

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED
CLOSURE OF WILLIAMS MULTIPLEX ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL and RELOCATION OF JOHN B. DRAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ORIGINAL

APRIL 26, 2013

5:30 P.M.

125 South Clark Street

Suite 1500

Chicago, Illinois

HON. PATRICK McGANN

HEARING OFFICER

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LAW OFFICE

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3 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Good evening. My
4 name is Patrick McGann, and I am the designated
5 hearing officer for these proceedings. It's
6 5:30, which is the schedule start time. Last
7 week we experienced some issues with people
8 getting up efficiently. Has anyone been down
9 in the lobby recently? I know some you have
10 been sitting here.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is a crowd. I
12 don't know what meeting they're waiting for.

13 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Why don't we wait
14 about ten minutes before we start, so that I
15 can make my opening remarks and everyone will
16 understand what we're doing and how we're going
17 to proceed. And we will still allot the three
18 full hours. I want to give people an
19 opportunity to come up here. We'll start in
20 ten minutes.

21 (Recess.)

22 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Good evening
23 again, everyone. My name is Patrick McGann and
24 I am a retired Circuit Court judge and I have

1 been designated to be the hearing officer in
2 this matter. And this matter is a public
3 hearing to consider the proposed closure of
4 Williams Multiplex Elementary School and
5 Williams Preparatory Academy Middle School and
6 the relocation of Drake Elementary School to
7 co-locate with Urban Prep Academy for Young Men
8 Charter High School in Bronzeville.

9 We have been allotted three hours
10 to conduct these hearings. A few housekeeping
11 things. First of all, this entire proceeding
12 is being reported or recorded by the court
13 reporter who's the woman sitting on my left.
14 So if you do choose to speak at the lectern, I
15 ask you to speak loudly and clearly so she can
16 make an accurate record of what is being said.

17 We also have the services of a
18 sign interpreter who's the woman to my right.
19 If you should need the services of a sign
20 language interpreter, please raise your hands
21 and we will make certain that you are
22 accommodated.

23 We also have the services of a
24 Spanish language interpreter. If you should

1 need the services of a Spanish language
2 interpreter, please raise your hand and we will
3 make certain that you receive the equipment and
4 the instructions so that that can be
5 facilitated.

6 I will now ask the interpreter to
7 explain that to you in the Spanish language.

8 Thank you. If you are a member
9 of the public and you wish to make a
10 presentation at this public hearing, you must
11 have signed in at the desk when you entered the
12 building.

13 If you do not sign in, you will
14 not be heard. So if you intend to speak and
15 you have not signed in as a speaker, please go
16 downstairs and do that. I will receive a list
17 of all the people who have signed in, and based
18 on the size of the turnout, I will call your
19 name to speak in the order in which you have
20 signed in.

21 If there are materials that you
22 wish to supplement your remarks with, you may
23 do so by either in writing or sending them
24 electronically to the Chicago Public Schools

1 Law Department, which is located at 125 South
2 Clark street, room 700. If you wish to send
3 them electronically, you can send them to
4 qualityschools@CPS.EDU. I believe it would be
5 very important for you to identify the school
6 that your supplemental materials relate to so
7 it can be sent to me promptly so I can complete
8 my work. You have until 5:00 o'clock Monday
9 evening to do that.

10 If you are a person under the age
11 of 18, please do not tell us your name.
12 Illinois law respects the privacy of people
13 under 18. If you are under 18, you should have
14 received a piece of paper with a letter on it,
15 and you will always be referred to by that
16 letter when I call you up to speak or when you
17 are speaking.

18 The hearing here is to
19 determine if the Chief Executive Officer of the
20 Chicago Public Schools has complied with the
21 requirements of Illinois state statutes and the
22 Chicago Public School regulations as they
23 relate to the proposed school action. School
24 action is a defined term under Illinois law and

1 it relates to the closure of or relocation of a
2 school and there are certain other activities,
3 but the relevant ones are those two to this
4 proceeding.

5 Counsel for the Chicago Public
6 Schools, who I will ask to identify herself at
7 this time.

8 MS. MILOVICH: Jaculin Jerman Milovich.

9 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Is seated
10 directly in front of me. It is their burden to
11 present the evidence both by oral statements
12 and written documents, establishing that the
13 Chief Executive Officer has, in fact, complied
14 with the statutes.

15 Once they have completed their
16 presentation, I will begin the public comment
17 period. The rules require that I limit you to
18 two minutes for each presentation; however,
19 since individuals can sign in for up to one
20 hour after the commencement of the hearing, or
21 until 6:30, we will give you a little bit of
22 leeway, based on the size of the crowd.

