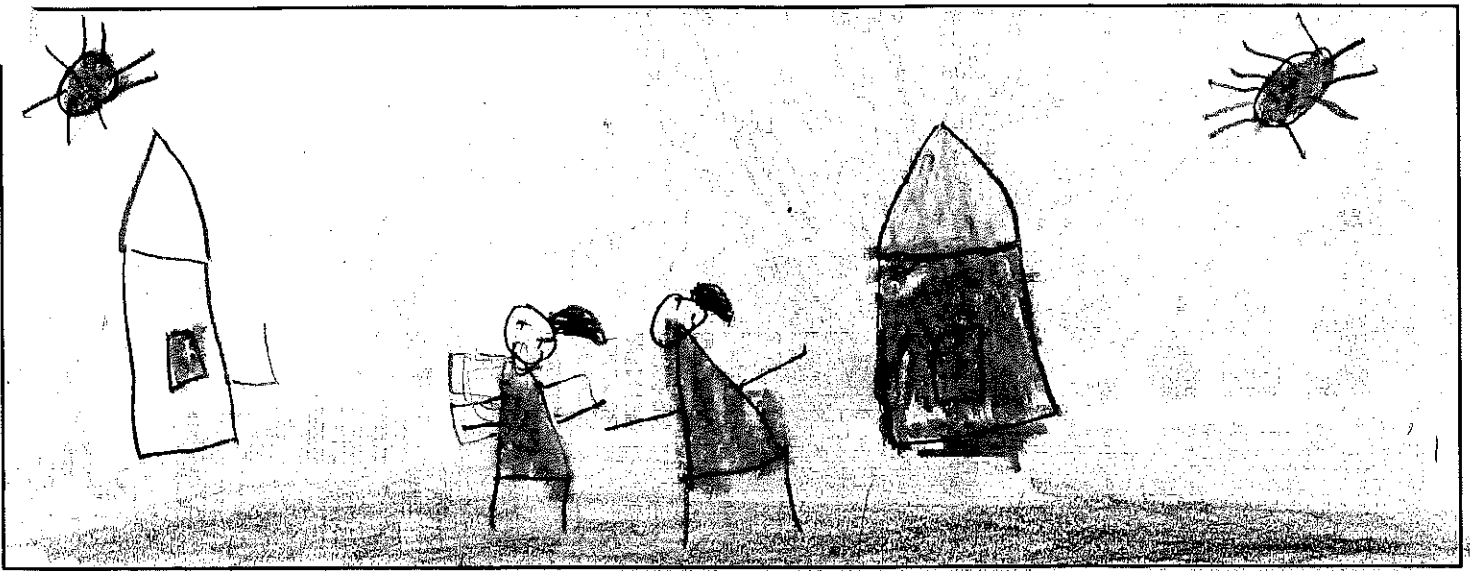


KPOLCFDAD

DATE



2013 APR 22



I, love my school

bxan HBC love nok

teacher NEL 2100

2100 r g bok 200 hve/de 12

CKAEVIEFO HANOVJ

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



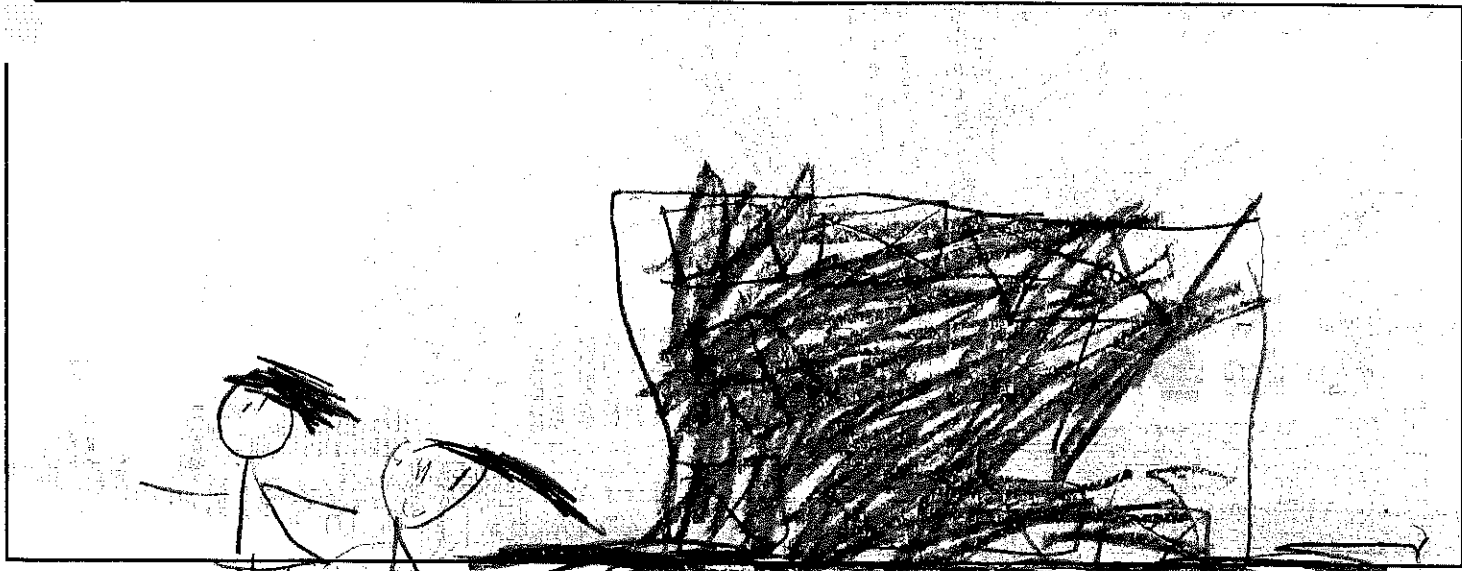
Ending Mark



NAME



DATE



I like
because

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark

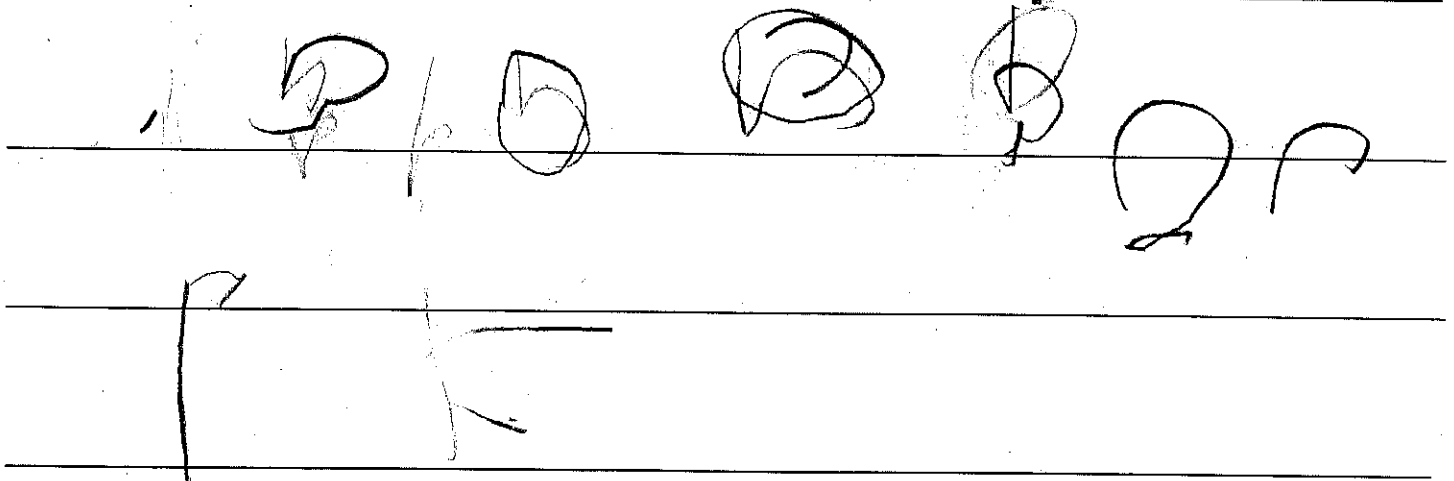
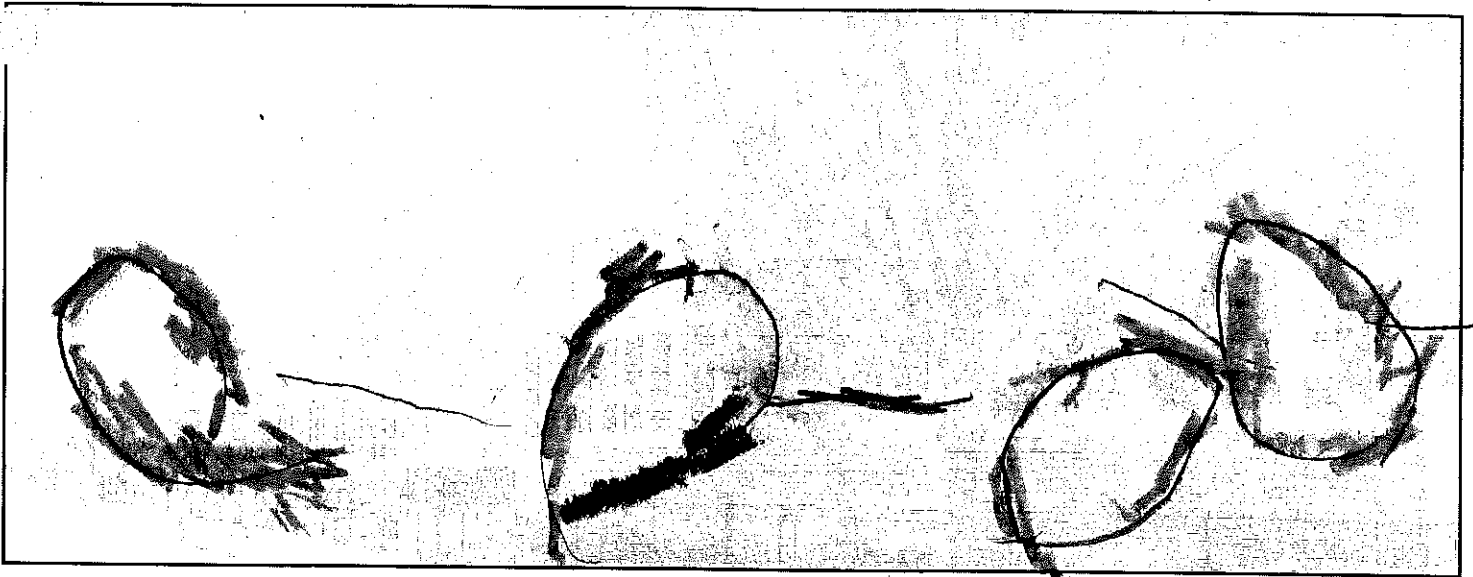


NAME _____



h h h h

DATE _____



Editing Checklist:

Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words

I have spaces.

Ending Mark

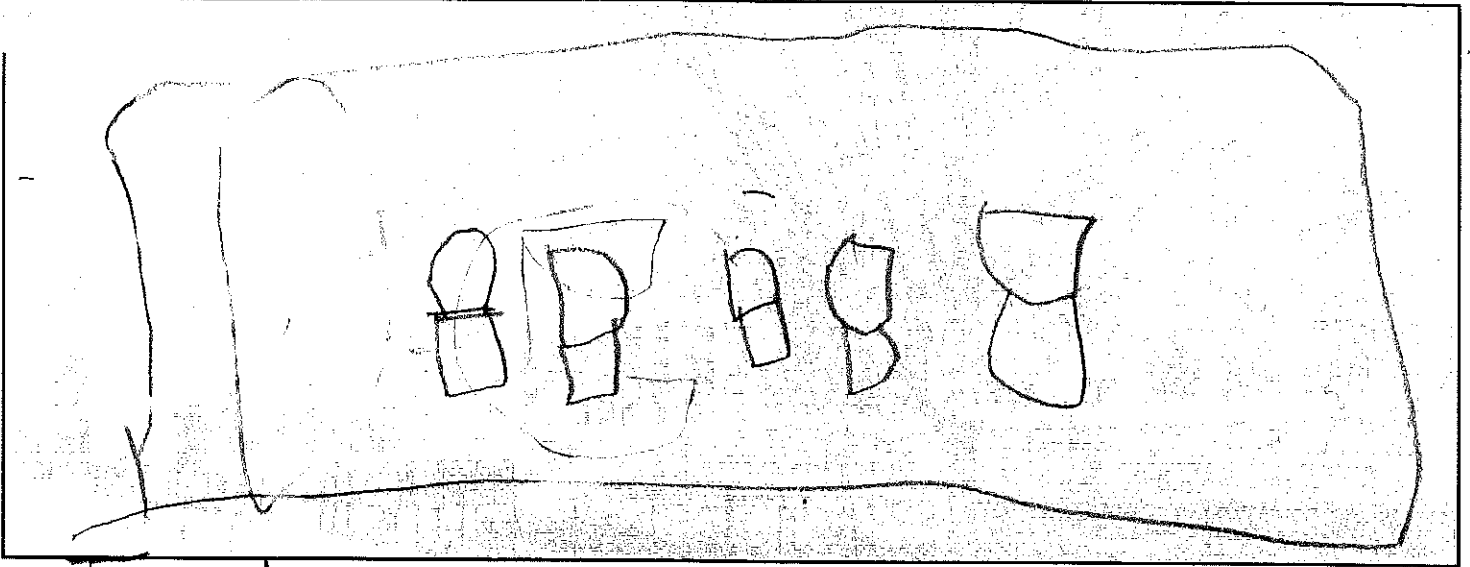


NAME



KAYVON

DATE



L. Lovemy School
 because
 L P F R b L + o P d a @
 F # O W i t h P M i

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME



Demya chiv

DATE



APRIL 22/2013



I Love My School
 Because I get to P.A.Y. in the
 recess in I Love to go to P.E.
 in it My teacher is fun
 I Love to P.A.Y. wit Jayla Be-Be
 JAJAJA PAVIS

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME

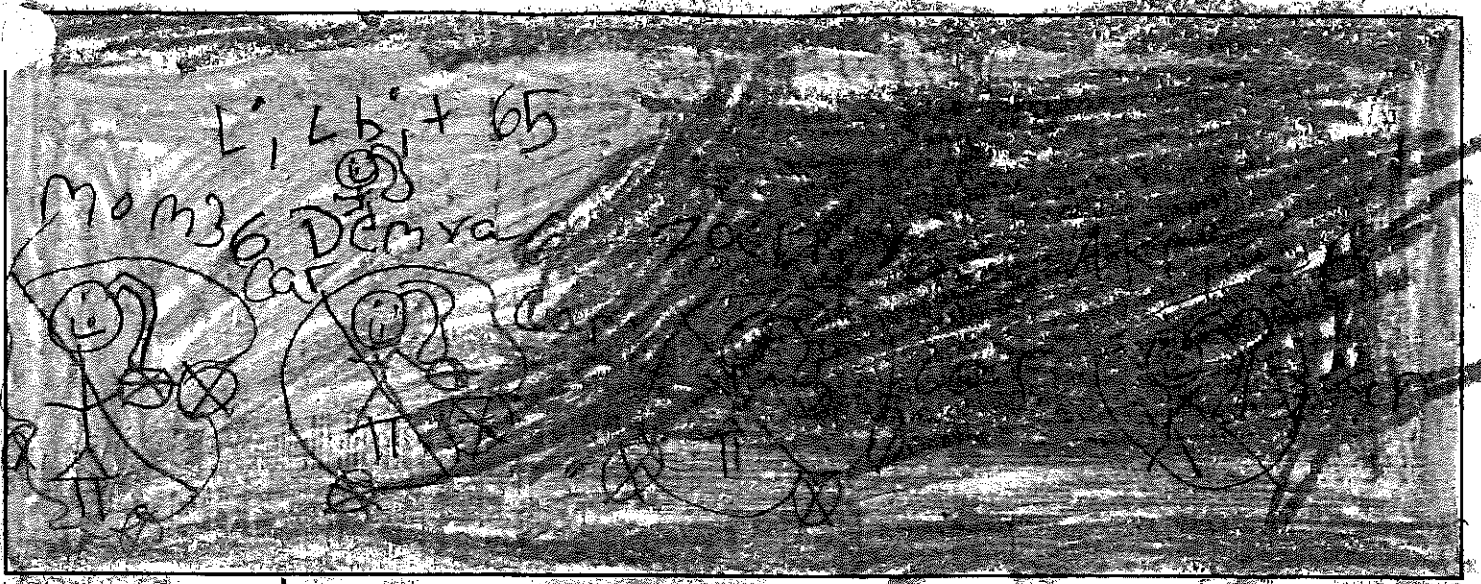


JAYLA DAVIS

DATE



APRIL



I Love My School
 Because i have
 nice teachers. AND
 because i have
 fun with my
 friends AND they have
 fun with me.

Editing Checklist:

- Beginning Capital A
- Word Wall Words
- I have spaces.
- Ending Mark ●



NAME

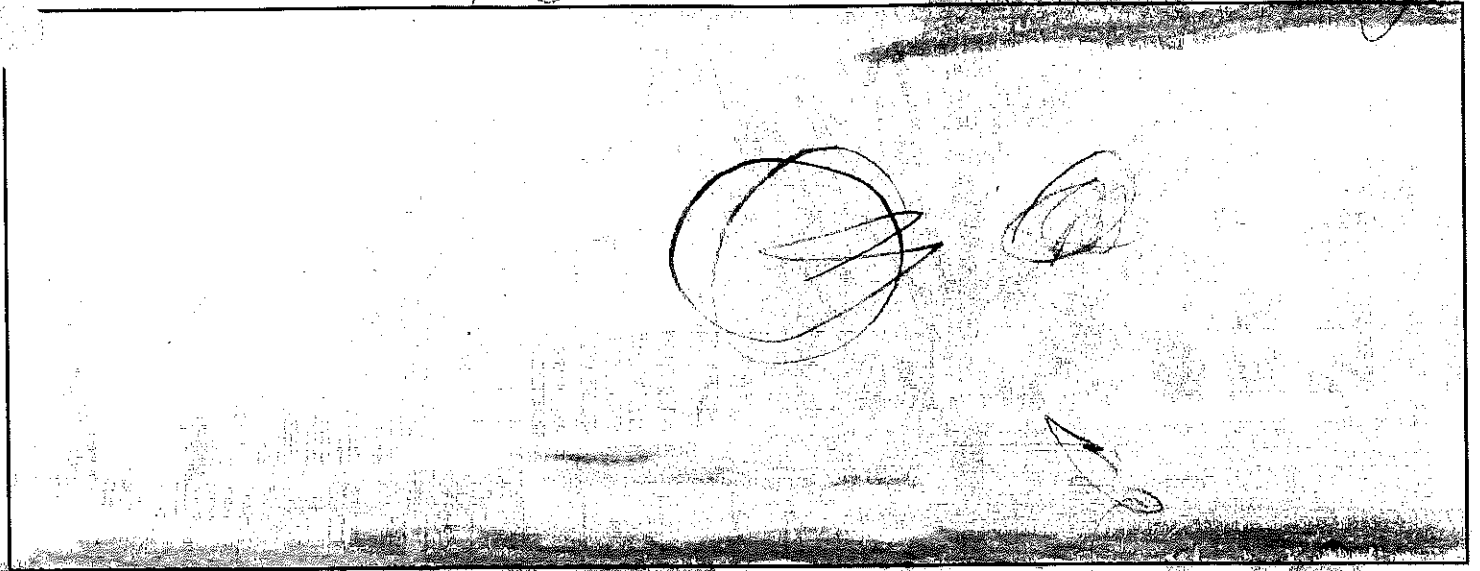


Kenya patterns

DATE



April 22 2021



I like my issekile my

bow I can height with

my friends. Birth

teacher FWC of 10.

pis is my ~~er~~ sow s + 9 Fut alt

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



STOP



NAME

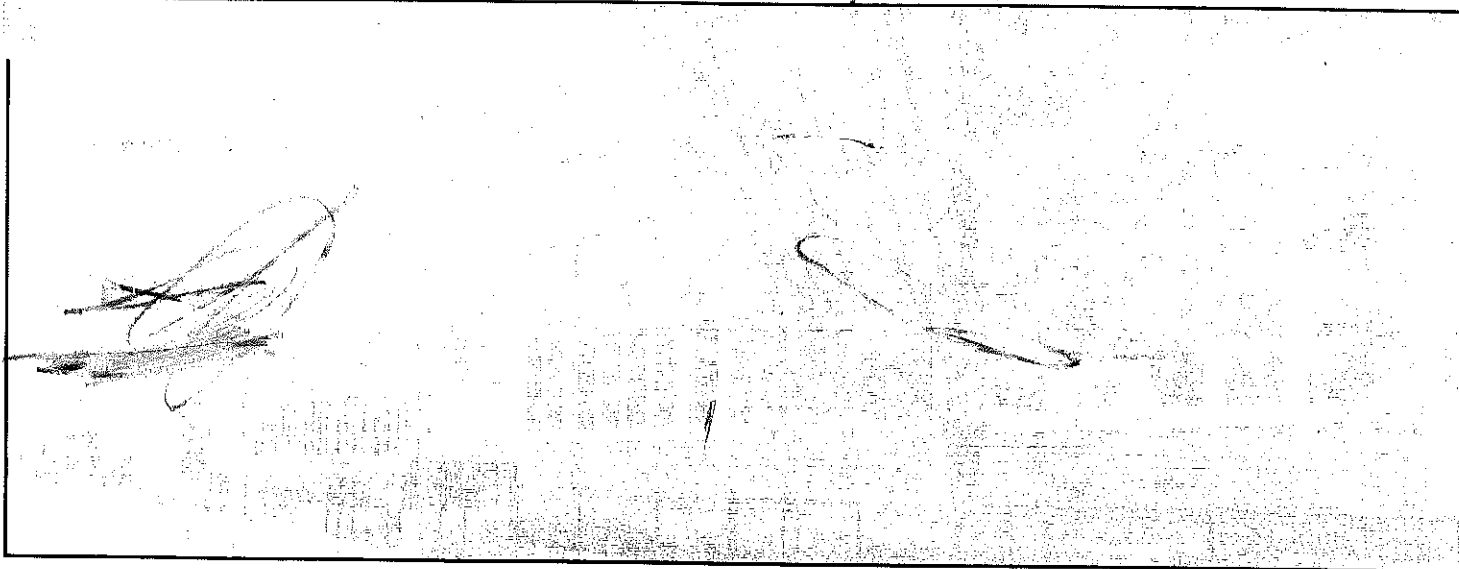


2100

DATE



2013



I 7 10 10 3 4

2 0 1 1 0 6 2

0 0 2 1 2 0 1 0 0

B A X U

I 1 0 1 0 4 5 4 7 2 9 0 4

Editing Checklist:



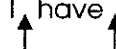
Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



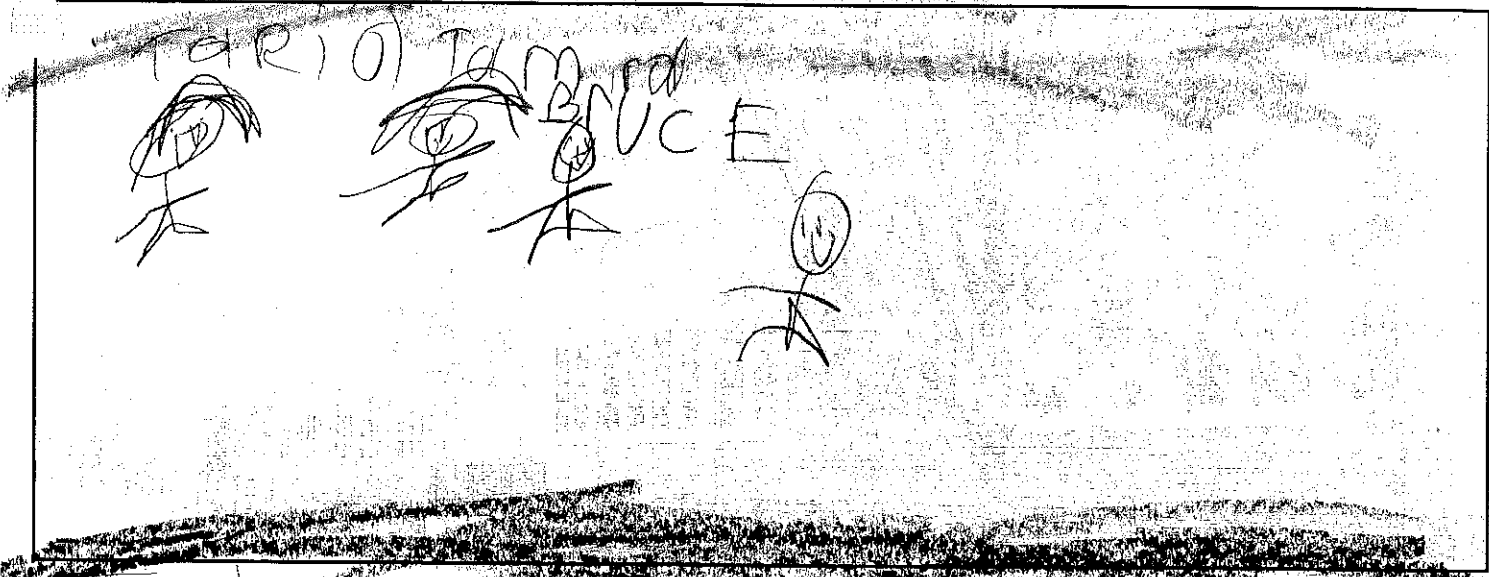
NAME

TARIO POWELL

DATE



April 23 21



I love my 20 Dood
 ecards e I can
 have fun at p.e.
 I love.