23 It would be I think a bit
24 disingenuous to give the six people here 12

1 minutes to make their public comments, so we
2 will be a little bit lenient in that area.
3 However, if the room does fill up, we'll have
4 to be a little bit more stringent with that.

5 The young woman that is to my
6 right, seated at the audiovisual equipment, is
7 the timekeeper. And when the time for public
8 comments arrives, she will relocate to this
9 area. She has a stopwatch furnished by the
10 athletic department of the Chicago Public
11 Schools which she will use to time you, and she
12 will give you prompts by way of signs
13 indicating how much time you have left.

14 At the conclusion of these
15 proceedings, I will prepare a report and
16 determination which will summarize all of the
17 public comments that are made here, as well as
18 comments that were made at the two prior public
19 hearings or public meetings that were held in
20 regard to this. And I will also make a
21 determination if the Chief Executive Officer
22 has followed and fulfilled the requirements of
23 the Illinois compiled statutes relating to
24 school actions and followed the policies and

1 procedures of the Chicago Board of Education.

2 That report I'm advised will be
3 published online at the Chicago Public Schools'
4 Web site shortly after its delivered, which I
5 anticipate will be the end of next week.

6 So without any further ado, I
7 will ask corporation counsel -- the assistant
8 counsel for the law department if she's ready
9 to proceed.

10 MS. MILOVICH: Thank you, your Honor.
11 Again, my name is Jaculin Milovich, and that's
12 spelled J-A-C-U-L-I-N. J-E-R-M-A-N.
13 M-I-L-O-V-I-C-H. I'm an attorney in the
14 Chicago Board of Education's law department.
15 And I am appearing before you today in
16 connection with three proposals of the Chief
17 Executive Officer, or CEO, of the Chicago
18 Public Schools. One, the proposal to close
19 Williams Multiplex Elementary School; two, the
20 proposal to close Williams Preparatory Academy
21 Middle School; three, the proposal to relocate
22 Drake Elementary to the Williams Multiplex
23 facility at 2710 South Dearborn and co-locate
24 it with Urban Prep Academy for Young Men

1 Charter High School, Bronzeville.

2 At this time I would like to
3 enter Exhibit 1, a binder of documents being
4 considered for your consideration in support of
5 these proposals.

6 A copy of this binder is also
7 available here in room 1500 on the podium to my
8 left for public viewing throughout this
9 hearing.

10 The binder consists of
11 documentary evidence and written statements
12 demonstrating the CEO's proposals comply with
13 the requirements of the Illinois School Code
14 and the CEO's guidelines for school action.
15 Specifically, the written documents, statements
16 demonstrate the following: At tab A in the
17 binder, there are notice letters to parents and
18 guardians of students, school staff members,
19 and Local School Council members of Williams
20 Elementary, Williams Middle and Drake
21 Elementary, as well as parents and guardians of
22 students, school staff members and Board
23 members of Urban Prep Charter, Bronzeville,
24 accompanied by draft transition plans.

1 The notice letters and draft
2 transition plans, one, describe the bases of
3 the CEO's proposals; two, explain how the
4 proposals meet the criteria of the guidelines;
5 three, identify supports for student safety and
6 security, academic, social and emotional needs,
7 and specific supports for students with
8 disabilities ,students in temporary living
9 situations and also English language learners.

10 And four, identifies the option
11 for Williams and Williams Middle students to
12 enroll in a higher performing school, provide
13 information on choice of schools and identify
14 transportation where practicable.

15 Tab A also includes the notice of
16 the scheduled community meetings and hearings
17 published in the newspaper and affidavits
18 attesting to delivery of notice to Williams
19 Elementary, Williams Middle, Drake and Urban
20 Prep Charter, Bronzeville, parents, and
21 guardians and school staff, LSC members, the
22 Urban Prep Charter, Bronzeville, board members,
23 as well as elected officials.

24 Finally, tab A includes an

1 affidavit attesting to proper publication of
2 the following: One, a list of qualified
3 independent hearing officers and draft
4 guidelines for school actions before November
5 1st; two, the finalized guidelines for school
6 actions following a 21-day public comment
7 period; and three, the proposals before March
8 31st, and at least 15 calendar days before the
9 first community meeting; and four, the
10 summaries from community meetings within five
11 days after the meeting.