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



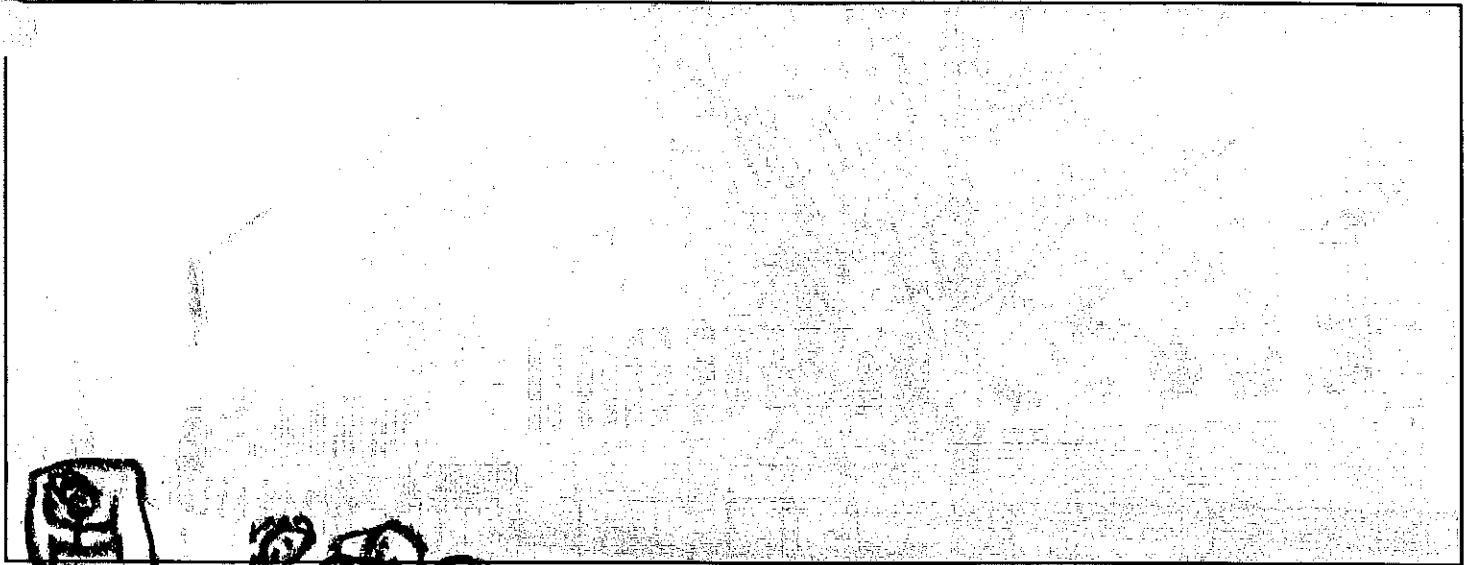
Ending Mark

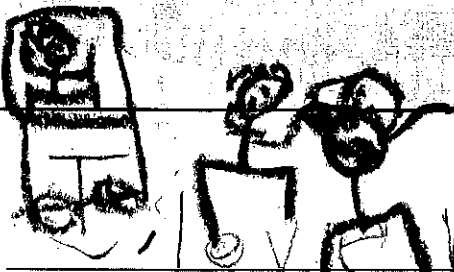


NAME

Bobby

DATE



 I love my school

because
+ teacher

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



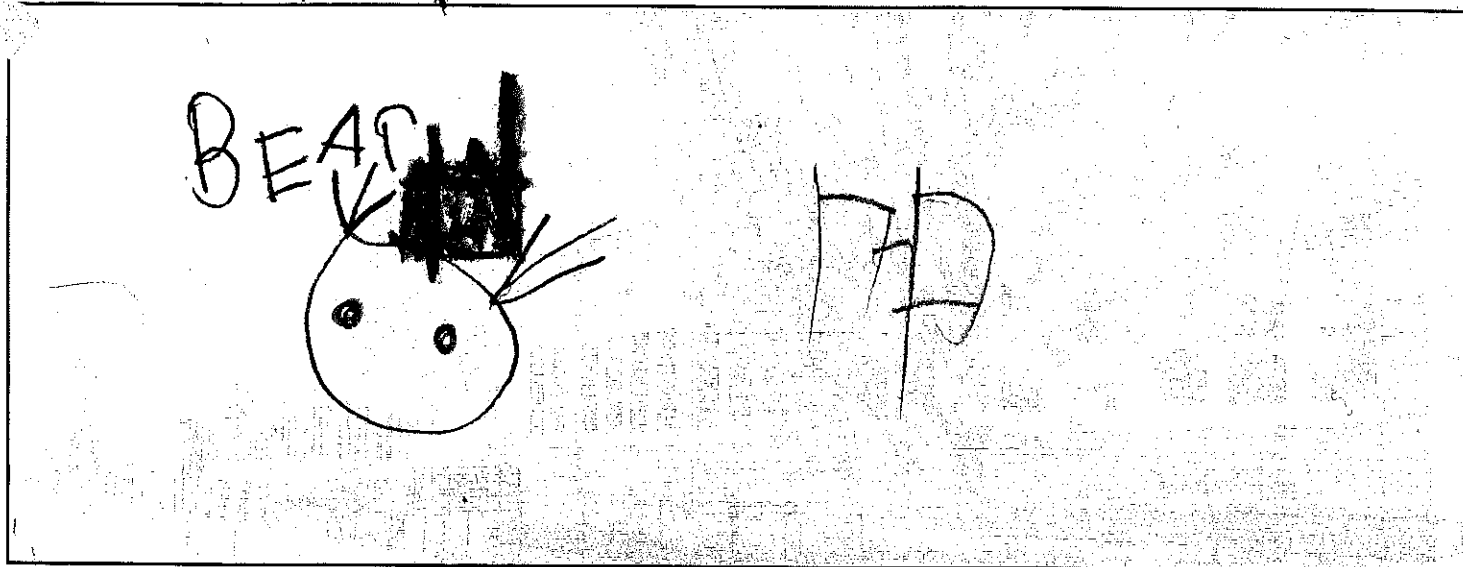
NAME



Maran

FEB

DATE



I love you
because

we are
school

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words

WON D



I have spaces.

have spaces



Ending Mark



NAME

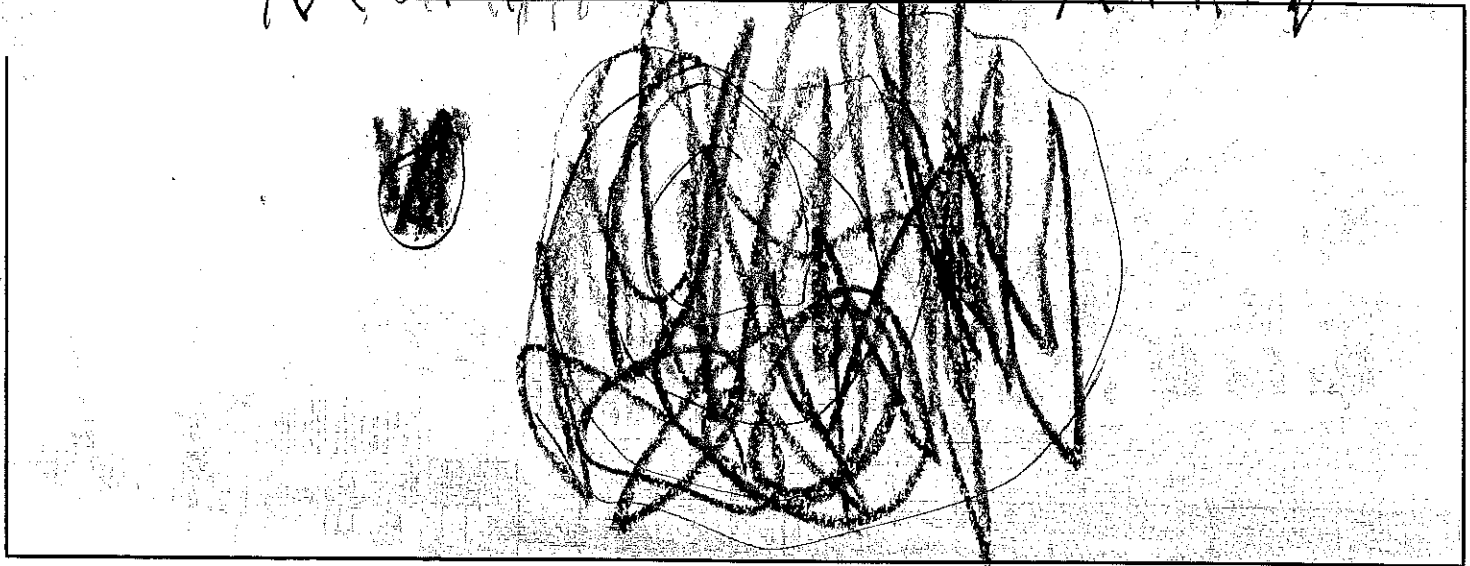


195 + 1/2
Murphy L

DATE



2/20/13
ADAM



I love my school
because I feel safe
it is fun
I have a

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME

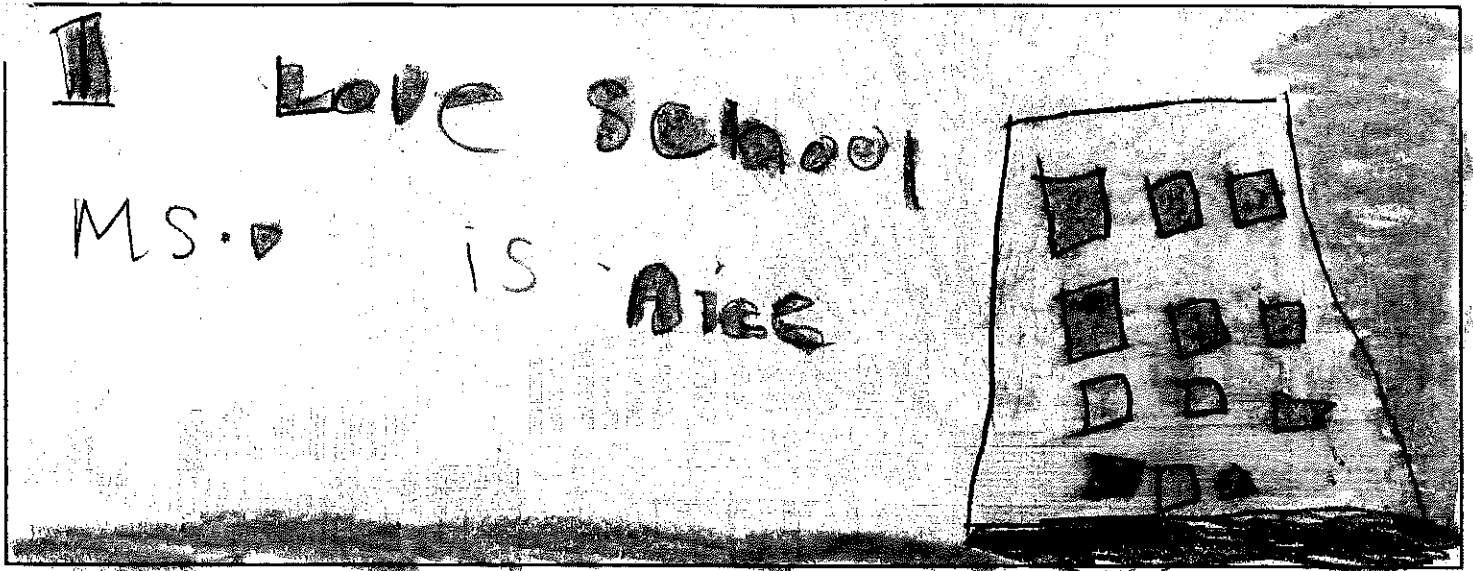


Mariael EPTING

DATE



April 22 20



I, Love my School

Because it is fun In I

have a nice Teacher

in MS. D is my FIB
Teacher.

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



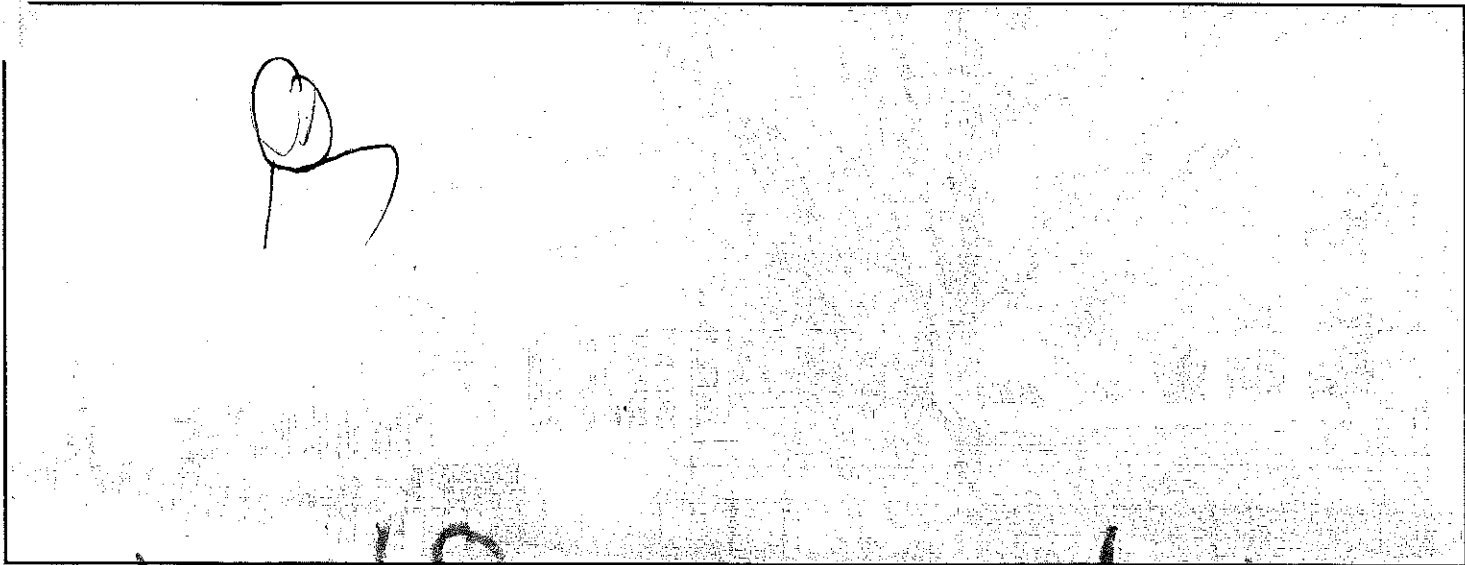
Ending Mark



NAME



DATE



I love yms Akh @ @ !

b e c u j e D h M u

b s t a X X

M y f a p e K I I + L u B I I

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME

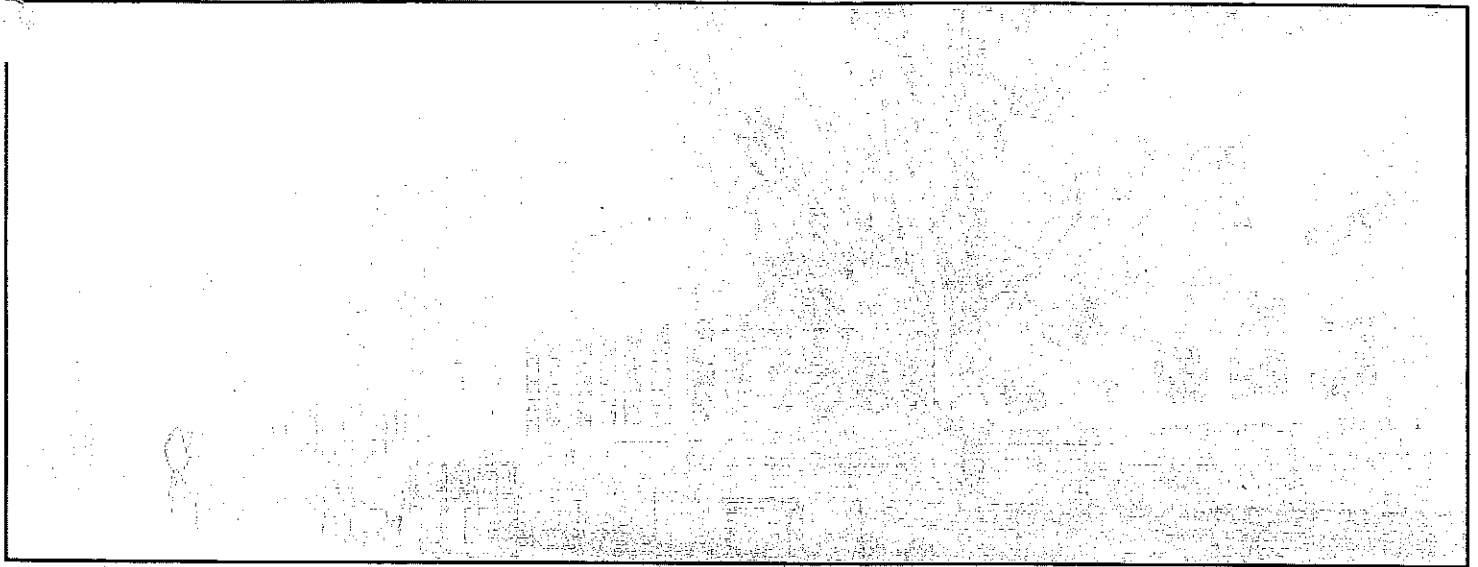


ZARRINACOV CAS

DATE



22/201



I Love my school

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



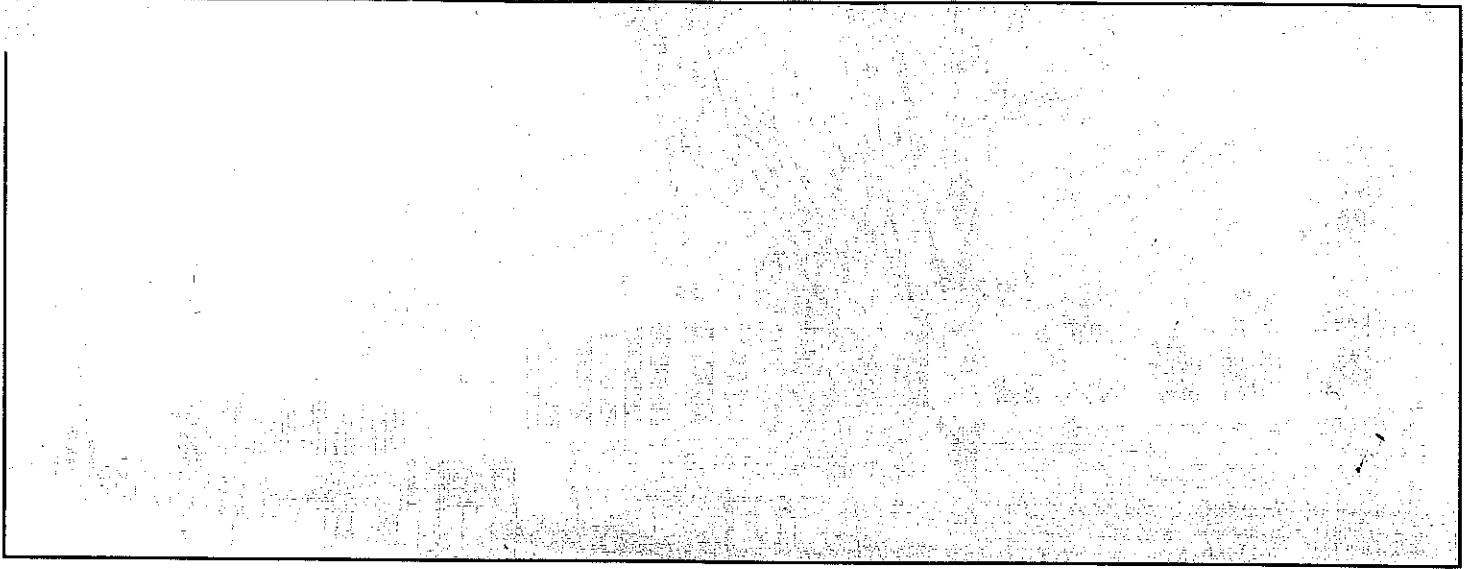
NAME



Jeremiah

12/1/20

DATE



I love my school

because

teacher

Editing Checklist:



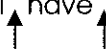
Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark



NAME

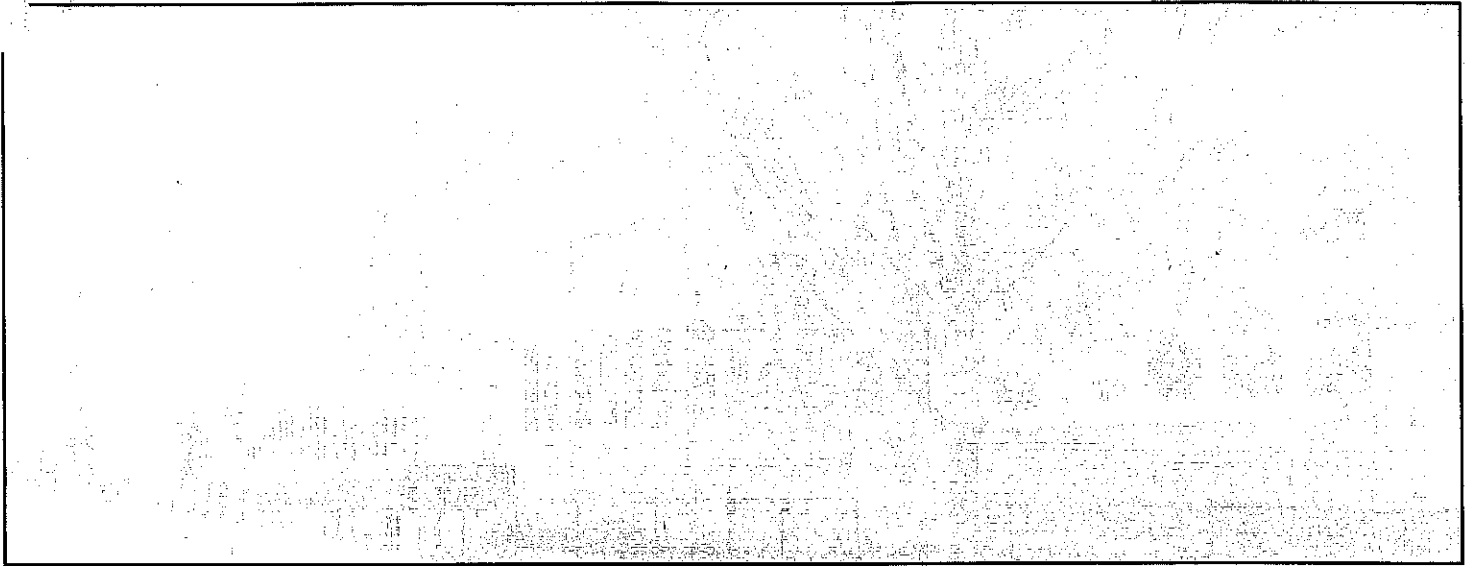


hanna

DATE



4-23-13



I feel safe

It is fun!

I love my school

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark

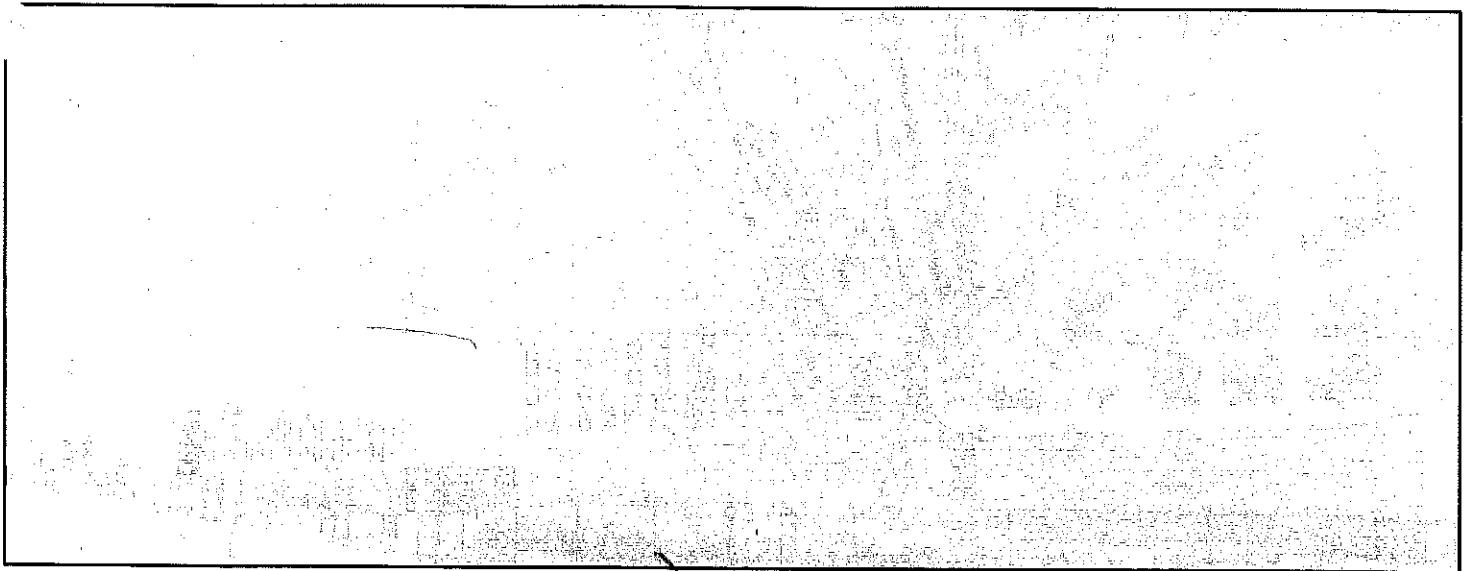


NAME

Christen

DATE

Read it!



I love my school.

because

of my

teacher and my mom and

even Ms. Bob and Ms.

Editing Checklist:



Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words



I have spaces.



Ending Mark

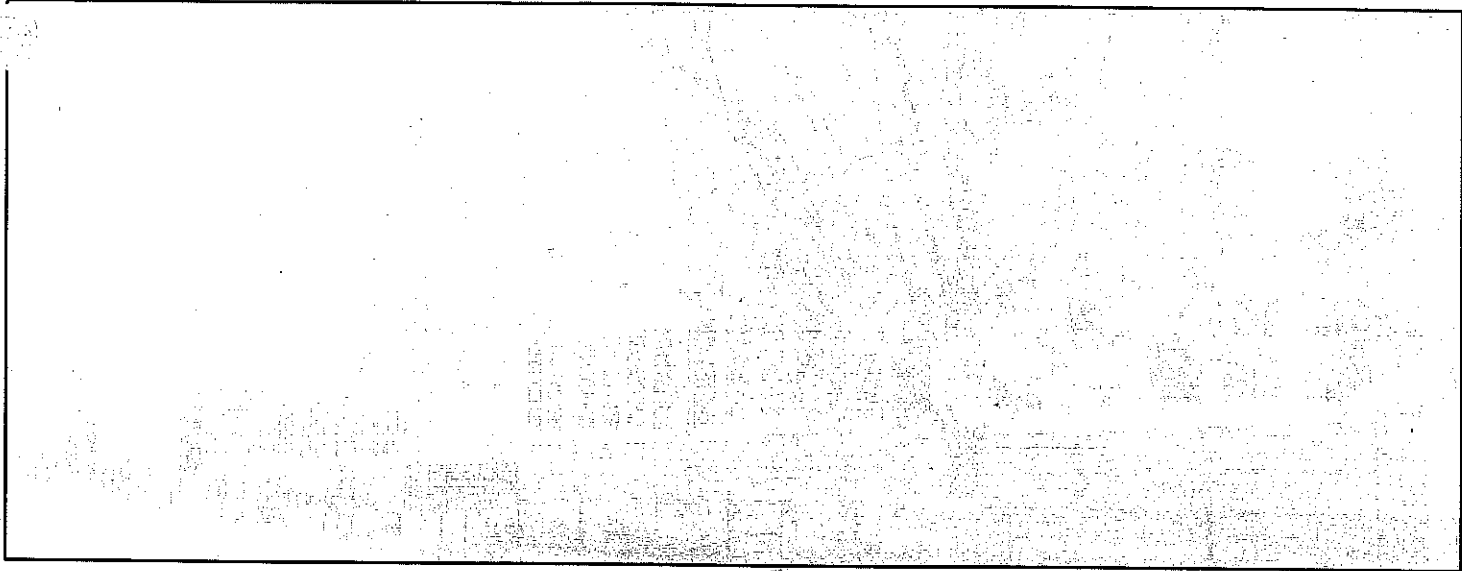


NAME



K-Ah + n y

DATE



The concept of the
 world is that the
 world is a place
 where we live
 and grow up
 and learn

Editing Checklist:

Beginning Capital



Word Wall Words

I have spaces.

Ending Mark



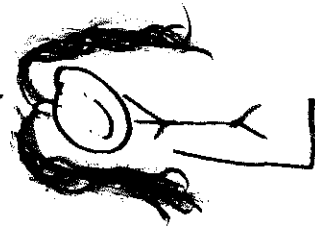
We ♥ Bethune

From: 302 Classroom Family
First Grade

We ♥ Bethune

From: 302 Classroom Family
First Grade

Makiviat



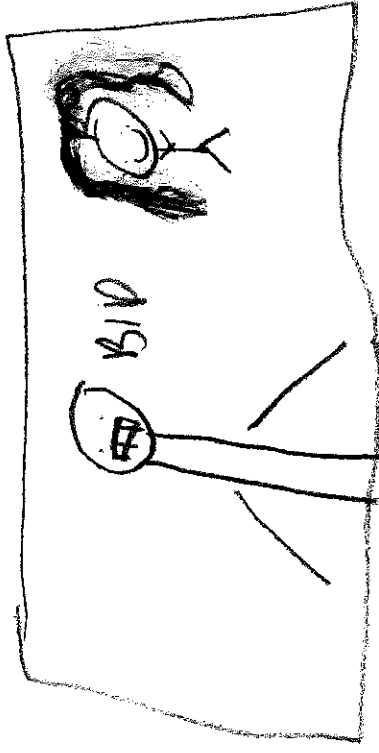
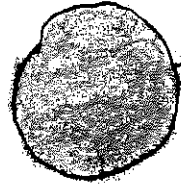
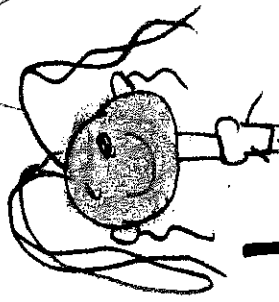
Mr
Walsh



Mrs
Burr



Mrs.
Brito

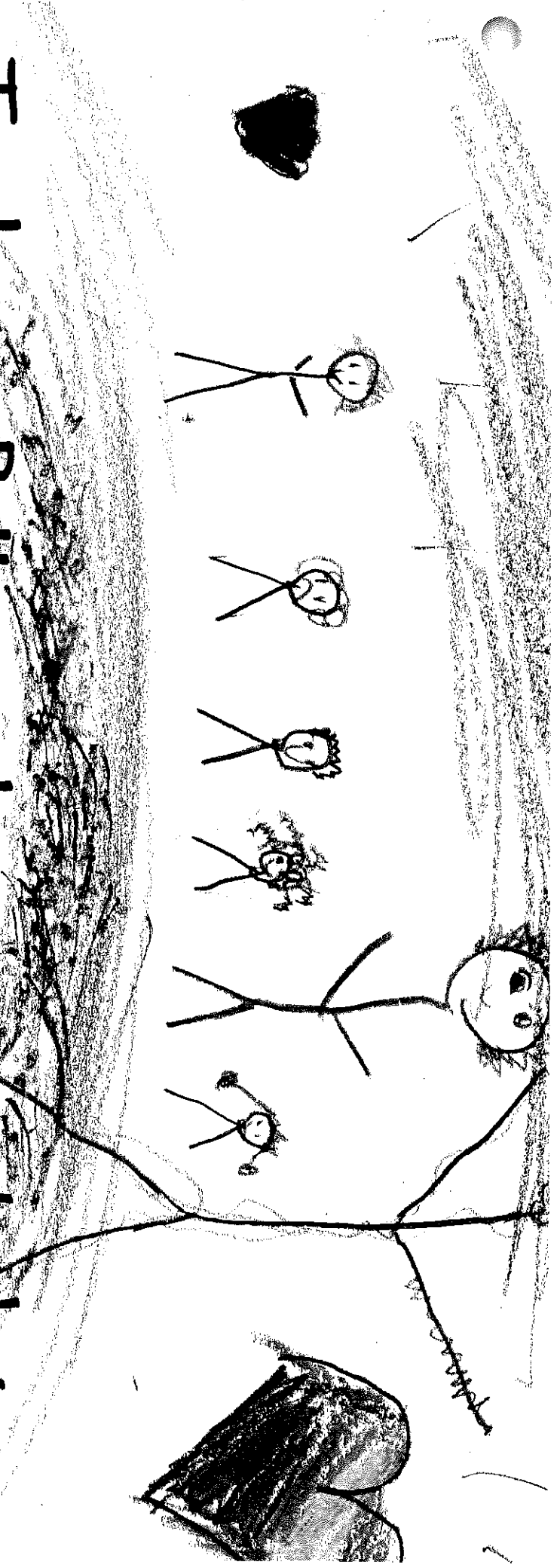


love Bethune because they teach
lots and lots of stuff.

Makiviat T.

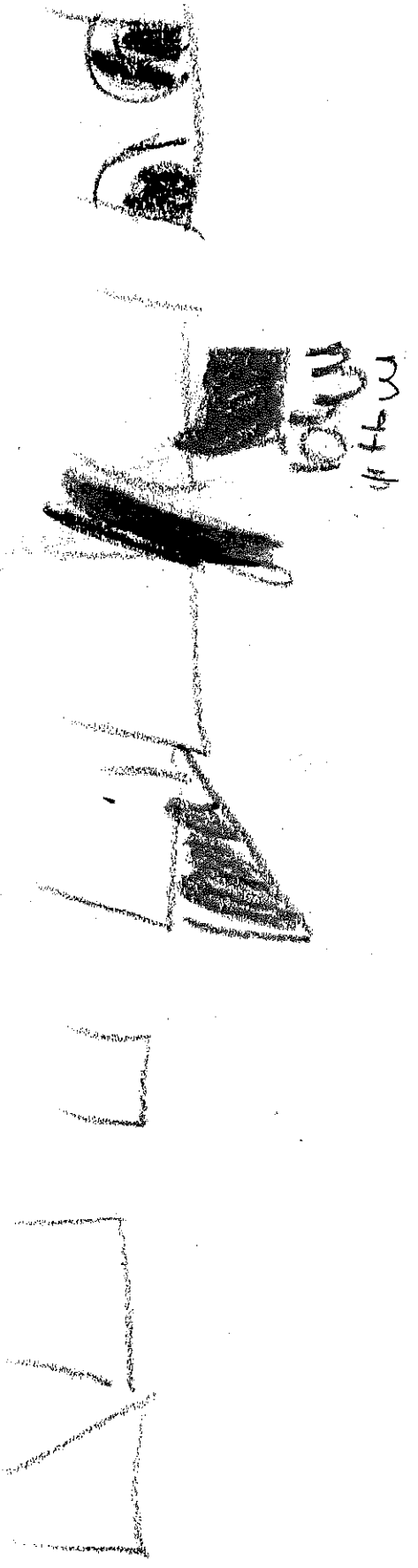
I love Bethune because it helps
me learn.

Dorovan



I love Bethune because I get
At
Mrs



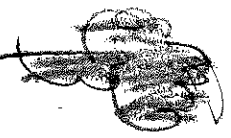
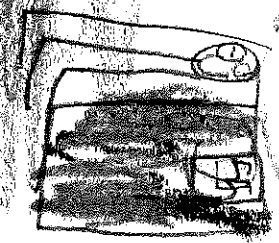


I love Bethune because it helps me learn.

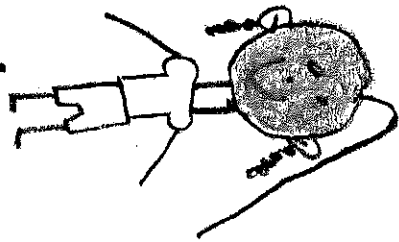
Demaje



MEMORIAL SERVICE



I love Bethune because I like
to learn here. We do a number of the
day.
Cemarie



love Bethune because we learn
lot.

Emoni P.

THE LOVE POLYMERIZATION
KINETICS



100

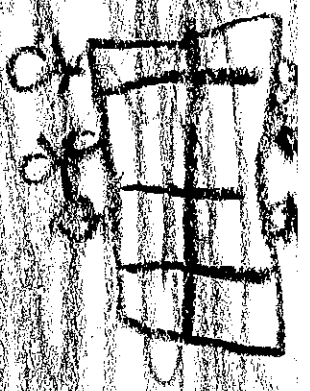
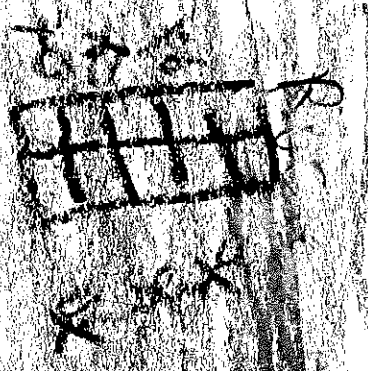
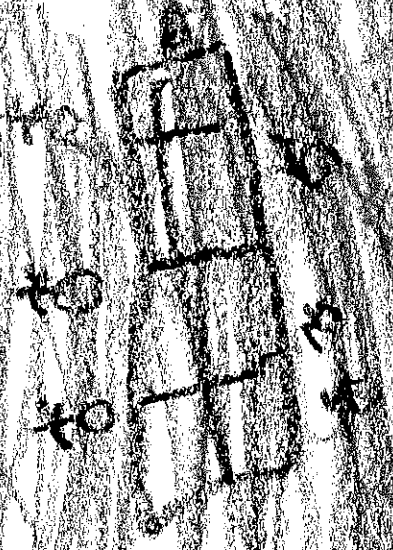
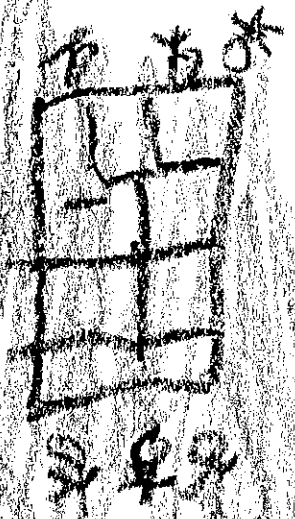
I love Bethune because we learn
and we have all our friends here.

Chase N

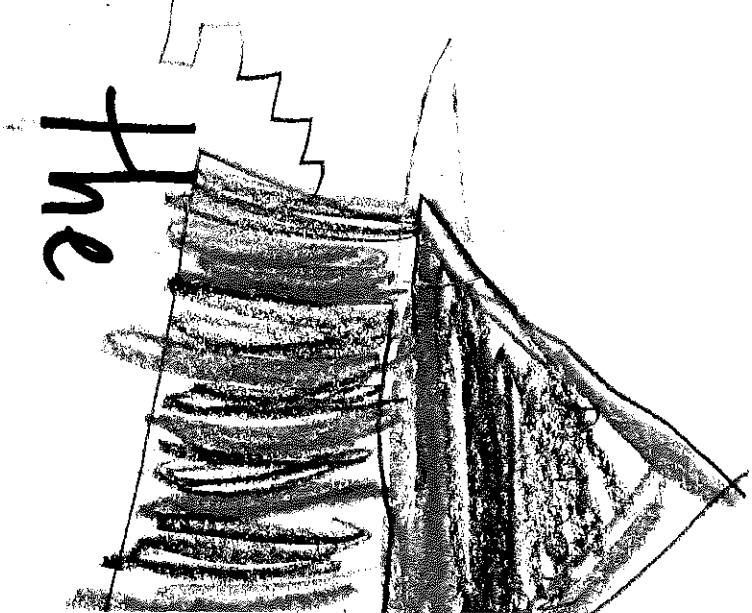
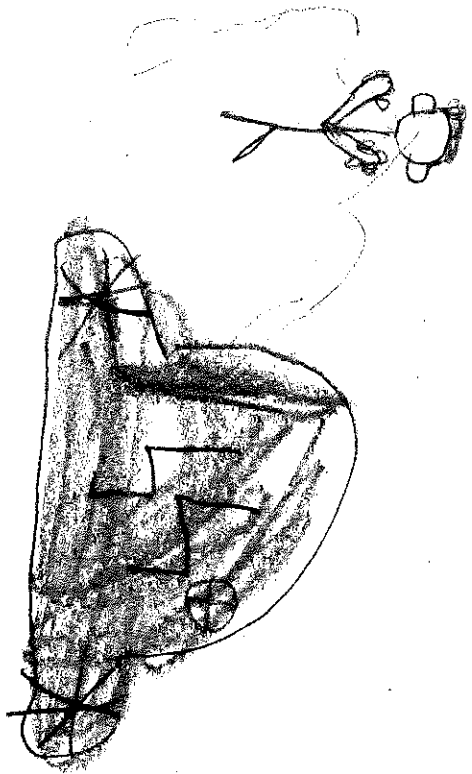


I love Bethune because we do ma
We learn fact families.

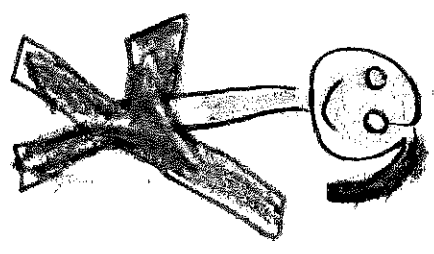
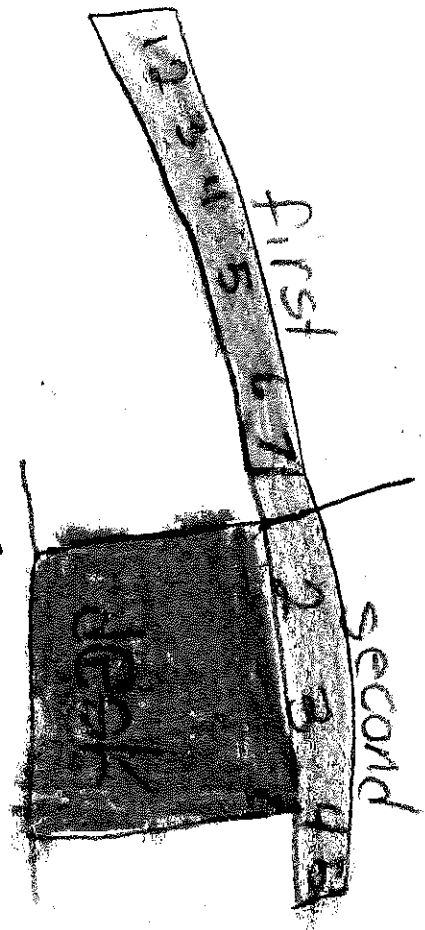
Jason



I love Bethune because
the principal is nice.