12 In tab B the binder includes
13 Illinois School Code provision designating the
14 powers of the Board and outlining the process
15 for school actions. This tab also includes the
16 Board's policy and school performance,
17 remediation and probation for the 2011/2012
18 school year, the Board's shared facility
19 policy, as well as the Board report authorizing
20 Urban Prep Charter, Bronzeville, to establish a
21 high school at the Williams Multiplex facility.

22 Also at tab B are the Chicago
23 Public Schools space utilization standards and
24 the CEO's guidelines for school actions for the

1 2012/13 school year.

2 Finally, tab B includes the CEO
3 procedures for public hearings on proposed
4 school closing and co-locations.

5 And finally at tab C, the binder
6 includes written evidence in support of the
7 CEO's proposals.

8 This tab contains the transcripts
9 as well as summaries from the two community
10 meetings to elicit public comment held at a
11 location convenient to the Williams Elementary,
12 Williams Middle, Drake and Urban Prep school
13 community.

14 Tab C also includes, one, the
15 written statements of Ms. Ashley Richardson and
16 accompanying presentation demonstrating the
17 underutilization of Williams Elementary,
18 Williams Middle and the space available at the
19 facility for use by Urban Prep Charter
20 Bronzeville and Drake Elementary after Drake
21 welcomes students from Williams Elementary,
22 Williams Middle without exceeding facility's
23 enrollment efficiency range; two, the written
24 statement of John Price and accompanying

1 presentation which demonstrates Drake's status
2 as a higher-performing school and outlines the
3 supports that will be offered to students as
4 they transition; and three, the written
5 statement of Mr. Cory Davis, accompanying
6 presentation demonstrating the available space
7 in the Williams Multiplex facility to ensure
8 that Drake and Urban Prep can each operate
9 independently.

10 At this time, your Honor, I
11 request that the CEO's compiled Exhibit 1 be
12 admitted into the record.

13 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: It will be
14 received.

15 MS. MILOVICH: Your Honor, I would like now
16 to introduce the CEO's representative, Ms.
17 Ashley Richardson, who would like to make a
18 statement in support of the proposal. Her
19 statement is located in the binder at tab C-22.

20 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: There is a copy
21 of this binder as counsel said available for
22 inspection. It should be -- someone's already
23 scooped it up. But it is available. This
24 young woman seated over here has it. You may

1 proceed.

2 MS.. RICHARDSON: Good evening, your
3 Honor. My name is Ashley Richardson.
4 A-S-H-L-E-Y R-I-C-H-A-R-D-S-O-N.

5 And I'm A portfolio planner for
6 Chicago Public Schools. I have been in this
7 position since June of 2012.

8 As a portfolio planner, I manage
9 strategic planning to improve the efficient
10 utilization of CPS facility's.

11 Prior to joining CPS, I worked as
12 an analyst and manager at Kraft Foods before
13 obtaining my master's of education and
14 education policy and management at the Harvard
15 Graduate School of Education.

16 I have been asked to appear at
17 this hearing today to convey to you, the
18 parents and the community, as well as
19 interested members of the public in attendance,
20 information regarding the space utilization of
21 the 2710 South Dearborn Street facility with
22 respect to three proposals. One, the proposal
23 to close Williams Multiplex Elementary School;
24 two, the proposal to close Williams Preparatory

1 Academy Middle School; and three, the proposal
2 to relocate Drake to the 2710 South Dearborn
3 facility and co-locate it with Urban Prep
4 Academy for Young Men Charter High School,
5 Bronzeville, or Urban Prep.

6 Williams Elementary and Williams
7 Middle are both currently located at the 2710
8 South Dearborn Street facility, and share the
9 this facility with Urban Prep.

10 As of the 20th day of attendance
11 for the 2012/2013 school year, Williams
12 Elementary serves 256 students in
13 prekindergarten and kindergarten through fifth
14 grades, and Williams Middle serves 127 students
15 in grades sixth through eighth.

16 Urban Prep currently serves
17 approximately 405 students in grades nine
18 through 11.

19 Urban Prep will add a 12th grade
20 class next year and is anticipated to reach an
21 enrollment of 500.

22 The Board report approving this
23 school is located in your binder at tab B-17.

24 According to the Chief Executive

1 Officer's guidelines for school actions for the
2 2012/2013 school year, the CEO may propose to
3 close a school if it is underutilized based on
4 CPS space utilization standards and student
5 enrollment numbers recorded on the 20th day of
6 attendance for the 2012/2013 school year.

7 To understand the enrollment
8 efficiency range of a facility, Chicago Public
9 Schools utilizes its space utilization
10 standards which are locate in your binder at
11 tab B-14.