Nathan

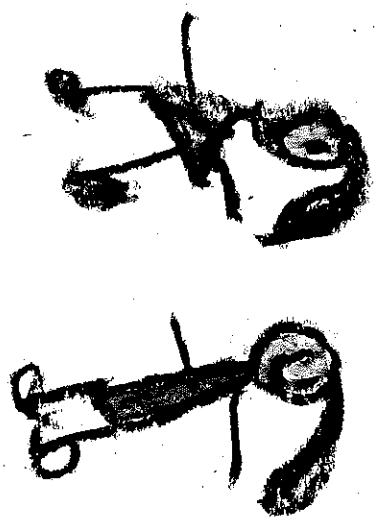
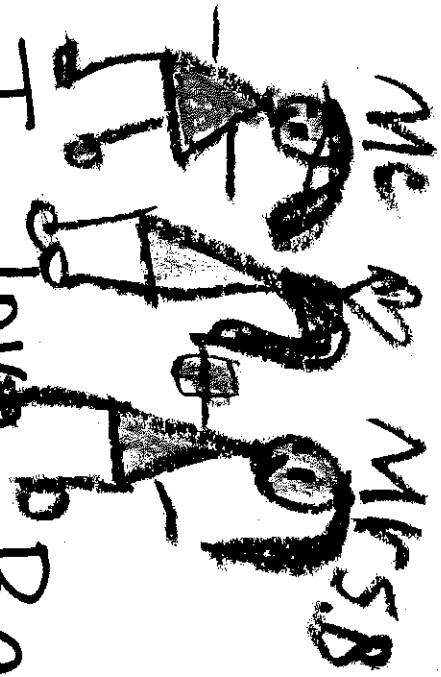


I love Bethune because we get
to measure with rulers.

Chyi

III I love Bethune ^{25/5} because ^{one} the ^{super} I love the teachers I always learn ^{back} stuff. St

Kiar



I love Bethune because we

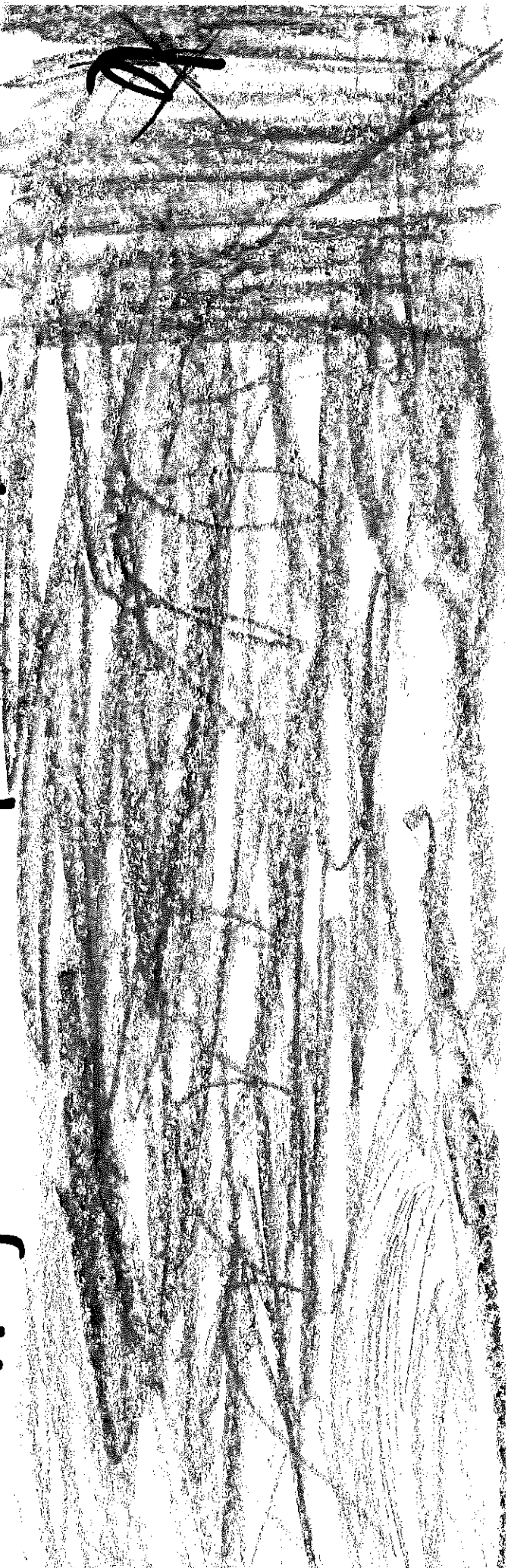
earn more with learning games.

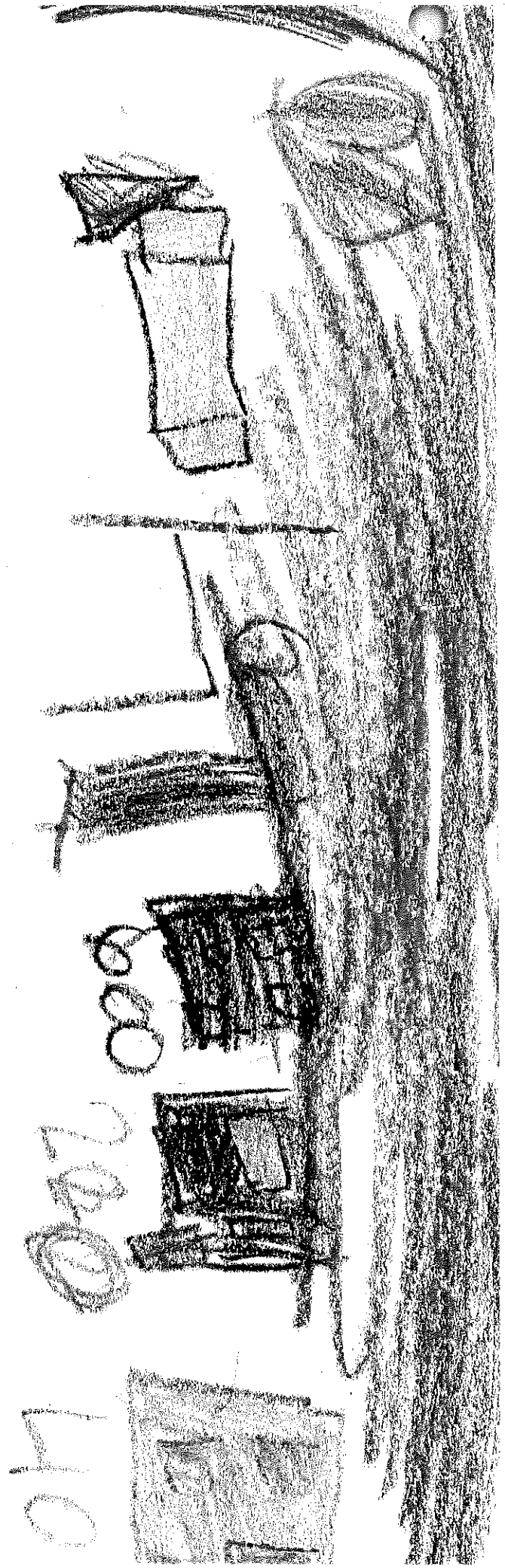
Jariah

I love Bethune because of the
people here.



Precious



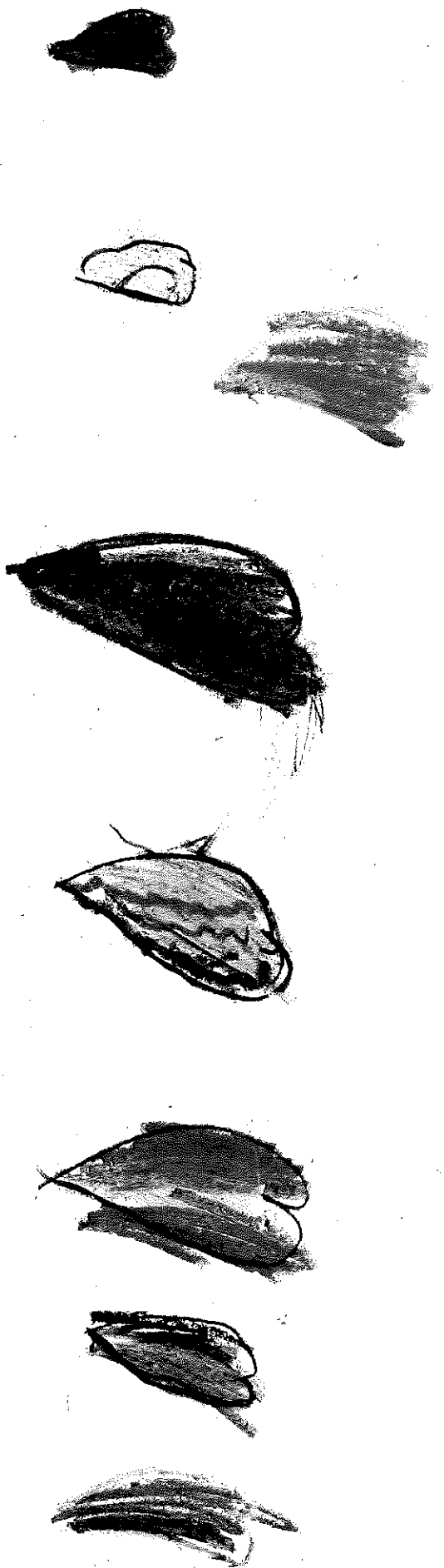


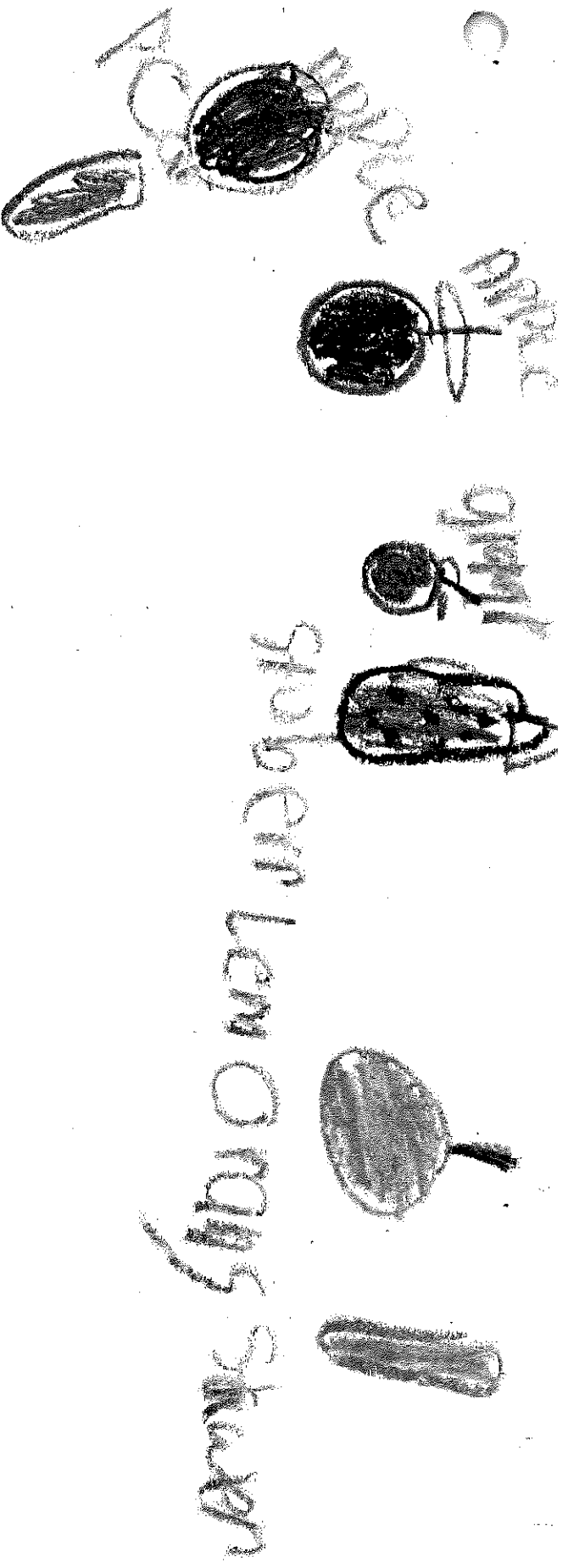
I love Bethune because
it helps me learn.

Jamal

I love Bethune because it's the
• best. They teach us a lot.

Noah





I love Bethune because I learn about the human body.

Aaliya

I love Bethune because I like
to read here

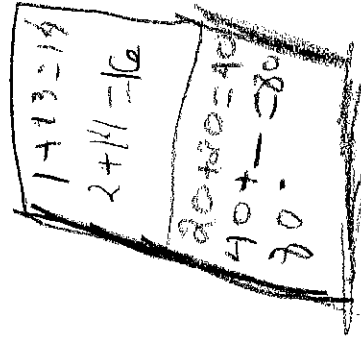
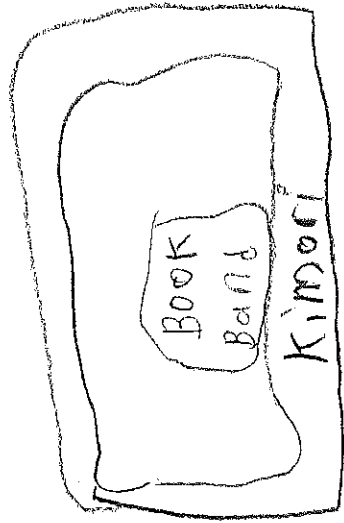
Lakay



I love Bethune because we
get to play at the end of the
day.

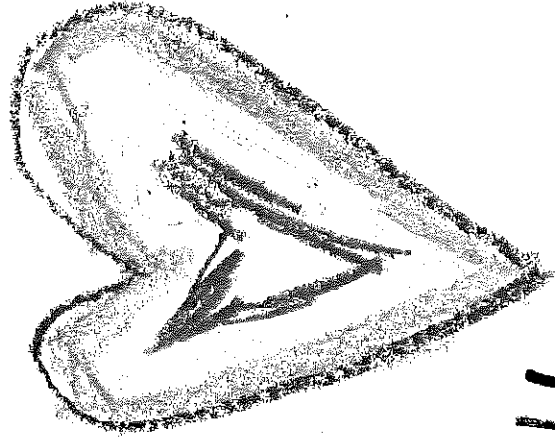
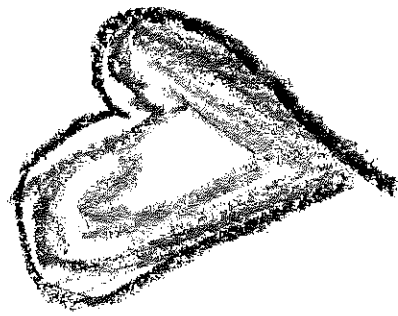


Anthw



love Bethune because we do math,
ting and centers.

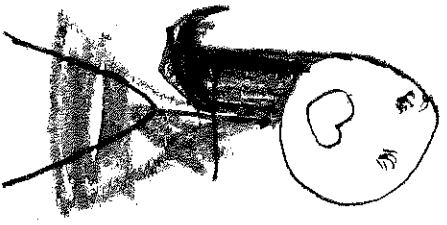
Kimori H



love Bethune because the
achers are nice .

I Love This School,

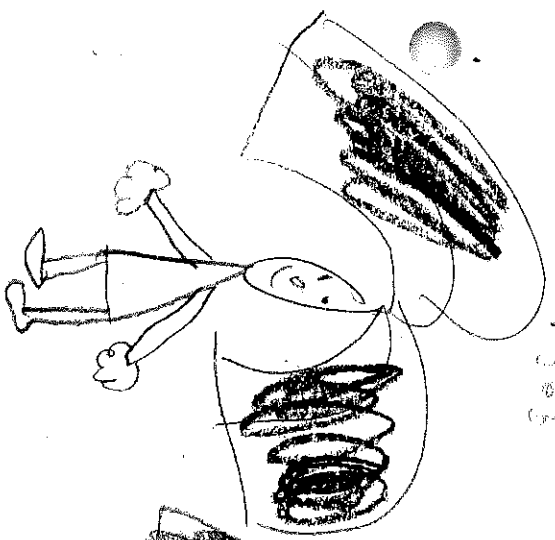
Please



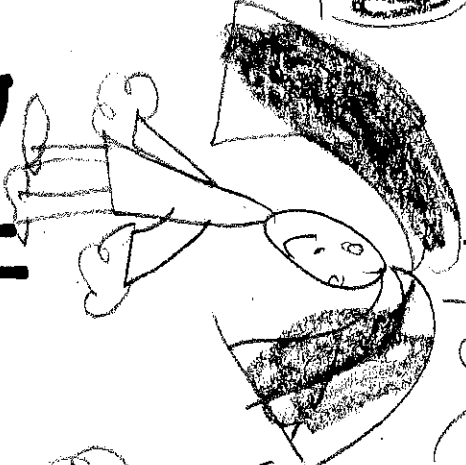
I love Bethune because of all teachers. They help us learn.

Jaleeya

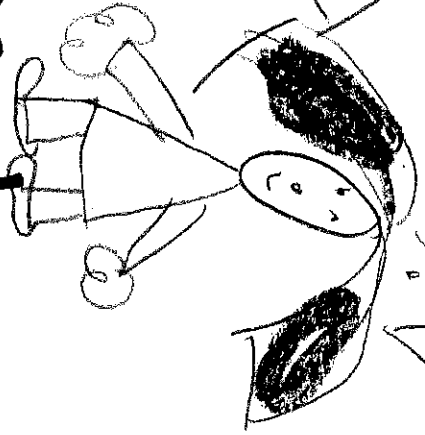
MISS



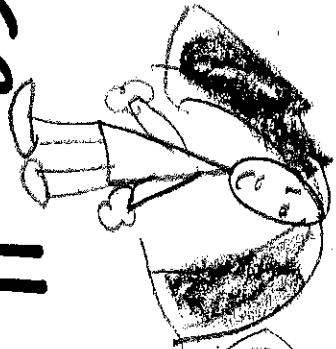
BRITTOE



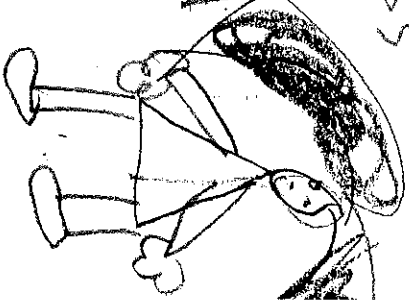
M.S. D



M.S. BUSS



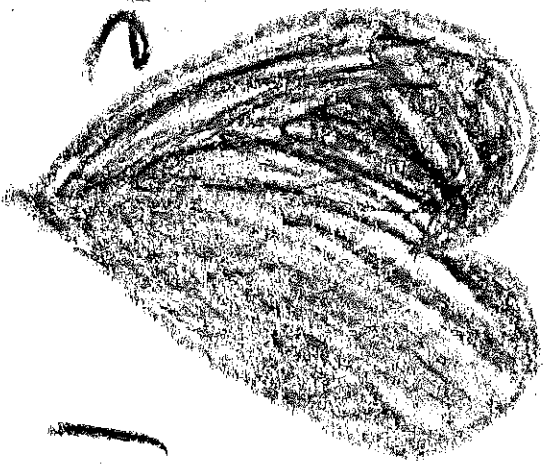
M.S.



I love Bethune because the teachers are nice.

Joseph

Love



love

ABC de Jearns +
fg h i k l m n o p q r s t



love

Love



love

I love Bethune because we learn six words and ABC's. We learn how to share and care.

Tom



SAVE BETHUNE



To David Vitale, President, Chicago Public Schools Board of Education
Barbara Byrd-Bennett, CEO, Chicago Public Schools
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, City of Chicago

We, the members Local School Council and Parent Advisory Council, reject Chicago Public Schools' plan to close down Bethune School of Excellence (3030 W. Arthington St.) and send students to Gregory Elementary School (3715 W. Polk St.). The remarkable academic and cultural gains that Bethune has made in the last three years, since the school was turned around, are now at risk of being derailed.

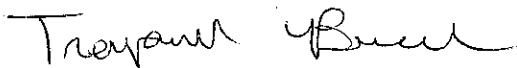
Bethune School of Excellence is a quality neighborhood school that has increased the number of students meeting and exceeding state ISAT standards by fourteen percent since 2009, more than doubling the CPS district average during the same period. The school is characterized by its academic rigor and quality instruction, as well as a whole host of academic enrichment opportunities for students from pre-K to 8th grade.

Closing Bethune would result in the loss of important academic and afterschool programs, including reading and math tutoring, boys' and girls' mentoring, drama club, sports, drumline, and Saturday school. Approximately 125 students participate in the numerous afterschool activities offered at Bethune.

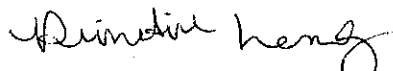
Furthermore, Bethune School of Excellence has worked hard to create a culture and climate that not only develops good students, but also good citizens. CPS recognizes that Bethune's culture and climate is superior to that of Gregory Elementary, and that Bethune has a "strong" supportive environment where students feel safer and more supported than Gregory students (CPS 2012 School Progress Report).

We ask that CPS reconsider the proposed closing of Bethune, so that our students and community may continue to strive for excellence.

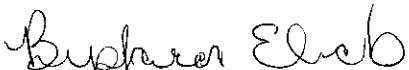
Sincerely,



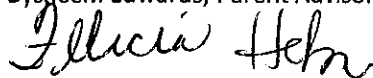
Troyanna Brown, Parent Advisory Council Chair



Dimitria Long, Parent Advisory Council Vice-Chair



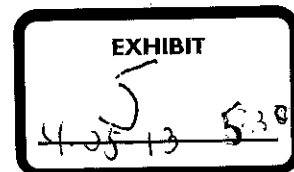
Bysheem Edwards, Parent Advisory Council Member



Felicia Hilson, Parent Advisory Council Member



Brenda Sturdivant, Local School Council Member



2012 Illinois State School Report Card Highlights

Bethune:

STUDENTS

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND OTHER INFORMATION															
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander	American Indian	Two or More Races	Percent Low- Income	Percent Limited- English- Proficient	Percent IEP	High Sch. Dropout Rate	Chronic Truancy Rate	Mobility Rate	Attendance Rate	Total Enrollment
School	0.0	99.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.7	0.0	19.7		28.3	30.3	95.4	375
Subregion	2.6	75.3	20.7	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.8	94.0	6.4	16.5		41.2	18.4	89.9	10,742
District	9.8	41.7	44.3	3.3	0.1	0.4	1.4	86.6	16.6	13.2		29.5	18.4	92.5	400,931
State	51.0	18.0	23.6	4.2	0.1	0.3	2.8	49.0	9.4	13.6		8.6	13.1	94.4	2,066,692

Low-income students come from families receiving public aid; live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children; are supported in foster homes with public funds; or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.
IEP students are those students eligible to receive special education services.

Limited-English-proficient students are those students eligible for transitional bilingual programs.
Mobility rate is based on the number of times students enroll in or leave a school during the school year.
Chronic truants are students who are absent from school without valid cause for 9 or more of the last 180 school days.
Total Enrollment is based on Home School.

INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

PARENTAL CONTACT*		STUDENT-TO-STAFF RATIOS			
	Percent	Pupil- Teacher Elementary	Pupil- Teacher Secondary	Pupil- Certified Staff	Pupil- Administrator
School	95.7	--	--	--	--
Subregion	81.7	--	--	--	--
District	80.3	23.3	19.2	15.4	211.1
State	95.3	18.9	18.8	13.7	205.0

* Parental contact includes parent-teacher conferences, parental visits to school, school visits to home, telephone conversations, and written correspondence.

15-016-2990-25-2084

Bethune Elem School 2

TIME DEVOTED TO TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS (Minutes Per Day)												
Grades	Mathematics			Science			English/Language Arts			Social Science		
	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8
School	40	40	40	40	40	40	140	120	120	30	40	40
Subregion	50	57	60	26	41	41	144	105	103	29	40	40
District	55	58	60	30	45	45	140	103	102	30	42	42
State	61	56	54	31	44	45	143	103	92	30	43	44

Gregory:

STUDENTS

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND OTHER INFORMATION															
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	American Indian	Two or More Races	Percent Low-Income	Percent Limited-English-Proficient	Percent IEP	High Sch. Dropout Rate	Chronic Truancy Rate	Mobility Rate	Attendance Rate	Total Enrollment
School	0.0	99.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	97.6	0.0	13.0		23.1	25.1	95.3	330
Subregion	0.3	68.5	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	97.5	13.6	13.4		23.1	25.1	94.6	11,090
District	8.8	41.7	44.3	3.3	0.1	0.4	1.4	86.6	16.6	13.2		29.5	18.4	92.5	400,931
State	51.0	18.0	23.6	4.2	0.1	0.3	2.8	49.0	9.4	13.6		8.6	13.1	94.4	2,066,692

Low-income students come from families receiving public aid; live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children; are supported in foster homes with public funds; or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches. IEP students are those students eligible to receive special education services.

Limited-English-proficient students are those students eligible for transitional bilingual programs. Mobility rate is based on the number of times students enroll in or leave a school during the school year. Chronic truants are students who are absent from school without valid cause for 9 or more of the last 180 school days. Total Enrollment is based on Home School.

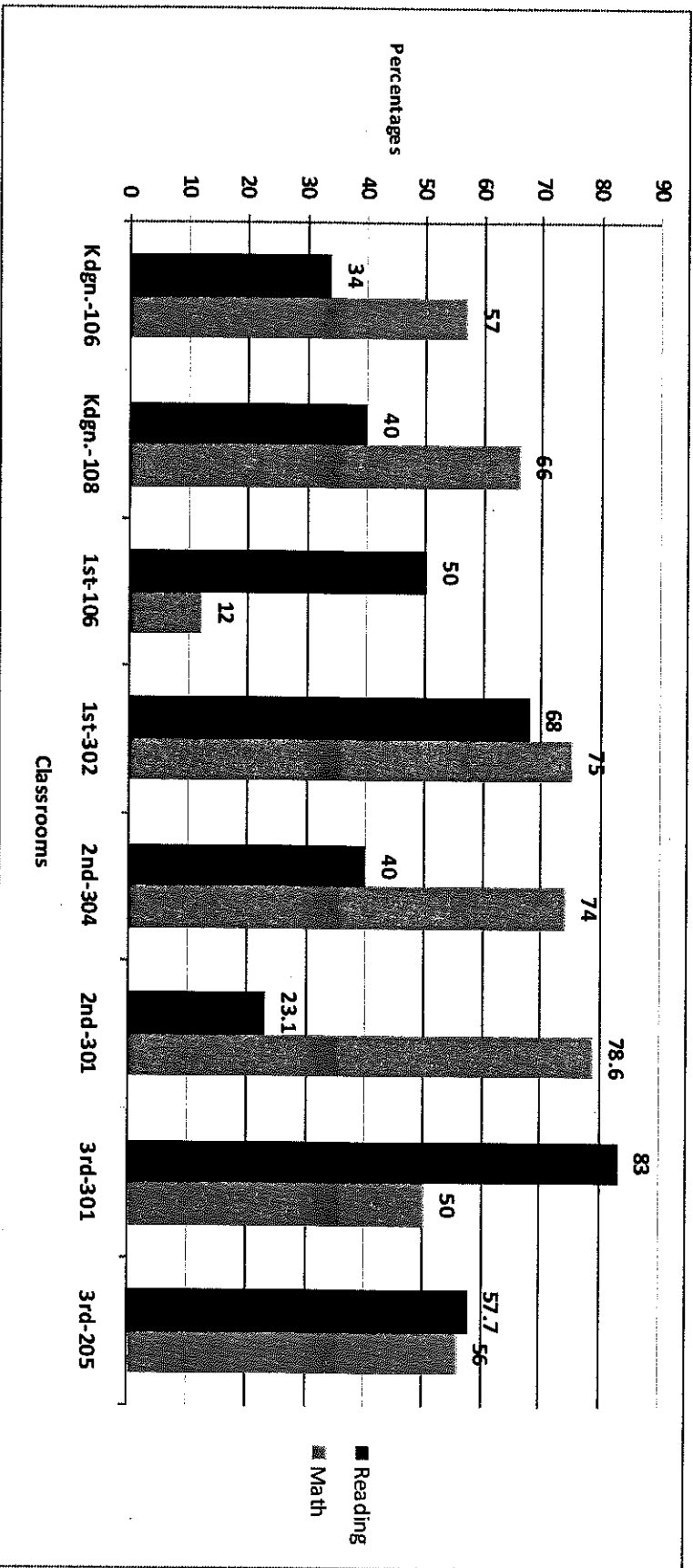
INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

PARENTAL CONTACT*		STUDENT-TO-STAFF RATIOS			
	Percent	Pupil-Teacher Elementary	Pupil-Teacher Secondary	Pupil-Certified Staff	Pupil-Administrator
School	82.7	--	--	--	--
Subregion	82.7	--	--	--	--
District	80.3	23.3	19.2	15.4	211.1
State	95.3	18.9	18.8	13.7	205.0

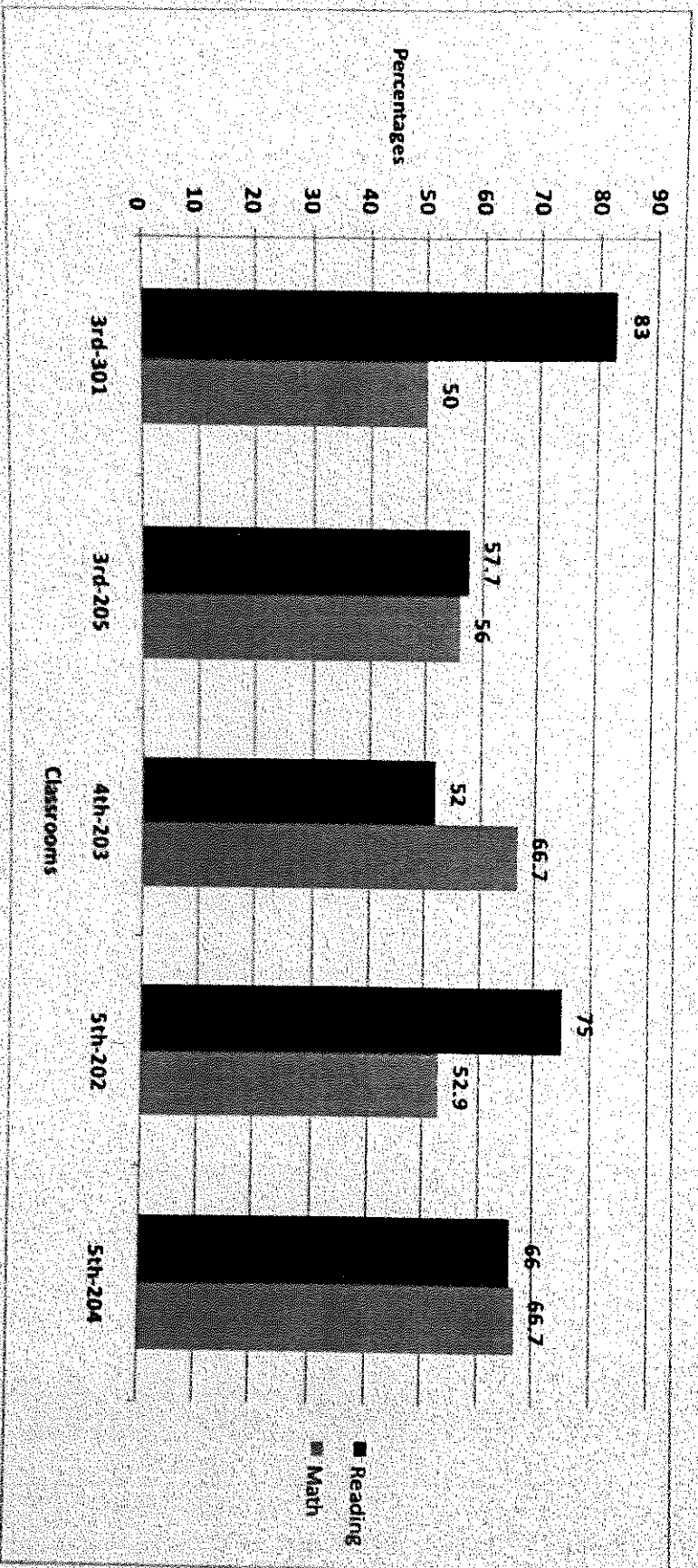
* Parental contact includes parent-teacher conferences, parental visits to school, school visits to home, telephone conversations, and written correspondence.

TIME DEVOTED TO TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS (Minutes Per Day)												
Grades	Mathematics			Science			English/Language Arts			Social Science		
	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8
School	48	53	53	24	40	40	144	103	103	28	40	40
Subregion	57	61	62	32	50	50	139	108	107	29	42	42
District	55	59	60	30	45	45	140	103	102	30	42	42
State	61	56	54	31	44	45	143	103	92	30	43	44

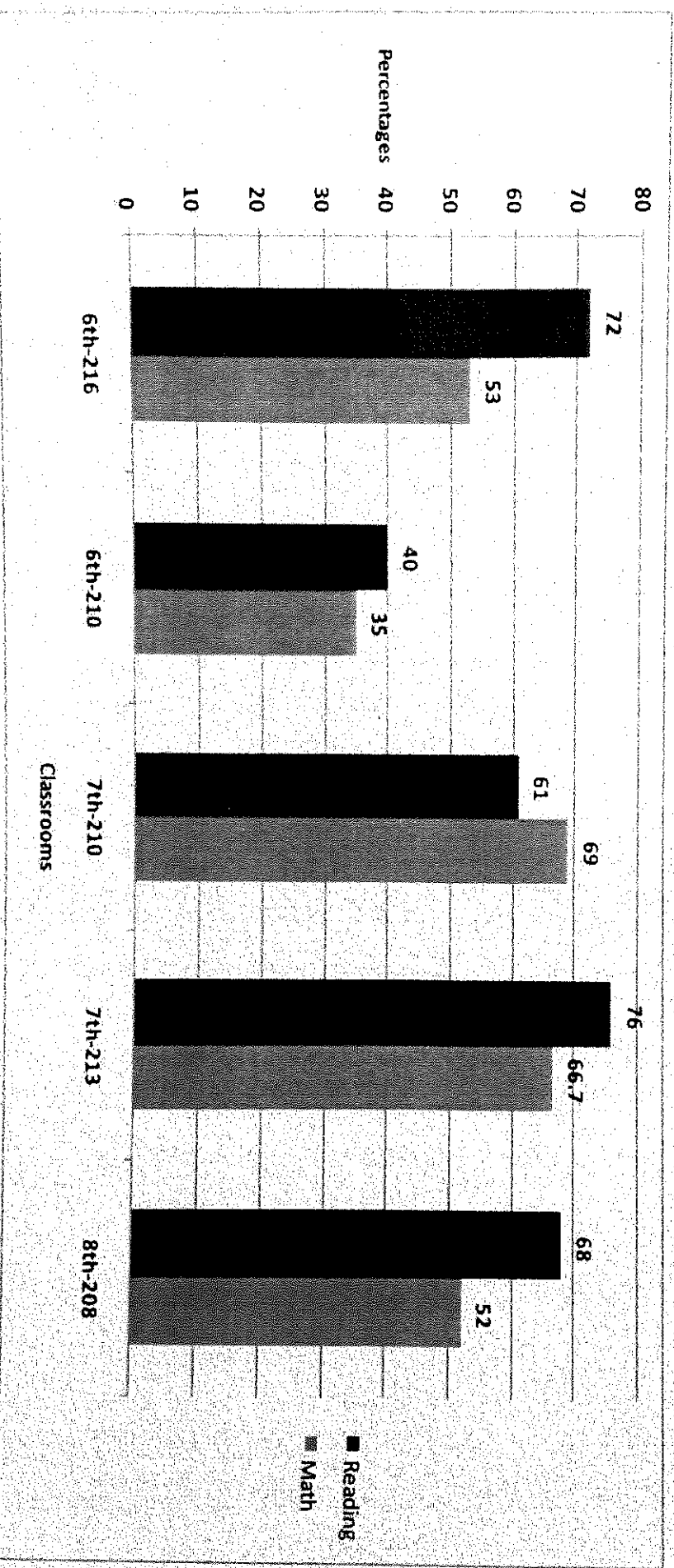
Fall to Winter NWEA Growth Primary



Fall to Winter NWEA Growth Intermediate



Fall to Winter NWEA Growth Middle School



2012 Illinois State Report Card

The 2012 Illinois State Report Card demonstrates that Bethune teachers spend more time teaching Math and Science, and approximately the same amount teaching English and Social Sciences.

15-016-2990-25-2084

Bethune Elem School

2

TIME DEVOTED TO TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS (Minutes Per Day)												
Grades	Mathematics			Science			English/Language Arts			Social Science		
	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8
School	60	80	80	40	60	60	140	120	120	30	40	40
Subregion	50	57	60	26	41	41	144	105	103	29	40	40
District	55	59	60	30	45	46	140	103	102	30	42	42
State	61	56	54	31	44	46	143	103	92	30	43	44

15-016-2990-25-2230

Gregory Math & Sci Elem Academy

2

TIME DEVOTED TO TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS (Minutes Per Day)												
Grades	Mathematics			Science			English/Language Arts			Social Science		
	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8
School	48	53	53	24	40	40	144	103	103	28	40	40
Subregion	57	61	62	32	50	50	139	109	107	29	42	42
District	56	59	60	30	45	46	140	103	102	30	42	42
State	61	56	54	31	44	46	143	103	92	30	43	44

Ernest D. Williams , Principal
Angela Brito, Academic Director

Stanley Carothers, Director of Culture, Climate, & Operations
Terence Knight, Dean of Students

Bethune School of Excellence
3030 W. Arthington Street - Chicago, Illinois 60612
Telephone 773/534-6890 - Fax 773/534-6889

**Local School Council
Principal's Report
April 2013**

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

- NTN Math Supplemental Curriculum and Coaching 5th-8th grades
- Cambridge Explore Curriculum for Middle School
- Annual STEM Fair
- Muzic Net Partnership to Provide music lessons to K-8
- Private Arts Instruction for select students (Courtesy of AUSL)
- **Gretchen Courtney Literacy Professional Development for Teachers**
- **Rigor and Relevance Book Talk**
- **Implementation of Leveled Literacy Intervention**
- **Math Plus Tutoring (Courtesy of AUSL)**
- **Science Teacher attended two national science conferences to promote STEM**
- **Math teacher attended national math conference**
- **Middle School Team attended National Middle School Conference**
- **Purchased COMPASS Learning license**
- **Winter Bears Academy (Academic Enrichment during Winter Break)**
- **Saturday School (Academic Enrichment on Saturday)**
- **Hosted 1st Annual Middle School Science Fair**
- **Two students competed in regional science fair**
- **AUSL RTI collaborative hosted at Bethune**
- **Purchased New MAC computer lab**
- **After School Academic Enrichment hour**

Common Core

- NTN Math Supplemental Curriculum and Coaching 5th-8th grades
- **Gretchen Courtney Literacy Professional Development for Teachers**
- **Teachers participated in unpacking workshops**
- **Teachers are implementing Common Core Standards in preparation for the 2013 ISAT**
- **Teachers are attending professional development**
- **Science teacher attending National Science Conference**
- **Math teacher attending National Mathematics Conference**

Positive Culture and Climate

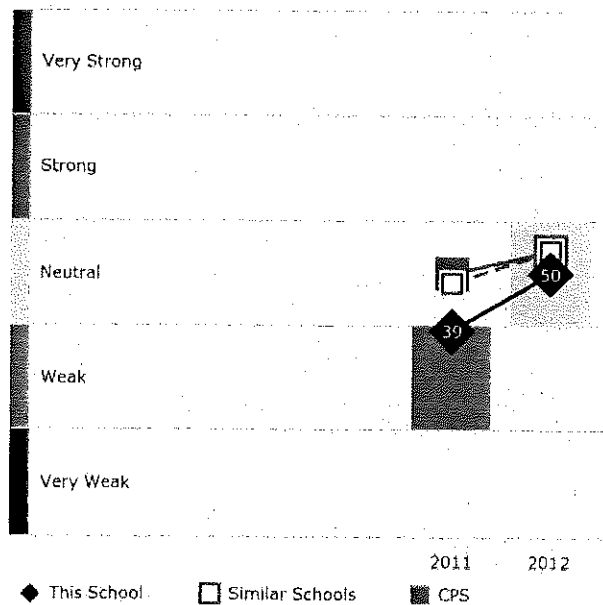
- DePaul University Male Imitative Project: DMEN Challenge 6th-8th Grade Males
- DePaul University Male Imitative Project: Conference

WELCOME TO BETHUNE LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

2012 Survey Results Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School



Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Overall Performance on Ambitious Instruction Over Time



Math Instruction

Performance: Very Strong

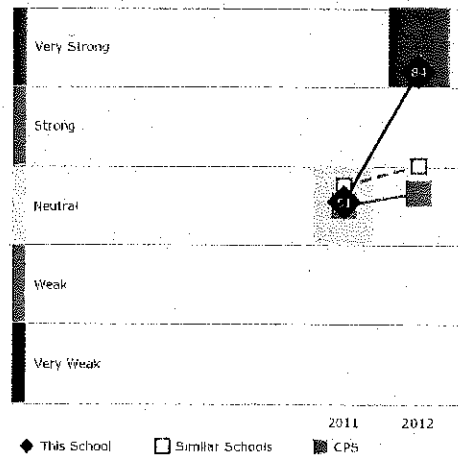
Math Instruction

Students interact with course material and one another to build and apply knowledge in their math classes.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Performance on Math Instruction



Math Instruction Over Time

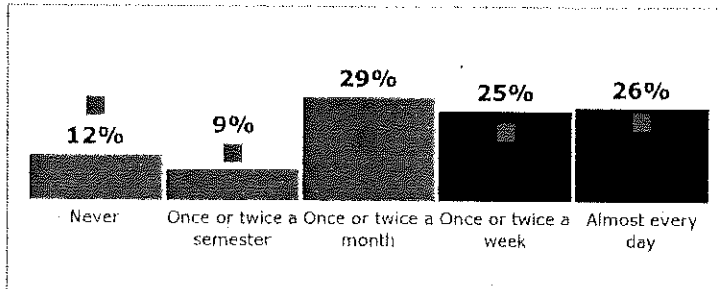


What are these results based on?

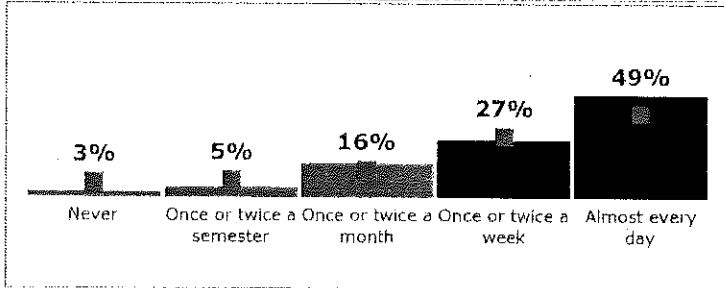
This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

Students report that they do the following in math class:

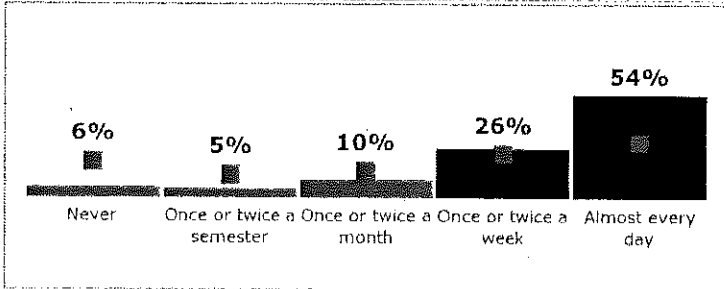
■ Write a math problem for other students to solve.



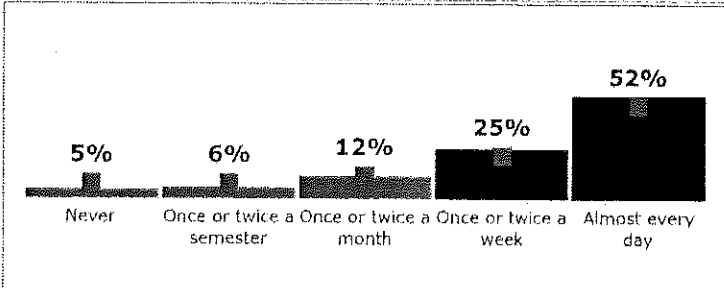
■ Write a few sentences to explain how you solved a math problem.



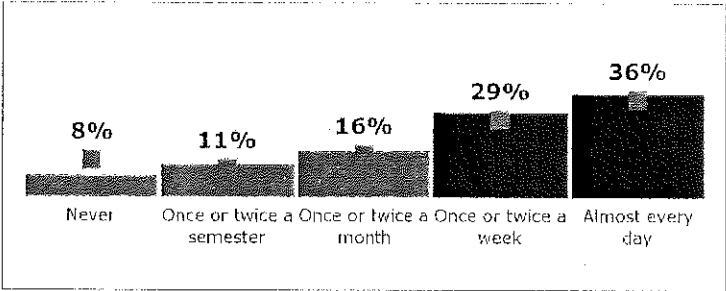
■ Apply math to situations in life outside of school.



■ Explain how you solved a problem to the class.



■ Discuss possible solutions to problems with other students.



Bethune School of Excellence

After-School Programs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30 – 4:30 PM				
K-2 Compass Learning	K-2 Compass Learning	K-2 Compass Learning	K-2 Compass Learning	
Reading Enrichment 3 rd /4 th	Math Enrichment 3 rd /4 th	Reading Enrichment 3 rd /4 th	Math Enrichment 3 rd /4 th	
Reading Enrichment 5 th /6 th	Math Enrichment 5 th /6 th	Reading Enrichment 5 th /6 th	Math Enrichment 5 th /6 th	
Math Enrichment 7 th /8 th	Reading Enrichment 7 th /8 th Science Enrichment 7 th /8 th	Math Enrichment 7 th /8 th	Reading Enrichment 7 th /8 th Science Enrichment 7 th /8 th	
Drama K-2	Hip Hop Yoga	Drama K-2	Hip Hop Yoga	
Changing Worlds Visual Arts 3-5	Hip Hop Dance 3-5	Changing Worlds Visual Arts 3-5	Hip Hop Dance 3-5	
Tasteful Manners 6-8	BUILD Boys and Girls Mentoring 6-8	iGroove Girls Mentoring	BUILD Girls Mentoring 6-8 JBMS Computers	
Drumline 5-8	JBMS Boys Mentoring Basketball Clinic (6-8)	JBMS Computers Drumline 5-8	JBMS Boys Mentoring Basketball Clinic (6-8)	
4:35 – 5:35 PM				



SAVE BETHUNE



Drumline: Is a boys and girl ^{band} ^{Group} that for kids who like to drum.