12 The enrollment efficiency range
13 is plus or minus 20 percent of the facility's
14 ideal enrollment.

15 For an elementary school
16 facility, the ideal enrollment is defined as
17 the number of allotted homerooms multiplied by
18 30.

19 The number of allotted homerooms
20 is approximately 76 to 77 percent of the total
21 classrooms available.

22 As an elementary school's
23 enrollment increases above the efficiency
24 range, a school may be considered overcrowded

1 as programming options are reduced or
2 compromised.

3 As elementary school's
4 enrollment decreases below the efficiency
5 range, a school may be considered underutilized
6 as classrooms are unused or poorly programmed,
7 making the use of limited resources less
8 effective.

9 A typical elementary school
10 building has a total of 39 classrooms;
11 therefore, the number of allotted homerooms,
12 approximately 76 to 77, percent of 39 is 30
13 classrooms. Multiplying 30 classrooms by 30
14 equals the ideal enrollment of 900.

15 Finally, the enrollment
16 efficiency range is plus or minus 20 percent of
17 900, which is 720 to 1,080.

18 If a school in this typical
19 elementary school building had an enrollment
20 below 720, it would be considered
21 underutilized.

22 Alternatively, if the school's
23 enrollment was above 1,080, it would be
24 considered overcrowded.

1 There are 55 total classrooms
2 within the 2710 South Dearborn Street facility.
3 Approximately 76 to 77 percent of this number
4 is 42, the number of allotted homerooms. 42
5 multiplied by 30 yields the enrollment of the
6 facility which is 1,2060.

7 As such, the enrollment
8 efficiency range of the 2710 South Dearborn
9 Street facility is 1,008 to 1,512 students.

10 The 55 total classrooms within
11 the 2710 South Dearborn facility are currently
12 apportioned between Williams Middle, Williams
13 Elementary and Urban Prep.

14 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Now, this number
15 of 55, I don't understand how you get to that,
16 because it's my understanding under the policy
17 for shared facilities, there are supposed to be
18 physical barriers separating the schools and
19 they share common areas. So why is that 55
20 number relevant? Because part of that has to
21 be used by Urban Prep.

22 MS. RICHARDSON: So 55 is the total number
23 of classrooms within the whole facility. And
24 then based on the total number of classrooms,

1 they're apportioned to each of the schools
2 which I will get to --

3 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: But Urban Prep is
4 a high school and they have a different
5 allocation number, don't they?

6 MS. RICHARDSON: I'm sorry?

7 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Urban Prep is
8 high school and their allocation in terms of
9 efficiency rating is different.

10 MS. RICHARDSON: Correct. There is a
11 different formula for calculating elementary
12 versus high school utilization rates, so you
13 can also supplement the record with that
14 formula if you'd like to see that as well.

15 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: It's in the
16 record.

17 What I'm saying is, this
18 paragraph in your presentation is really
19 irrelevant, because we're really only focusing
20 on the number of rooms available to Drake if it
21 relocates, correct?

22 MS. RICHARDSON: Well, this is a
23 combination of multiple proposals. So we have
24 to talk through the utilization for all of the

1 schools that are being --

2 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: But the
3 schools -- isn't the school physically
4 separated?

5 The two schools are physically
6 separated? I mean that's what the policy says.

7 MR. DAVIS: There is currently a barrier?

8 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: And your name is?

9 MR. DAVIS: My name is Cory Davis.
10 C-O-R-Y. D-A-V-I-S.

11 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: You can speak to
12 your lawyer, if you want.

13 I'm just asking you, the building
14 is not separated physically as required by the
15 policy.

16 MS. MILOVICH: Your Honor, I believe that
17 that information is going to be provided by
18 Mr. Cory Davis' testimony in terms of the
19 facility lab and how that's --

20 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: We can come back
21 to it.

22 MS. MILOVICH: So your question will be
23 answered at that point.

24 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Okay.

1 MS. RICHARDSON: 17.5 classrooms are
2 available to Williams Elementary school with
3 0.5 representing the presence of one or more
4 small classrooms.

5 Approximately 76 to 77 percent of
6 17.5 is 13, the number of allotted homerooms.

7 13 multiplied by 30 yields the
8 ideal enrollment of Williams Elementary which
9 is 390.

10 As such, the enrollment
11 efficiency range of Williams Elementary is
12 between 312 and 468 students.

13 As previously stated, Williams
14 Elementary serves 256 students as of the 20th
15 day of enrollment for the 2012/2013 school
16 year.