Hip Hop Dance: is also a boys and girl group that have different dance's that for kids who like to dance to show of there dance moves.

The Build Mentoring: Group is separated from boys and girls to let them learn and express there feeling.

JBNB Mentoring Basket ball Clinic is when students gets better at basketball and perform different skills what they be to have.

Bethune After-School Parent Handbook

LEAD PARTNER

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents and students with important information, as well as lay out the roles and responsibilities of parents and students in the Children's Home + Aid Bethune Bears After School Program. (in our extended-day program, we provide a positive, enriching and supportive leaning environment. Above all, we recognize that kids need to have fun, while learning more about the world around them.

We depend upon parents to actively support children in their education and school activities by ensuring they come to programs on time and prepared to learn and have fun. Parents should ask children about the different programs they are in and maintain ongoing communication with their after school instructors and community school staff. The after school programs various forms of expression, cultures, and life changing experiences. We have a dedicated staff, which is committed to your child's success, but we need your support. We hope that together we can create an exciting, creative, learning environment that will motivate children to full participate in our extended-day program every day.

We are excited to provide these opportunities to your child and look forward to fully sharing in their growth, development, and achievements throughout the year. Thank you for choosing our programs.

About Children's Home + Aid

Founded in 1883, Children's Home + Aid continues its mission of giving help, hope, and opportunity to children with a variety of emotional, physical, and behavioral needs. Each year, we help nearly 40,000 children and families in Illinois through a wide range of services like adoption, foster care, early childhood education, counseling, child abuse prevention and community school Prevention programs.

Our Vision

In the Children's Home + Aid Community School Department, we envision a future in which all young people are prepared to positively transform the world.

Our Mission

To give children help, hope, and opportunity by removing barriers to academic and social success through school and community partnerships.

About Bethune School of Excellence

Mission: The Bethune School of Excellence community commits to creating policies that promote a safe, child-friendly environment focusing on high academic rigor in the areas of reading, writing, math, science and the arts. Students will engage in meaningful service projects within the school community in conjunction with our stakeholders.

Vision: Students of the Mary McLeod Bethune School of Excellence will be effective, conscious, and committed citizens with the desire to reach their greatest ability through the investment of all stakeholders

2012 CPS School Progress Report: Culture and Climate

Bethune:

Culture and Climate

School Culture and Climate: MODERATELY ORGANIZED

5Essentials: This is based on the My Voice, My School 5Essentials survey of teachers and 6th-12th grade students. To see the complete report for your school, visit: <https://cps.5essentials.org/2012>.

Questions from the My Voice, My School Survey	This School's Score
Involved Families: Does the school partner with families and communities?	NEUTRAL
Supportive Environment: Is the school safe and supportive with high expectations?	STRONG
Ambitious Instruction: Is instruction focused, challenging and engaging?	NEUTRAL
Effective Leaders: Does leadership focus on results and school improvement?	NEUTRAL
Collaborative Teachers: Do teachers work well together and strive for excellence?	NEUTRAL

Safety: Student views of safety

Questions from the My Voice, My School Survey	This School's Score
Safety: Do students feel safe and does the school support positive behavior?	NEUTRAL

Behavior and Discipline: How the school addresses student discipline

Metric	2011	2012	District Average
Percent of misconducts resulting in suspension	96.4%	94.7%	5.71%
Average length of suspensions	3.8 days	4 days	2.4 days

Other: Student and teacher attendance

Metric	2011	2012	District Average
Student attendance	93.3%	93.9%	94.3%
Teacher attendance	97.6%	97.8%	95.7%

Gregory:

Culture and Climate

School Culture and Climate:

SEssentials: This is based on the My Voice, My School SEssentials survey of teachers and 6th-12th grade students. To see the complete report for your school, visit: <https://cps.5-essentials.org/#/2012>.

Questions from the My Voice, My School Survey	This School's Score
Involved Families: Does the school partner with families and communities?	70.0%
Supportive Environment: Is the school safe and supportive with high expectations?	70.0%
Ambitious Instruction: Is instruction focused, challenging and engaging?	STRONG
Effective Leaders: Does leadership focus on results and school improvement?	STRONG
Collaborative Teachers: Do teachers work well together and strive for excellence?	STRONG

Safety: Student views of safety

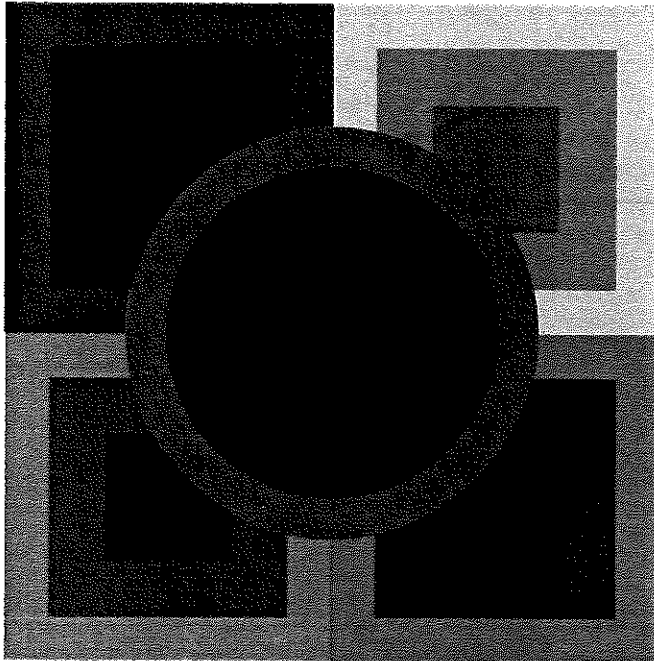
Questions from the My Voice, My School Survey	This School's Score
Safety: Do students feel safe and does the school support positive behavior?	70.0%

Behavior and Discipline: How the school addresses student discipline

Metric	2011	2012	District Average
Percent of misconducts resulting in suspension	64.3%	73.3%	57.1%
Average length of suspensions	3.1 days	5.5 days	2.4 days

Other: Student and teacher attendance

Metric	2011	2012	District Average
Student attendance	95.2%	94.0%	94.3%
Teacher attendance	94.6%	95.6%	95.7%



Supportive Environment Report

Report for Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School

CPS My Voice, My School Survey 2012

Table of Contents

Supportive Environment.....	1
Measures of Supportive Environment.....	2

Supportive Environment



Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Performance on Supportive Environment



Performance: Strong

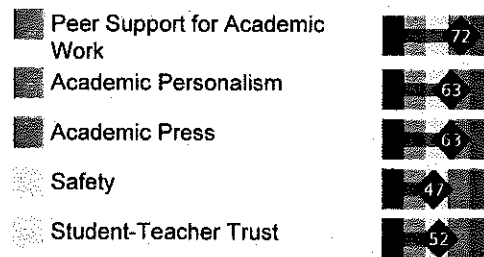
In schools with a Supportive Environment, the school is safe, demanding, and supportive. In such schools:

- students feel safe in and around the school,
- they find teachers trust-worthy and responsive to their academic needs,
- all students value hard work, and
- teachers push all students toward high academic performance.

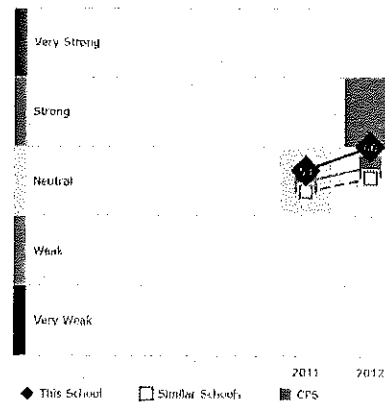
Bethune's eScore of 60 represents its aggregate performance across four key indicators of Supportive Environment:

- Peer Support for Academic Work (72 - Strong)
- Academic Personalism (63 - Strong)
- Academic Press (63 - Strong)
- Safety (47 - Neutral)
- Student-Teacher Trust (52 - Neutral)

Measures for Supportive Environment



Performance on Supportive Environment Over Time



Measures of Supportive Environment

Peer Support for Academic Work

Performance: Strong

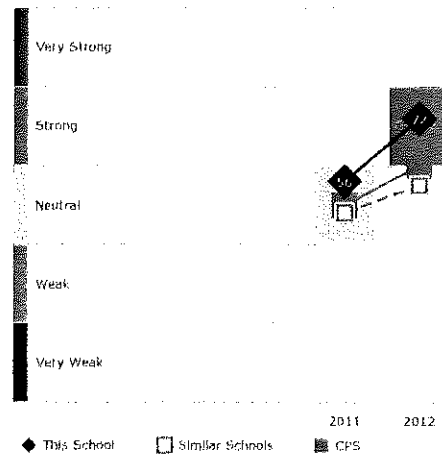
Peer Support for Academic Work

Students demonstrate behaviors that lead to academic achievement.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Performance on Peer Support for Academic Work



Peer Support for Academic Work Over Time

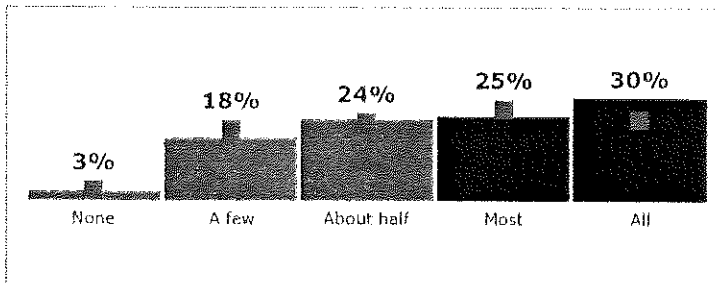


What are these results based on?

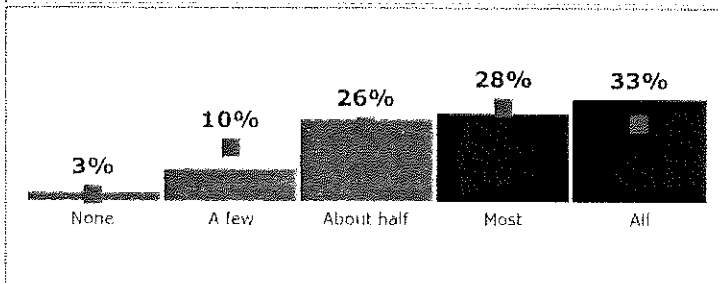
This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

Students report that their classroom peers:

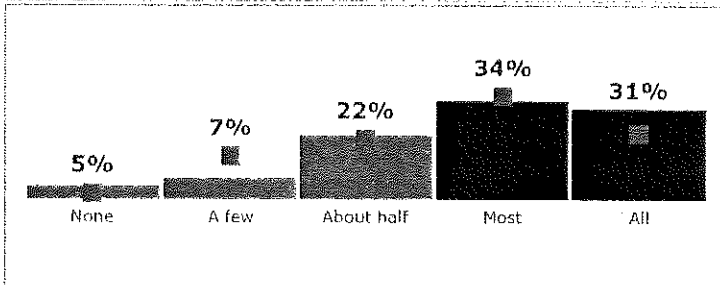
■ Think doing homework is important.



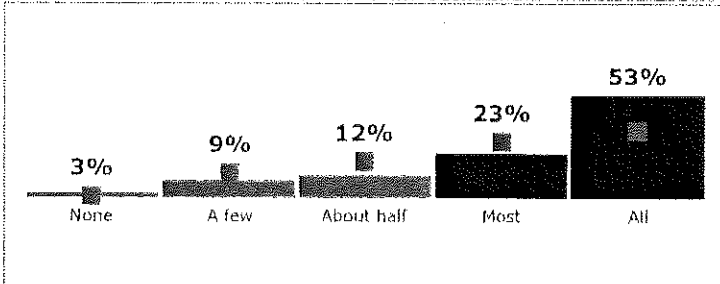
■ Feel it is important to pay attention in class.



■ Feel it is important to come to school every day.



■ Try hard to get good grades.



Academic Personalism

Performance: Strong

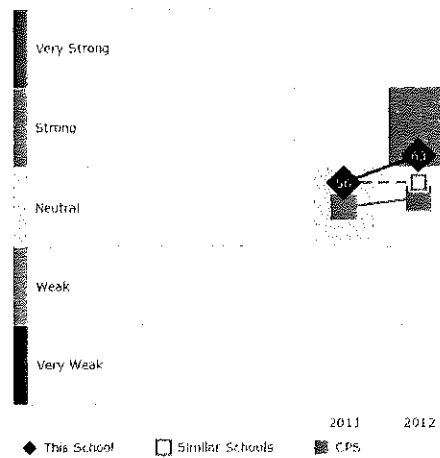
Academic Personalism

Teachers connect with students in the classroom and support them in achieving academic goals.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Performance on Academic Personalism



Academic Personalism Over Time

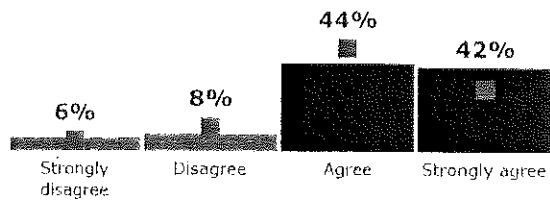


What are these results based on?

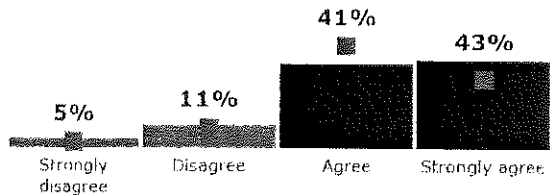
This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

Students report that their teacher:

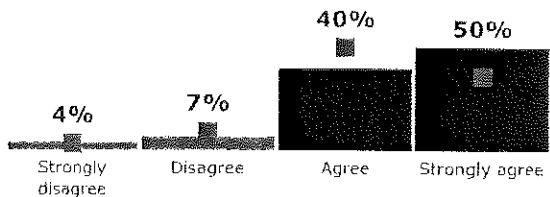
■ Helps me catch up if I am behind.



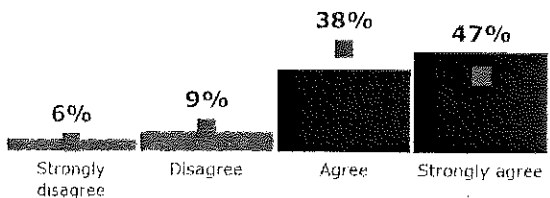
■ Notices if I have trouble learning something.



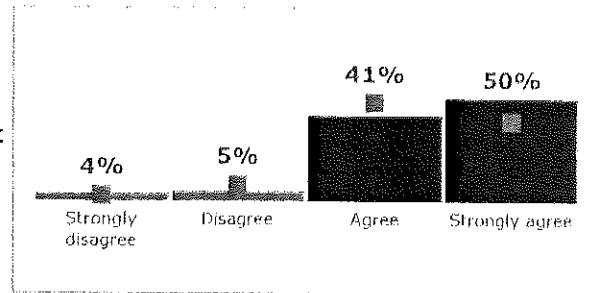
■ Gives me specific suggestions about how I can improve my work in this class.



■ Is willing to give extra help on schoolwork if I need it.



■ Explains things in a different way if I don't understand something in class.



Academic Press

Performance: Strong

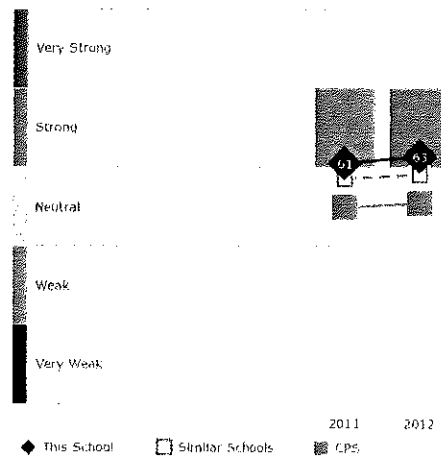
Academic Press

Teachers expect students to do their best and to meet academic demands.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Performance on Academic Press



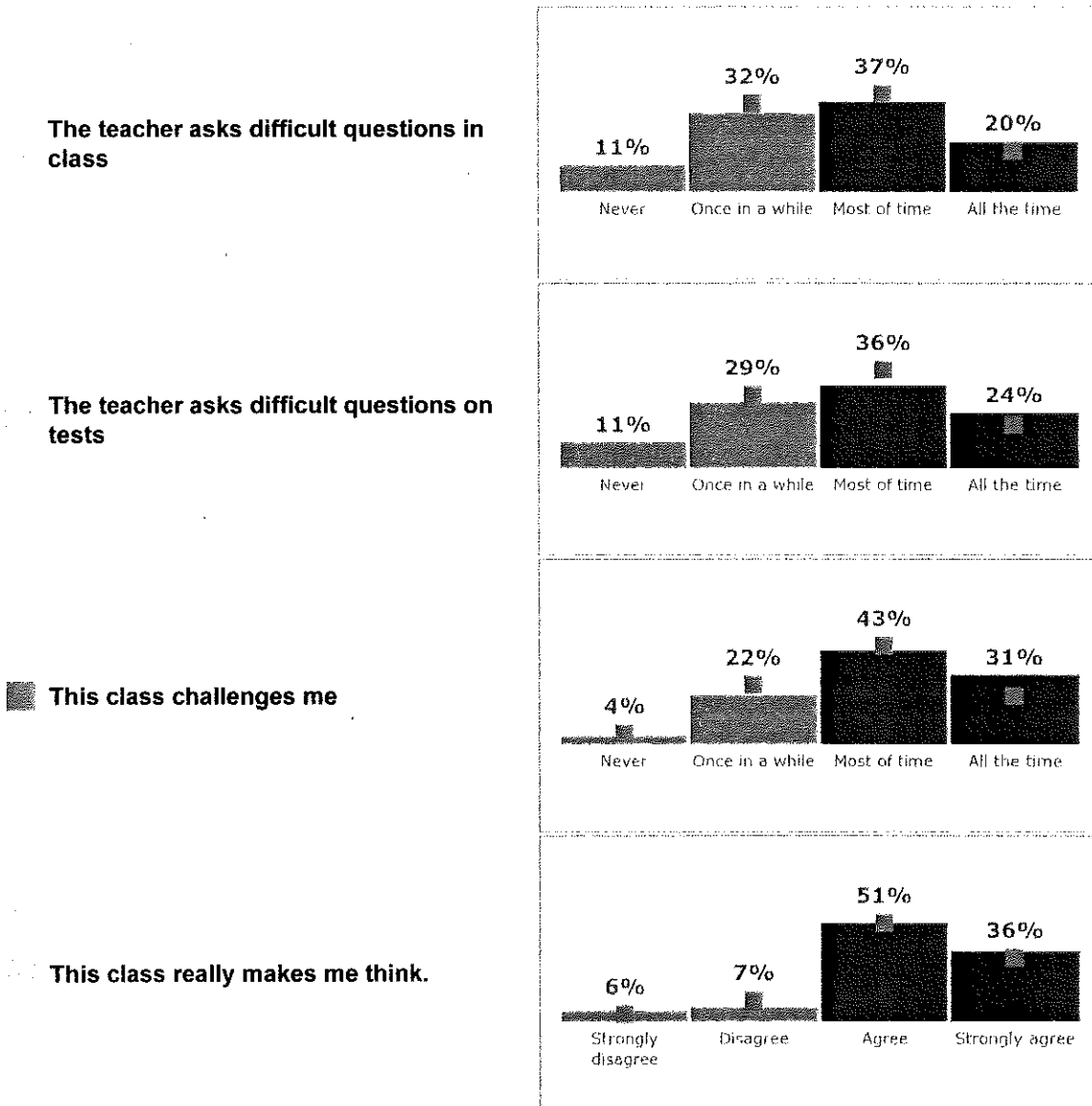
Academic Press Over Time



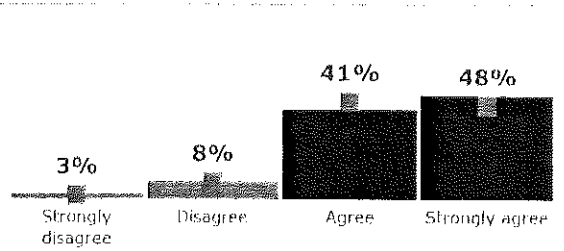
What are these results based on?

This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

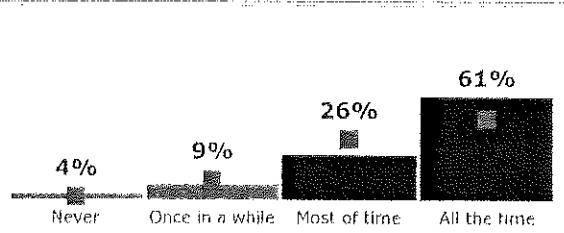
Students report that:



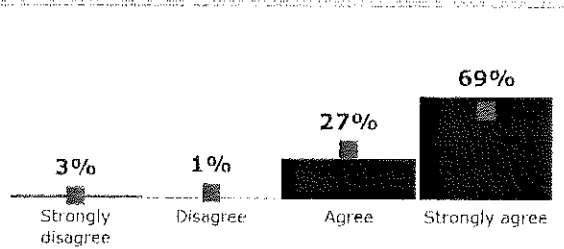
I really learn a lot in this class



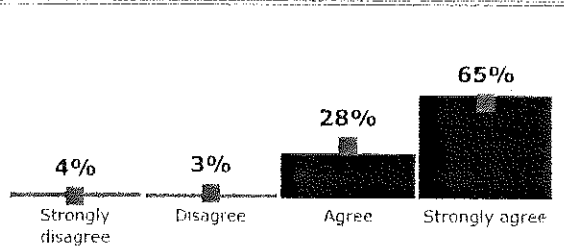
This class requires me to work hard to do well



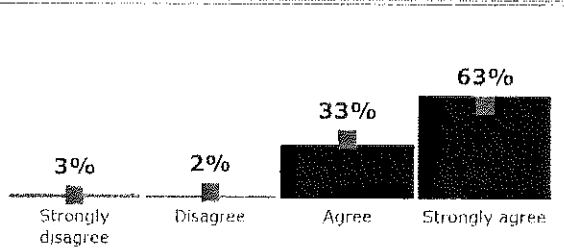
The teacher wants us to become better thinkers, not just memorize things



The teacher expects me to do my best all the time



The teacher expects everyone to work hard



Safety

Performance: Neutral

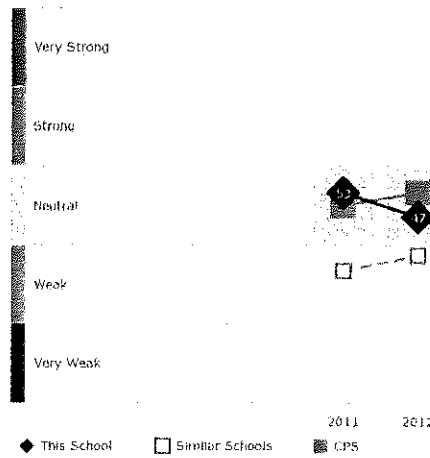
Safety

Students feel safe both in and around the school building, and while they travel to and from home.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School Performance on Safety



Safety Over Time

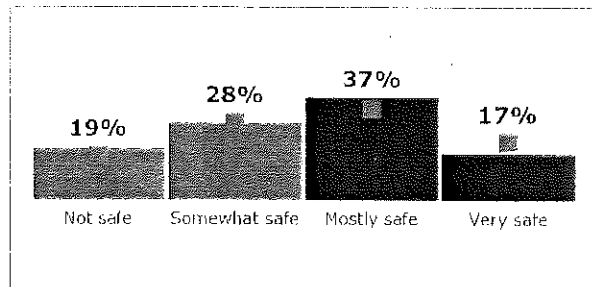


What are these results based on?