17 256 is below the enrollment
18 efficiency range and thus the school is
19 underutilized.

20 11.5 classrooms are currently
21 available to Williams Middle.

22 Approximately 76 to 77 percent of
23 11.5 is eight, the number of allotted
24 homerooms.

1 Eight multiplied by 30 yields the
2 ideal enrollment of the Williams facility which
3 is 240.

4 As such, the enrollment
5 efficiency range of Williams Middle is between
6 192 and 288 students.

7 As previously stated, Williams
8 Middle serves 127 students as of the 20th day
9 of attendance for the 2012/2013 school year.

10 This number is below the
11 enrollment efficiency range and thus the school
12 is underutilized.

13 The CEO has proposed that
14 Williams Elementary and Williams Middle
15 students be welcomed by Drake Elementary.

16 As my colleague John Price will
17 explain next, Drake Elementary is a
18 higher-performing school and thus this proposal
19 meets the criteria of the guidelines.

20 Further, if this proposal is
21 approved, Drake will relocate from its present
22 location to the 2710 South Dearborn Street
23 facility.

24 Drake will co-locate with Urban

1 Prep, and these two schools will share the 2710
2 South Dearborn facility.

3 The facility at 2710 South
4 Dearborn has enough space for students from
5 Drake and Urban Prep, including the students
6 welcomed from Williams Elementary and Williams
7 Middle, as I will explain in showing how the
8 co-location proposal meets the guidelines.

9 The CEO school action guidelines
10 for the 2012/2013 school year also include
11 criteria for co-locations; when two schools
12 share space in the same facility or on the same
13 campus but operate independently from each
14 other.

15 The CEO may propose a co-location
16 of two schools within the same facility if,
17 one, the combined projected enrollment is
18 within the facility's enrollment efficiency
19 range as defined by the CPS space utilization
20 standards; and two, the facility can support
21 the academic programming of both schools.

22 I will discuss the first factor
23 while my colleague Cory Davis will discuss the
24 second factor.

1 If this proposal is approved by
2 the Chicago Board of Education, the resulting
3 utilization will not exceed the 2710 South
4 Dearborn Street facility's enrollment
5 efficiency range, as defined by the CPS space
6 utilization standards.

7 To fully explain the enrollment
8 trend associated with these schools, I would
9 like to direct your attention to the screen.

10 Projected is a slide that show
11 shows the enrollment trend of the four schools.
12 Green hash lines showing the enrollment
13 efficiency range of the 2710 South Dearborn
14 Street facility, and a circle representing the
15 combined projected enrollment for 2013/2014.

16 As I previously explained, the
17 enrollment efficiency range of the 2710 South
18 Dearborn Street facility is 1,008 to 1,512.

19 Drake currently has 242 students
20 enrolled.

21 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: That's where I'm
22 confused. If it's -- if there are two separate
23 facilities, that are demarked by walls, doors,
24 how do you use the combined number? Why aren't

1 they two separate numbers?

2 MS. MILOVICH: I think that information is
3 in there to establish the co-location part of
4 this proposal, to ensure that in co-locating,
5 Drake students welcoming the two Williams
6 students as well the Urban Prep, that there is
7 room for both schools to occupy the Multiplex
8 facility.

9 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: But isn't the
10 real issue if the number of students that are
11 at Drake school have to fit within the facility
12 that's available to Drake and the number of
13 students that attend Urban Prep have to fit in
14 the Urban Prep facility, and then the combined
15 number has to meet the facility?

16 MS. MILOVICH: And that's with the third
17 presentation, Mr. Cory Davis' materials will
18 explain.

19 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay.

20 MS. RICHARDSON: Drake currently has 242
21 students enrolled. Williams Elementary has 256
22 students enrolled. And Williams Middle has 127
23 students enrolled. The combined enrollment for
24 Williams Elementary, Williams Middle and Drake

1 is 625. Including the current enrollment of
2 Urban Prep of 405, the combined current
3 enrollment of all four schools is 1,030, within
4 the 2710 South Dearborn Street facility's
5 enrollment efficiency range.

6 Further, for the 2013/2014 school
7 year, the projected enrollment for Drake is
8 252. The projected enrollment for Williams
9 Elementary is 257. The projected enrollment of
10 Williams Middle is 128, and the projected
11 enrollment for Urban Prep is 500.

12 The combined projected 2003, 2014
13 enrollment for these four schools is 1, 137,
14 and is within the 2710 South Dearborn Street
15 facility's enrollment efficiency range. Thus,
16 there is enough space within the 2710 South
17 Dearborn Street facility for students from
18 Urban Prep and from Drake after welcoming
19 students from Williams Elementary and Williams
20 Middle.