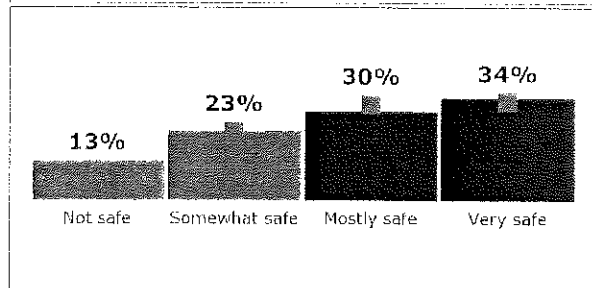
This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

Students report how safe they feel:

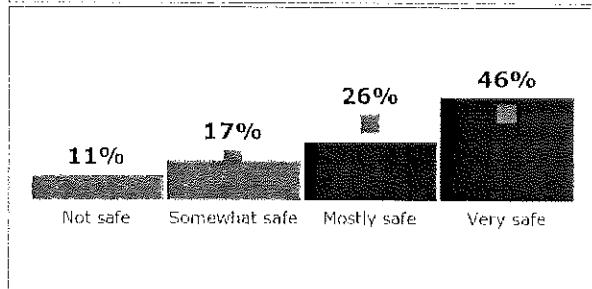
Outside around the school.



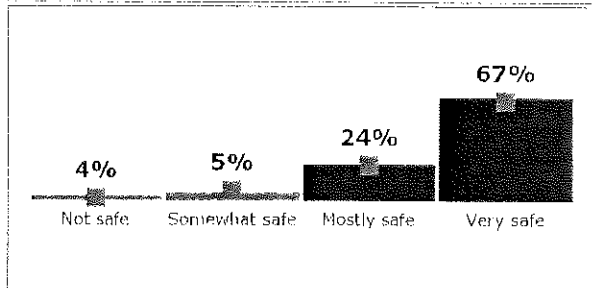
Traveling between home and school.



In the hallways and bathrooms of the school.



In their classes



Student-Teacher Trust

Performance: Neutral

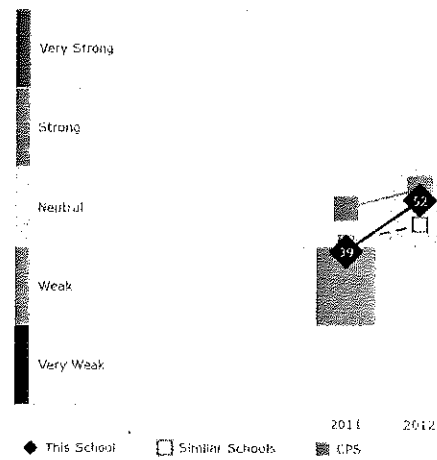
Student-Teacher Trust

Students and teachers share a high level of mutual trust and respect.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Performance on Student-Teacher Trust



Student-Teacher Trust Over Time

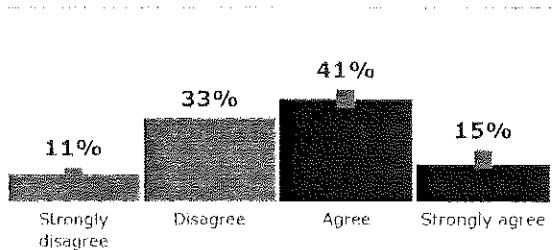


What are these results based on?

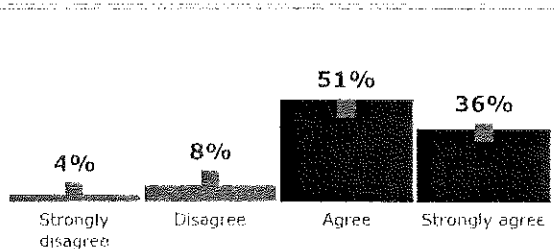
This school's performance on this Measure is based on the questions shown below. Relative performance (above, at, near, below, far below benchmark) is based on how responses in this school compare to the benchmark.

Students report that:

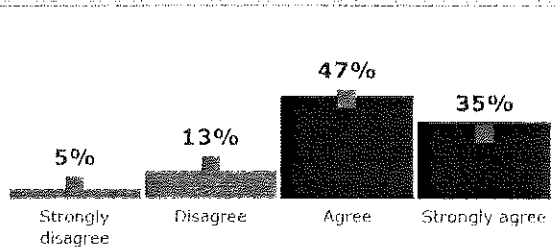
My teachers always keep their promises



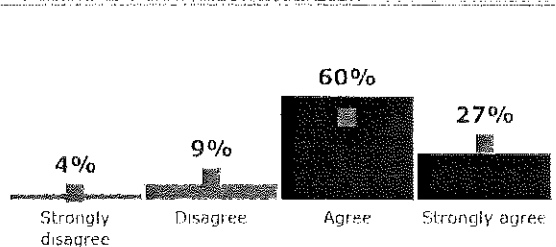
I feel safe and comfortable with my teachers at this school.



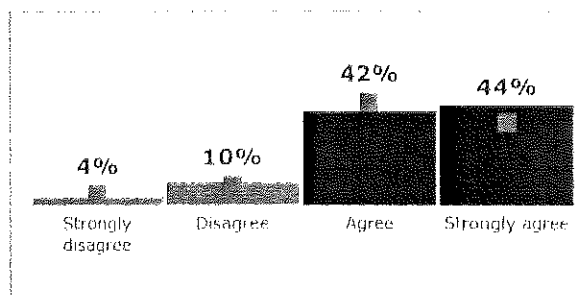
My teachers will always listen to students' ideas.



When my teachers tell me not to do something, I know they have a good reason



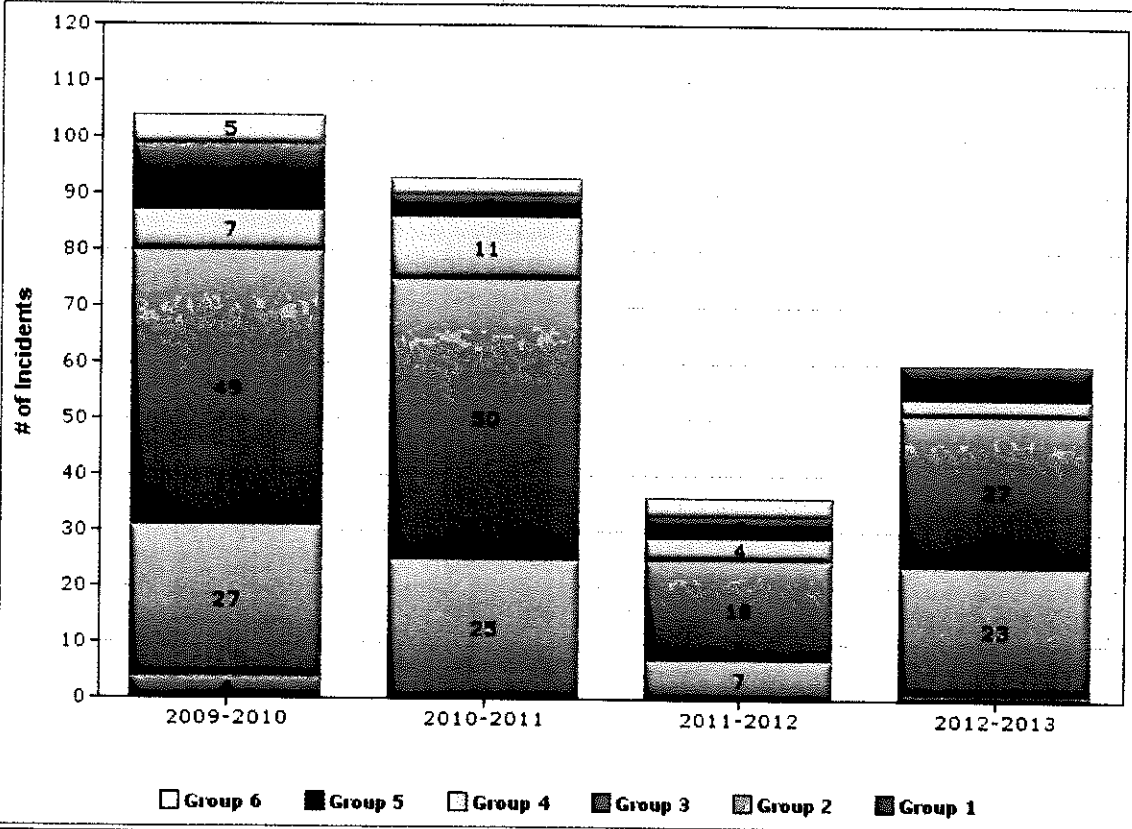
■ **My teachers treat me with respect.**



Filter Criteria

Network: [All] School: **BETHUNE**
 Grade : [All Grades] Gender: [All]
 Ethnicity: [All] IEP: [All]
 ELL: [All] Incident Group: [All]
 Incident Level: [All]

Misconducts Level 1-6



Incident Count	Year	Offense Group
4	2009-2010	Group 1
27	2009-2010	Group 2
49	2009-2010	Group 3
7	2009-2010	Group 4
12	2009-2010	Group 5
5	2009-2010	Group 6
25	2010-2011	Group 2
50	2010-2011	Group 3
11	2010-2011	Group 4
4	2010-2011	Group 5
3	2010-2011	Group 6
7	2011-2012	Group 2
18	2011-2012	Group 3
4	2011-2012	Group 4
4	2011-2012	Group 5
23	2012-2013	Group 1
27	2012-2013	Group 3

Incident Count	Year	Offense Group
3	2011-2012	Group 6
1	2012-2013	Group 1
23	2012-2013	Group 2
27	2012-2013	Group 3
3	2012-2013	Group 4
6	2012-2013	Group 5

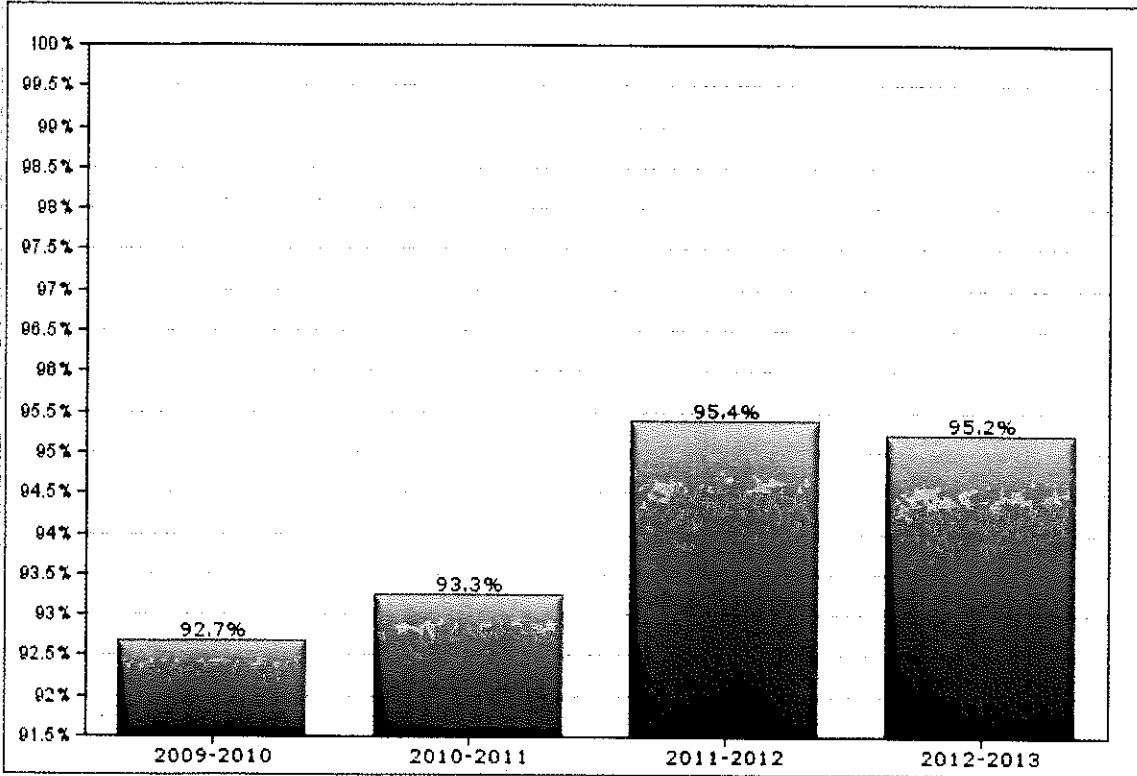
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS : CPS

Data valid as of: Apr 24 2013 4:25AM. We appreciate your feedback. Please [click here](#) to share your thoughts, or visit the [Dashboard Knowledge Center](#) for updates and training.

Filter Criteria

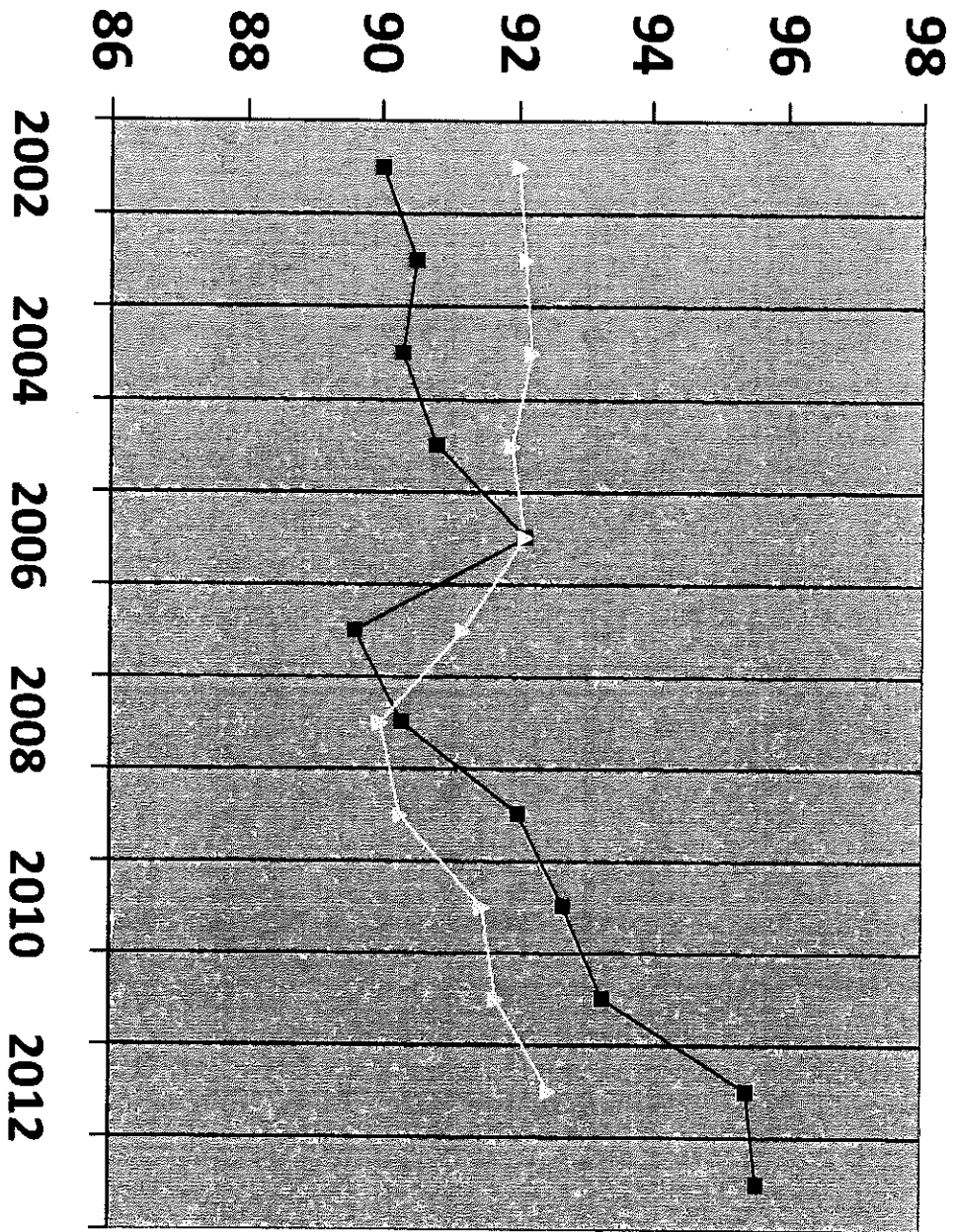
Network: [All] School: BETHUNE
 Grade : [All Grades] Gender: [All]
 Ethnicity: [All] IEP: [All]
 ELL: [All]

% Student Attendance



Year	Attendance Pct
2009-2010	92.69%
2010-2011	93.26%
2011-2012	95.39%
2012-2013	95.21%

Bethune Attendance Rate, 2002-2013



■ Bethune
◆ District Average

Bethune School of Excellence

Parent Programs

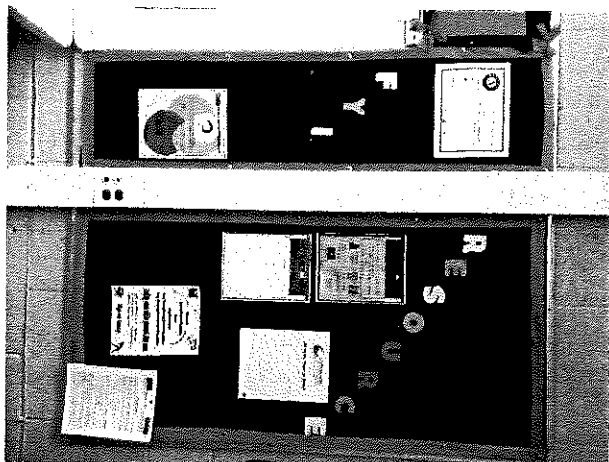
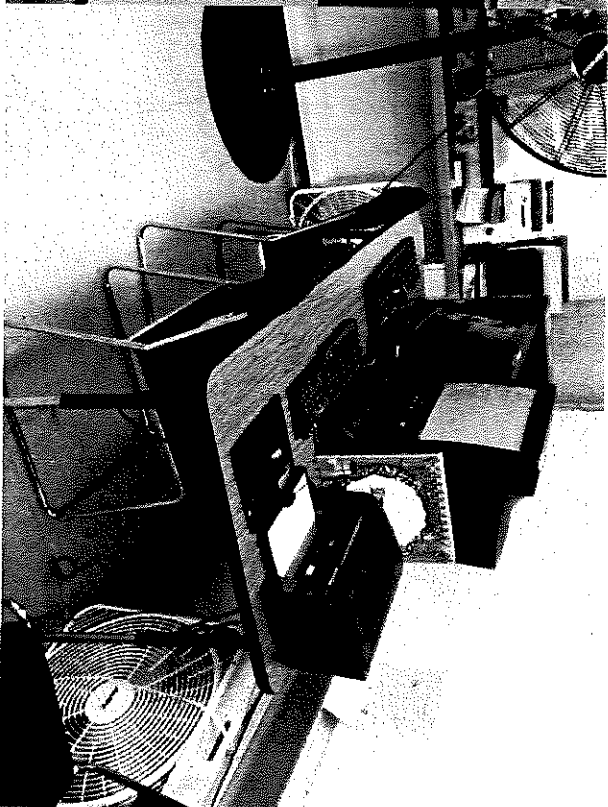
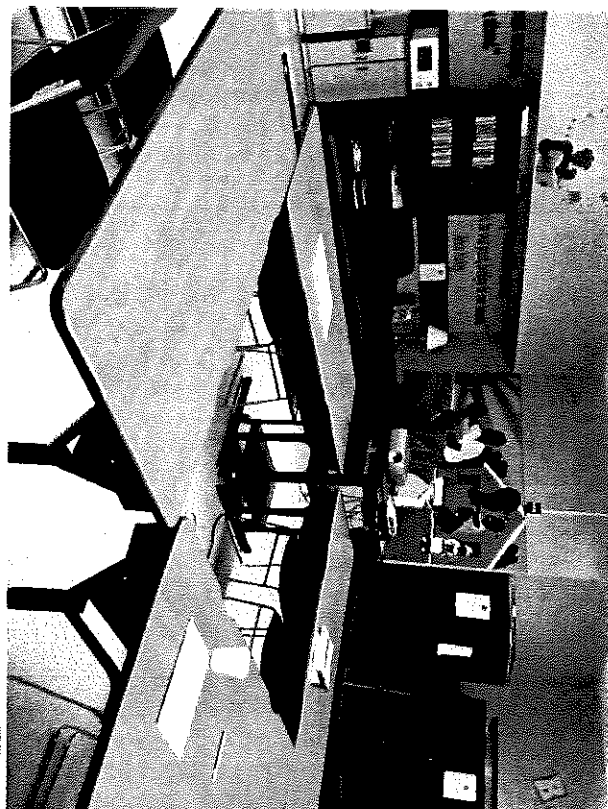
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 AM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Fitness Class	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
10:00 AM	Parent Networking Resource Lab		Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
11:00 AM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
12:00 PM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
1:00 PM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab

Bethune School of Excellence

Parent Programs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:00 PM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
4:00 PM	Enterprising Kids Adult Financial Literacy Program	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Fitness		Parent Networking Resource Lab
5:00 PM	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab	Parent Networking Resource Lab
6:00 PM			iGroove Girls Mentoring 6		

BETHUNE PARENT RESOURCE ROOM



Chicago Police Department Website: Drug Abuse Incidents in the last two weeks

While we recognize that drug abuse and distribution is a serious problem across our community, we find that the problem is more prevalent and serious in the area around Gregory Elementary.

Bethune:

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CLEARMAP CRIME INCIDENTS
CLEARMAP, Chicago Police Department, Copyright (C) 2013

SEARCH BY: ADDRESS BEAT POB SCHOOL PARK WARD COMM MAPVIEW
DATE BETWEEN: Apr 03, 2013 Wed & Apr 16, 2013 Tue APPLY FILTER

CASE#	DATE	BLOCK	CODE	CRIME TYPE	SECONDARY	ARREST	LOCATION	DOMESTIC	BEAT	WARD
HW223548	Sun 5 Apr 2013 16 20:00	2800 W FLECKING ST	2024	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	POSS HEROIN(WHITE)	Y	RESIDENTIAL YARD FRONT/BACK	N	1185	2
HW223229	Sun 7 Apr 2013 14 43:00	500 S WHIPPLE ST	2024	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	POSS HEROIN(WHITE)	Y	ALLEY	N	1124	20

Legend: Drug Abuse (21)

Gregory:

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CLEARMAP CRIME INCIDENTS
CLEARMAP, Chicago Police Department, Copyright (C) 2013

SEARCH BY: ADDRESS BEAT POB SCHOOL PARK WARD COMM MAPVIEW
DATE BETWEEN: Apr 03, 2013 Wed & Apr 16, 2013 Tue APPLY FILTER

CASE#	DATE	BLOCK	CODE	CRIME TYPE	SECONDARY	ARREST	LOCATION	DOMESTIC	BEAT	WARD
HW224562	Sun 3 Apr 2013 19 05:30	3800 W ARTHWINGTON ST	2024	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	POSS HEROIN (WHITE)	Y	STREET	N	1032	24
HW223242	Sun 7 Apr 2013 20 20:30	400 S PULASKI RD	1811	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS	POSS CANNABIS STEMS OR LESS	Y	SIDEWALK	N	1022	24

Legend: Drug Abuse (57)

Chicago Police Department Website: Registered Sex Offenders presently living within .5 mi
 Please note that there are 27 child sex offenders living within .5 mi of Gregory and 7 living within .5 mi of Bethune. Two individuals overlap, and live along the path most Bethune children would take to Gregory.

Bethune:

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CLEARMAP REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS
Crime Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting

EMAIL MAPLINK PRINT MAP TABLE

OFFENDER TYPES
 VISIBLE
 C Child Sex Offender (7) ←
 A Adult Sex Offender (9)

OFFENDER FILTER
 GENDER: Male and Female
 AGE: 18 To 99

CLICK ON PHOTO TO CREATE PRINT PAGE
(POP UP BLOCKER MUST BE DISABLED)

SEARCH BY: ADDRESS BEAT SCHOOL PARK WARD COMM NAME MAPVIEW

PHOTO LAST FIRST BLOCK GENDER RACE BIRTH DATE AGE HEIGHT WEIGHT VICTIM MINOR

TOTAL OFFENDERS 16

ZOOM IN ARROW KEYS SCROLL TABLE LABEL NOTHING GRAPH NOTHING UNCHECK ALL CHECK ALL

Gregory:

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CLEARMAP REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS
Crime Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting

EMAIL MAPLINK PRINT MAP TABLE

OFFENDER TYPES
 VISIBLE
 C Child Sex Offender (27) ←
 A Adult Sex Offender (9)

OFFENDER FILTER
 GENDER: Male and Female
 AGE: 18 To 99

CLICK ON PHOTO TO CREATE PRINT PAGE
(POP UP BLOCKER MUST BE DISABLED)

SEARCH BY: ADDRESS BEAT SCHOOL PARK WARD COMM NAME MAPVIEW

PHOTO LAST FIRST BLOCK GENDER RACE BIRTH DATE AGE HEIGHT WEIGHT VICTIM MINOR

TOTAL OFFENDERS 36

ZOOM IN ARROW KEYS SCROLL TABLE LABEL NOTHING GRAPH NOTHING UNCHECK ALL CHECK ALL

An Incomplete List of Abandoned Buildings

Buildings reported as abandoned between December 2012-April 2013 on route between Bethune and Gregory.

Source: chicagobuildings.org

3342 W. Lexington



3446 W. Lexington

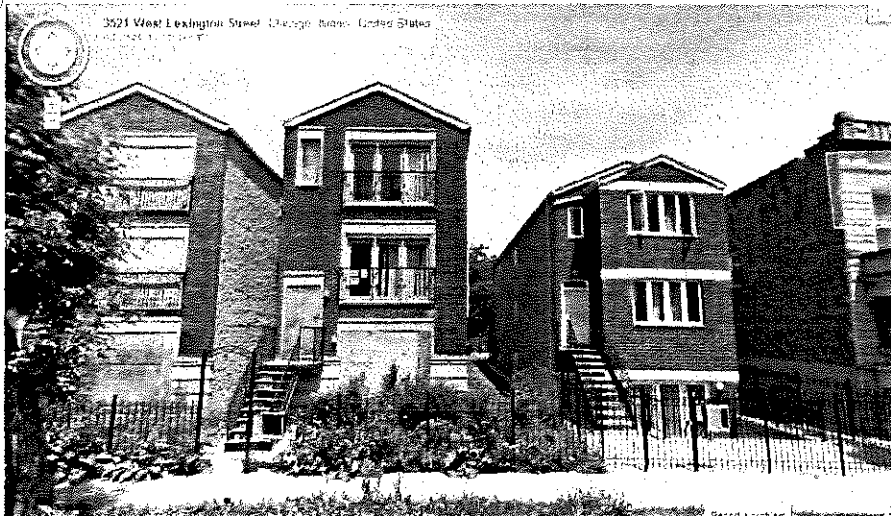


3515 W. Lexington

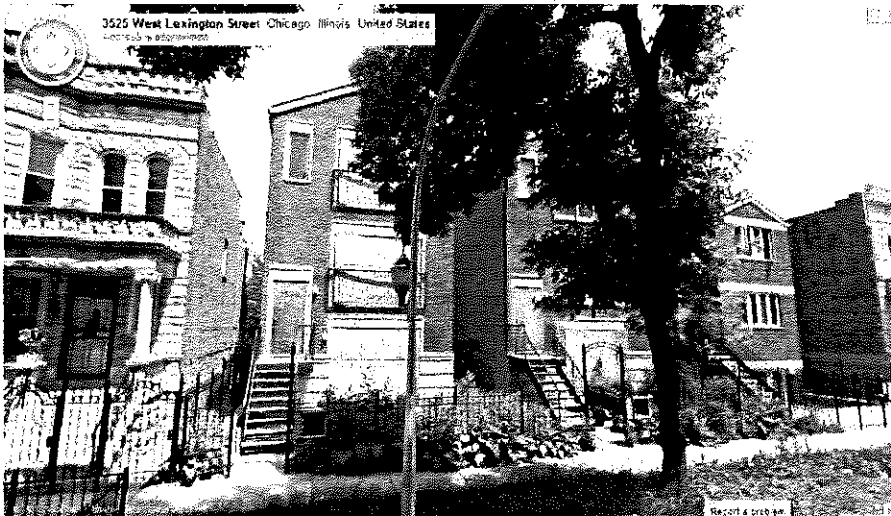


An Incomplete List of Abandoned Buildings

3520 W. Lexington



3522 W. Lexington

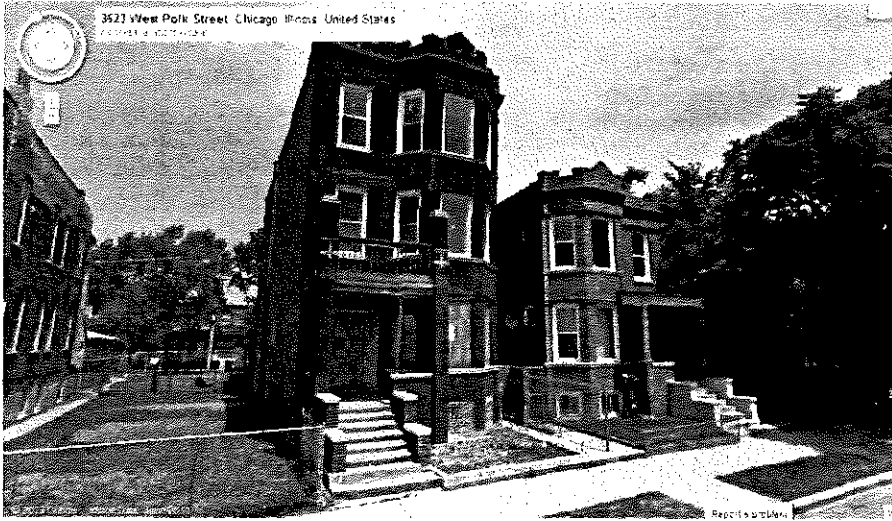


3344 W. Polk



An Incomplete List of Abandoned Buildings

3610 W. Polk



Crossroads Adult Transition Center

If Bethune students are sent to Gregory many of them will be forced to pass the Crossroads Adult Transition Center, a halfway house run by Safer Foundation on behalf of the Illinois Department of Corrections. This building has 350 beds for convicts to serve out the last month to two years of their prison sentence.

Google

3210 W. Arrington St.



Sign in

Get directions My places

Walking directions to John Milton Gregory Math & Science Academy

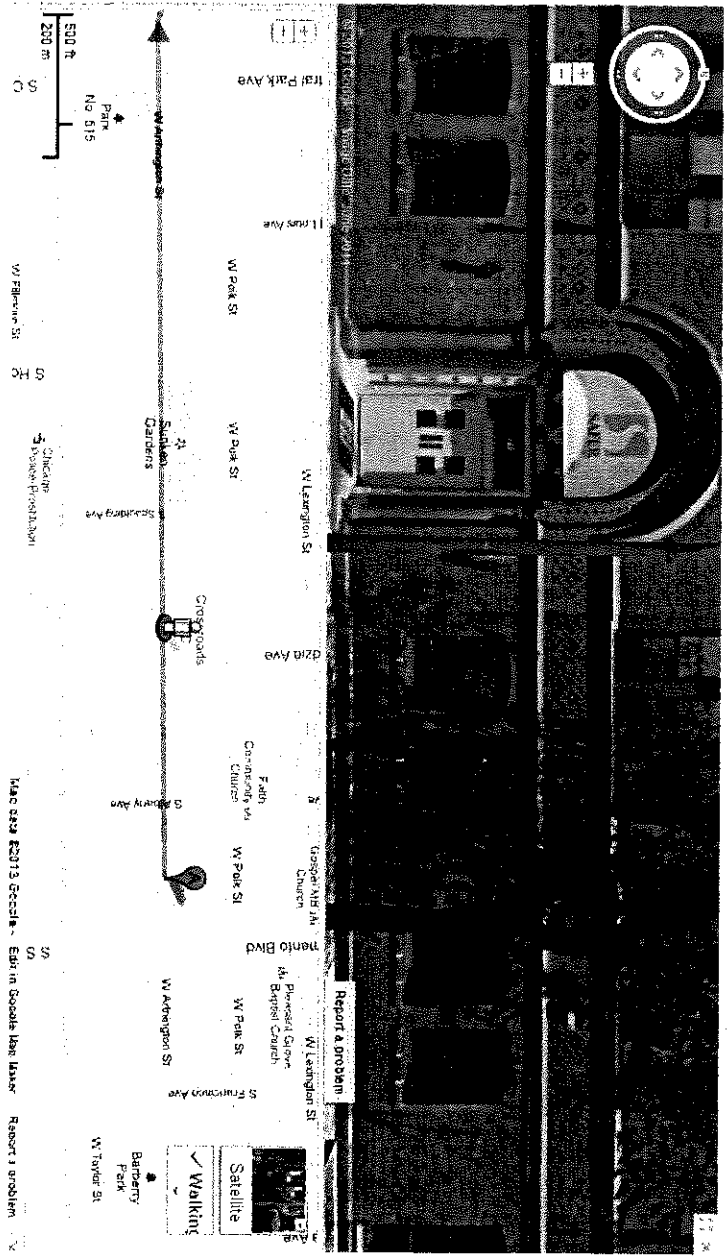
Bethune Elementary School
3030 W. Arrington St
Chicago, IL 60612

1. Head west on W Arrington St toward S Albany Ave
2. Slight right toward S Lawndale Ave
3. Turn right onto S Lawndale Ave
4. Turn left onto W Polk St
Destination will be on the left

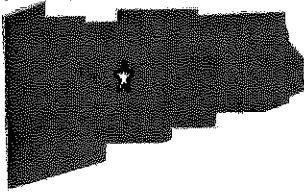
John Milton Gregory Math & Science Academy
3715 94th Polk St
Chicago, IL 60624

Save to My Maps

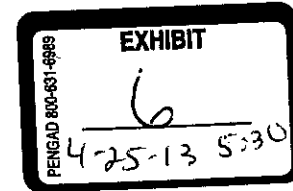
These directions are for driving. To get walking directions, click on the walking icon. To get transit directions, click on the transit icon. To get bicycle directions, click on the bicycle icon. To get wheelchair accessible directions, click on the wheelchair icon. To get a detailed map, click on the map icon.



Lawndale Alliance 



4111 West 21st Place
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-521-3137
Fax: 773-522-1832



Public Comments to CPS Regarding the Proposed Closure of Bethune School April 25, 2013

My name is Valerie Leonard, the Co-Founder of the Lawndale Alliance. We are a group of residents who have come together to address issues of concern to the community, including education, TIF reform and mortgage foreclosure. We are also members of the Committee to Save North Lawndale Schools. We are here today to provide testimony against the proposed closure of Bethune Elementary School and merger into Hughes.

The first rationale provided for CPS' decision to close Bethune is the fact that enrollment has declined by 36% over the last 10 years (589 to 377). It should be noted that These data do not account for the variation in enrollment over the years.

The second rationale given for closing the school is the fact that the building is less than half full. It should be noted that the targeted class size for CPS is 30 students per class. This formula takes into account a number of arbitrary factors, including the limits outlined in teacher contracts. Bethune's average class size is 21.77 students per class, as compared to 24 students per class for the District, and 21.77 students per class for the state. Bethune is in an area of Lawndale with an increasingly significantly transient population, due to a number of factors, including family issues, a shortage of affordable housing and the mortgage foreclosure crisis. The student mobility rate has ~~increased~~ increased from 61.5% in 2003 to 31.3% in 2012. The average mobility rate for all Chicago Public Schools was 32.3% in 2003 and 20.8% in 2012.

An Education Week article on student mobility has indicated that the potential impact of mobility on students' education is significant. Students who move often between schools may experience a range of problems such as: lower achievement levels due to discontinuity of curriculum between schools, behavioral problems, difficulty developing peer relationships, and a greater risk for dropping out.

Although little research has been conducted on the impact of student mobility on non-mobile students, schools with significant incidences of student mobility also report an impact on their non-mobile students, teachers, and overall school climate. For example, a policy brief published in 1999 by Policy Analysis for California Education, found that California schools with high mobility rates (30 percent or higher), reported that test scores for non-mobile students were considerably lower than those of students in schools with lower mobility rates. The findings support claims that continual student turnover is disruptive and keeps non-mobile students from

moving ahead as teachers spend extra time helping newer students catch up. Some schools have attempted to alleviate this by keeping highly mobile students (i.e. children of migrant workers) segregated from other classes, so that the continual arrival and departure of mobile students does not disrupt the education of other non-mobile students (Hartman, 2002). (Education Week 2004) Bethune does not separate the highly mobile students from non-mobile students.

Project STAR tested a scientifically-controlled experiment undertaken in rural, urban, suburban and inner-city settings found that 1) small classes are academically beneficial, particularly when the class size is reduced below 20 pupils; 2) Small classes are likely to be most beneficial in the early primary grades; and 3) Students from economically disadvantaged homes were likely to reap the twice the benefits from reducing class sizes than other students. These results were sustained year by year, regardless of the subject matter or locale, even after students were returned to regular sized classes.

We respectfully request that CPS allow Bethune to continue to operate as a small school. The school is well managed, and provides an environment that is conducive to learning. We would like to see AUSL complete the turnaround work that they have begun 3 years ago. They are typically with schools for 4-5 years, or longer, depending on the circumstances. Bethune parents have expressed concerns regarding sending their children to Gregory given the distance and the dangers involved in crossing gang territories. (Bethune is situated in what is informally recognized as the Traveling Vice Lords Territory, and Gregory is situated in what is informally recognized as Unknown Vice Lords' Territory).

A third reason CPS provides for closing Bethune is the fact that the building requires \$10.5 million to maintain and update. It should be noted that the Excel spreadsheet provided by the Utilization Commission indicates that the cost of maintenance is \$12.1 million, while the official capital plan for the school reveals an assessment of \$3.04 million dollars. Nearly \$1.7 million in improvements have been made to the school since AUSL took over the school in Bethune. There are no ongoing capital improvements for Bethune School at this time, and the school's physical plant is in excellent condition. The likelihood that they will need to spend \$12.1 million to maintain the building in the near horizon appears extremely slim.

CPS has provided space utilization standards to... *help to ensure that all students have equal access to a learning environment that effectively supports strong instructional programs... Rather than narrowly prescribe the manner of classroom use, the standards were developed to promote flexibility and to ensure that the space can be programmed to fit student needs.* Furthermore, the utilization formula provides that 24% of a school's classrooms be dedicated to ancillary classroom space, with 76% of the space being allocated to classrooms. Bethune currently uses the space in a manner prescribed by CPS. In fact, they have been more creative than most in terms of using the space in a manner that will provide maximum supports to children and their families.

Finally, we wish to express our deep concern that CPS has not shared a detailed safety plan or a plan for the building once it is closed. The change in attendance boundaries will mean that some children will have to cross unfamiliar territory, some of which is "controlled" by rival gang factions. No one wants to see an empty school building in the community, as empty buildings are magnets for all manner of illicit activities. As it is, North Lawndale has over 1,700 vacant buildings and lots. We do not need another. In closing, we respectfully request once more, that Bethune remain open.

Valerie F. Leonard

Valerie F. Leonard

Co-Founder, Lawndale Alliance

Bethune School - 8020

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
 3030 W. Arthington
 Region 3
 Constructed in 1969 -
 Assessed on 3/20/2006

Project	Scope	Rank	Ranking Description	Units	Quantity	Cost
Exterior, Window, Roof, & Masonry Renovation						
Door Renovation						
	Interior Stairs	6	25% Maintenance	EA	6	\$31,000.00
						\$31,000.00
Exterior Renovation						
	Masonry - Rebuild	5	Patch	SF	25	\$2,000.00
	Masonry - Tuckpointing/Cleaning	6	Tuckpoint&Clean	SF	15,800	\$163,000.00
	Steel Lintels	6	Refinish	LF	250	\$3,000.00
						\$168,000.00
Roof Renovation						
	Built Up Roof	5	50% Repair	SF	32,700	\$246,000.00
						\$246,000.00
Stack (Chimney) Renovation						
	Chimney	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$26,000.00
						\$26,000.00
Priority Total:						\$471,000.00
Mechanical, Electrical, & Plumbing Renovation						
Bathroom/Plumbing System Renovation						
	Booster pump	4	100% Replace	EA	1	\$11,000.00
	Ejector	5	50% Repair	EA	4	\$9,000.00
	Hot/Cold Water Piping	5	50% Repair	SF	73,400	\$12,000.00
	*** Restrooms (>10 Fixtures)	5	50% Repair	EA	6	2004 PROJECT
	Sanitary Piping	5	50% Repair	SF	73,400	\$20,000.00
	Staff Restrooms	5	50% Repair	EA	5	\$36,000.00
	Water heater	4	100% Replace	EA	2	\$7,000.00
						\$95,000.00
Boiler/Mechanical System Renovation						
	AHU Fan (Single/Multi zone <10 KCFM)	5	50% Repair	EA	1	\$36,000.00
	AHU Fan (Single/Multi zone <20 KCFM)	5	50% Repair	EA	1	\$46,000.00
	Air Handler Auxiliary (<10 KCFM)	5	50% Repair	EA	1	\$18,000.00
	Air Handler Auxiliary (<20 KCFM)	5	50% Repair	EA	1	\$21,000.00

* Ranking Description

1=Life Safety, 2,3,4=100% Replace, 5=50% Repair, 6=25% Maintenance, 7=Maintenance

** The CIP Assessments Are Currently Being Reviewed For Corrections And Updates

*** This Item Is Taken Care Of In A Current Capital Project



Chicago Public Schools
 Capital Improvement Program 2004

Capital Improvement
 Program

DDC System	6	25% Maintenance	SF	73,400	\$42,000.00
Exhaust Ventilation Fans	6	25% Maintenance	SF	73,400	\$6,000.00
Fresh Air Intake	6	25% Maintenance	EA	2	\$3,000.00
Mechanical/Service Rooms	6	25% Maintenance	SF	3,200	\$14,000.00
Non-Ducted Air Return	6	Maintenance	EA	2	\$31,000.00
Radiators	6	25% Maintenance	EA	35	\$13,000.00
Return Fans	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$7,000.00
*** Thermostat and Zone Dampers	6	25% Maintenance	SF	73,400	2004 PROJECT
					\$237,000.00

Lighting Renovation

Distribution panels	6	25% Maintenance	SF	73,400	\$23,000.00
Emergency AC Lighting	5	50% Repair	SF	73,400	\$34,000.00
Exit Signage	6	25% Maintenance	SF	73,400	\$12,000.00
Exterior Lighting	5	50% Repair/Replace	SF	73,400	\$61,000.00
Fire Alarm	4	100% Replace	SF	73,400	\$178,000.00
Fire Pump (<1000 GPM)	4	100% Replace	EA	1	\$55,000.00
Interior Lighting	4	100% Replace	SF	73,400	\$417,000.00
Panel Boards	5	50% Repair	SF	73,400	\$39,000.00
Security System	5	50% Repair	SF	73,400	\$57,000.00
Sprinkler System	4	100% Replace	SF	73,400	\$174,000.00
Switch Board (1000 to 1600A)	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$5,000.00
UPS System	4	100% Replace	EA	1	\$73,000.00
					\$1,128,000.00

Priority Total:

\$1,460,000.00

Interior Renovation

Gymnasium Renovation

Gymnasium	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$21,000.00
					\$21,000.00

Interior Renovation

Administrative Suites	6	25% Maintenance	EA	3	\$48,000.00
Arts: Music, Dance, Graphics, etc.	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$8,000.00
Classrooms	6	25% Maintenance	EA	33	\$374,000.00
Computer Labs	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$12,000.00
Corridor/Lobby	6	25% Maintenance	LF	1,034	\$54,000.00
Interior Doors	6	25% Maintenance	EA	99	\$51,000.00
Library	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$31,000.00
					\$578,000.00

Kitchen and Lunchroom Renovation

Kitchen	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$60,000.00
Lunchroom	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$28,000.00
Trash Enclosures	6	100% Refinish	EA	1	\$13,000.00
					\$101,000.00

* Ranking Description

1=Life Safety, 2,3,4=100% Replace, 5=50% Repair, 6=25% Maintenance, 7=Maintenance

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Chicago Public Schools
Capital Improvement Program 2004

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Pre-K Classroom Renovation						
Pre-Kindergarten	6	25% Maintenance	EA	3	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00

Science Lab Renovation						
Science Classrooms	6	25% Maintenance	EA	1	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00

Priority Total: **\$757,000.00**

Site Improvement

Site Improvements						
Fencing	4	100% Replace/ New	LF	851	\$89,000.00	
Free-Standing Signage	4	100% Replace/ New	EA	1	\$31,000.00	
Parking lot interior plantings	4	100%Replace/Code	EA	7	\$10,000.00	
Parking lots	6	Refinish	SF	13,300	\$21,000.00	
Parkway trees	4	100%Replace/New Trees	EA	29	\$29,000.00	
Playground - Sod	5	Repair	SF	8,500	\$16,000.00	
School Yard & Playlots	5	Repair	SF	19,625	\$117,000.00	
Sidewalks	6	Refinish	LF	851	\$9,000.00	
Vehicular Screening	4	100%Replace/New(6' Solid)	LF	339	\$34,000.00	
						\$356,000.00

Priority Total: **\$356,000.00**

School Total: **\$3,044,000.00**

*** Ranking Description**

1=Life Safety, 2,3,4=100% Replace, 5=50% Repair, 6=25% Maintenance, 7=Maintenance

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