21 To accommodate the projected
22 enrollment of both schools, approximately 27
23 classrooms will be assigned to Drake and
24 approximately 28 classrooms will be assigned to

1 Urban Prep.

2 The number of classrooms assigned
3 to Drake, 27, is sufficient to accommodate its
4 enrollment going forward.

5 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: But actually the
6 relevant number is the number of homerooms, and
7 only 21 homerooms, correct?

8 MS. RICHARDSON: Utilization standards
9 are -- based first we look at the total number
10 of somebody obviously classrooms in the
11 building and do it based on the number of
12 homerooms. So then the homerooms would give
13 you again the ideal enrollment and then your
14 range would be plus or minus 20 percent of
15 that.

16 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Right. But there
17 are only 21 homerooms.

18 MS. RICHARDSON: Which is like I said
19 previously 76 to 77 percent of the total
20 classrooms in the facility.

21 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: So the total
22 number of classrooms doesn't really mean
23 anything.

24 MS. MILOVICH: It's currently just the

1 proposal for what these schools would need to
2 function with the student populations that are
3 being anticipated or projected for next school
4 year.

5 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: But if you did
6 don't have the number of homerooms and you
7 multiply that by 30 and compare that to the
8 projected enrollment, you don't follow -- you
9 don't fulfill the guidelines.

10 MS. MILOVICH: I'm not following. The
11 guidelines to establish that the school is
12 being underutilized now versus in the future
13 that they will be --

14 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: That the portion
15 of the 2710 building that will be used by
16 Williams will accommodate the enrollment of
17 Williams Multiplex, Williams Middle and Drake.

18 MS. MILOVICH: Right, which I believe is
19 the information on the screen to show that it
20 is within the enrollment efficiency of the
21 building.

22 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Okay. But she is
23 not testifying to that.

24 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, that will

1 be -- that's what I previously stated when I
2 was discussing the trends of the school.
3 Because again that's based on the entire
4 facility. And then the facility is, you know,
5 divided appropriately to accommodate the needs
6 of both schools.

7 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: But it's already
8 divided. It's already been divided because
9 Urban Prep is already there and has been there.

10 MS. RICHARDSON: Correct.

11 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: So there is
12 defined space already existing that will be
13 occupied by Drake when it assumes the
14 enrollment of the two Williamses.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: Correct, right.

16 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay.

17 MS. RICHARDSON: The number of classrooms
18 assigned to Drake, 27, is sufficient to
19 accommodate its enrollment going forward and
20 the number of classrooms.

21 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Again, this isn't
22 relevant. The number of classrooms doesn't
23 mean anything. Move on.

24 MS. RICHARDSON: Next you will hear from

1 my colleague John Price who will discuss the
2 performance of Williams Elementary, Williams
3 Middle and Drake, and highlight the proposed
4 transition efforts.

5 Thank you, your Honor. This
6 concludes my statement.

7 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Thank you.

8 MS. MILOVICH: Your Honor, I would now like
9 to introduce the CEO's next representative
10 Mr. John Price, who will give a statement in
11 support of the proposals.

12 His statement is located in the
13 binder at tab C-25.

14 MR. PRICE: Good evening, your Honor. My
15 name is John Price. J-O-H-N. P-R-I-C-E.

16 I am chief of schools for the
17 Chicago Public Schools Burnham Park Elementary
18 School Network. Chicago Public Schools are
19 divided up into networks. And network offices
20 are run by a chief and -- a chief and provides
21 support and oversight for the schools assigned
22 to them on behalf of the CEO.

23 Williams Elementary, Williams Middle
24 and Drake Elementary are within the Burnham

1 Park Elementary Network, and I am responsible
2 for the support and oversight for the schools
3 on behalf of the CEO.

4 I have been chief of Williams
5 Elementary and Williams Middle and Drake since
6 February of 2012.

7 By way of background, I've been
8 an educator for approximately 18 years. I
9 began working as a teacher in 1995. I have
10 taught at the elementary, middle school and
11 college levels. I've also worked as assistant
12 principal and principal, where I led efforts to
13 significantly close the achievement gap for
14 students.

15 Currently, I serve as the chief
16 of elementary schools for the Burnham Park
17 Network, managing 35 schools with approximately
18 13,000 students.

19 I hold a bachelor's degree from
20 Stanford University and a master's of education
21 in administration and leadership from the
22 University of Illinois at Chicago.

23 As you've already heard, Williams
24 Elementary and Williams Middle fit the criteria

1 of the Chief Executive Officer's guidelines for
2 school actions because they are underutilized
3 based on CPS space utilization standards and
4 student enrollment numbers recorded on the 20th
5 attendance day for the 2012/2013 school year.

6 If this proposal is approved,
7 Williams Elementary and Williams Middle
8 students will be welcomed by Drake and Drake
9 will relocate to the current Williams Multiplex
10 facility located at 2710 South Dearborn Street
11 and maintain its current attendance boundary as
12 shown in tab C-24 in your binder.

13 When Williams Ellington and
14 Williams Middle students are welcomed by the
15 Drake administration staff and students, they
16 will be attending a higher-performing school
17 based on CEO's guidelines for school actions.

18 The CEO's guidelines for school
19 actions define a higher-performing elementary
20 school to be a school receiving a higher level
21 on the performance policy for the 2011/2012
22 school year.

23 If schools shared the same
24 performance policy level, the CEO's guidelines

1 define a higher-performing elementary school to
2 be a school performing higher on the majority
3 of four performance metrics for the 2011/2012
4 school year.

5 1 Williams Elementary and Williams
6 Middle and Drake each received a level-three
7 rating in 2011/2012 as indicated on the
8 performance policy reports for these schools
9 located in your binder at tab C-27. Thus, the
10 higher-performing school under the guidelines
11 that the school that performed higher on the
12 majority of four performance metrics.

13 There is a slide presentation on
14 the screen which provides diagrams of the four
15 performance metrics.

16 A copy of this slide presentation
17 is also located in your binder at tab C-26.

18 The four performance metrics
19 analyzed are the percentage of points the
20 school received on the performance policy.

21 The ISAT composite meets an
22 exceeds score, the value added score in reading
23 and the value added score in math.

24 I will now explain each of these

1 four metrics and how Drake performed higher
2 than Williams Elementary and Williams Middle in
3 2011 and 2012.

4 The first metric to compare the
5 schools' percentage of points received on the
6 performance policy. The performance policy
7 basis its rating on a point system. Points are
8 received for the school's current level of
9 performance improvement over time on
10 standardized tests and attendance, as well as
11 the growth of individual students from year to
12 year on a state test.

13 For 2011/2012, Drake received
14 42.9 percent of available points, Williams
15 Elementary received 26.2 percent of available
16 points, and Williams Middle received 21.4
17 percent of available points. Thus, Drake
18 received a higher percentage of points on the
19 performance policy.

20 The second metric is the ISAT
21 meets and exceeds composite score which is the
22 combined resulted of the ISAT reading,
23 mathematics and science assessments.

24 Drake's 2012 ISAT meets or

1 exceeds composite score was 69.6 percent.
2 Williams Elementary was 61.4. And Williams
3 Middle was 67.1 percent.

4 The third and fourth metrics are
5 the schools value added scores in reading and
6 math.

7 Value added is a component of the
8 performance policy that compares student
9 academic growth on the ISAT at a school with a
10 growth of similar students across the district.

11 This is done through a regression
12 methodology that controls for nine student
13 level factors, including grade level, prior
14 performance on the ISAT, free or reduced lunch
15 eligibility, race or ethnicity, mobility,
16 participation in the students in temporary
17 living situations program, individualized
18 education program, or IEP status, English
19 language learner status and gender.

20 Controlling for these factors
21 allows us to see how much impact the school had
22 on its average student over the past year.
23 Because we control for prior performance, this
24 metric allows us to identify schools with low

1 test scores where growth is rapid and schools
2 with high test scores where growth is slow.

3 The value added metric is a
4 standardized measure with a mean of zero.
5 Standardization means that the scores is
6 reported in standard deviation units which is a
7 measure of how far away the school score is
8 from the district average. A positive number
9 means that the students at the school are
10 growing at a faster pace than similar students
11 in the district. For example, a positive one
12 indicates that the school is one standard
13 deviation above the mean, meaning that the
14 school students are growing at a faster pace
15 than approximately 84 percent of the schools in
16 the district. A score near zero means that
17 students in the school are growing at about the
18 same pace as similar students in the district.
19 And a negative score means that students at the
20 school are growing at a slower space than
21 similar students in the district.

22 As you can see, Drake's 2012
23 reading value added score was a positive .3.
24 Williams Elementary was negative 1.9. And

1 Williams Middle was negative 1.7. This means
2 that on average, students at Drake grew at a
3 faster pace in reading when compared to
4 students at Williams Elementary and Williams
5 Middle.

6 Drake's 2012 mathematics value
7 added scores was positive .3. Williams
8 Elementary was negative 2.4. And Williams
9 Middle was negative .4.

10 This means that on average
11 students at Drake grew at a faster pace in
12 mathematics when compared to students at
13 Williams Elementary and Williams Middle.

14 To summarize, Drake performed
15 higher than both Williams Elementary and
16 Williams Middle in 2011/2012 on the four
17 metrics identified in the CEO's guidelines for
18 school actions and thus is a higher-performing
19 school.

20 If this proposal is approved,
21 students will receive additional supports at
22 Williams Elementary and Williams Middle during
23 the remainder of this school year and at Drake
24 next school year, and the network will provide

1 assistance to ease the transition process as
2 much as possible.

3 CPS has developed a plan
4 dedicating additional resources to address any
5 safety concerns and to fulfill students'
6 academic, social and emotional and other
7 individual needs.

8 The draft transition plan
9 explaining these additional resources was sent
10 home to all families affected by this proposal
11 and is located in your binder at tab A-1.

12 CPS will publish final transition
13 plans if the Board approves this proposal,
14 which will incorporate feedback from community
15 meetings, this hearing and additional input
16 received.

17 The CPS Office of Safety and
18 Security, or OSS, has worked with the Chicago
19 Police Department, the Department of Family and
20 Support Services, local community groups and
21 faith partners, elected officials and other
22 sister agencies to develop a plan for safe
23 transition of students.

24 If this proposal is approved,

1 OSS will take the following steps. First, OSS
2 will review and update school safety audits,
3 security personnel allocations and school
4 safety technology systems to make enhancements
5 as appropriate.

6 Second, OSS will be available to
7 address specific safety concerns raised by
8 students and staff.

9 Third, OSS will provide safe
10 passage supports for students and staff
11 traveling to and from school.

12 Safe passage workers wear
13 identifiable vests and stand on designated
14 street corners to monitor student safety during
15 their travel to school in the morning and home
16 in the afternoon.

17 Prior to the start of the 2013/14
18 school year, OSS will work with the Drake
19 administration and the community to designate
20 specific intersections for safe passage
21 supports.

22 Additionally, students who
23 receive academic supports as they transition
24 including the following: First, a principal

1 transition coordinator, or PTC, will be
2 assigned to help the principals of Williams
3 Elementary and Williams Middle maintain
4 academic rigor for the remainder of the school
5 year and ensure a smooth transition to Drake.

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

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

16 Third, I have set aside
17 dedicated time to hold office hours and will
18 welcome families and students affected by this
19 action to discuss concerns and educational
20 options.

21 The office hours for Burnham Park
22 are Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and
23 Friday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

24 Fourth, principals will receive

1 discretionary resources to provide direct
2 academic supports to students. For example,
3 these funds may be used to provide
4 instructional coach, teacher leader, or to
5 obtain an academic tutoring position or program
6 for students in reading and/or math. I will
7 support the principals as they consider how to
8 use these resources and approve their
9 selections once decisions are made.

10 Students will also receive social
11 and emotional supports to help them adjust to a
12 new school environment including the following:
13 First, CPS will help school staff members
14 facilitate intervention groups or peace circles
15 aimed at helping students work through concerns
16 associated with the transition.

17 Second, CPS will help staff
18 members implement restorative practices, such
19 as peer circles and peer juries, to encourage
20 peer-to-peer problem solving and resolution.

21 Third, groups of students in need
22 of more individualized attention will be
23 provided with access to highly structured
24 interventions.

1 Fourth, to foster an environment
2 that is both supportive and inclusive for all
3 students, CPS will provide resources to the
4 Drake leadership to implement culture-building
5 activities such as staff luncheons, and team
6 and trust building activities.

7 Resources will also be provided
8 to sponsor activities such as school visits for
9 families, coffee chats with the principal,
10 picnics, field trips or parent meetings to help
11 transitioning families get to know their new
12 schooling.

13 Additional transition supports
14 will be provide tend to ensure that Williams
15 Elementary and Williams Middle students who
16 have unique needs or circumstances are
17 adequately supported in this transaction,
18 including students with diverse learning needs,
19 students in temporary living situations,
20 English language learners and early childhood
21 participants.

22 These additional supports are
23 described in more detail in the draft
24 transition plan located in your binder at tab

1 A-1.

2 Finally, if the CEO's proposal is
3 approved and the community later wishes to
4 consider changing the school's name, the
5 requirements of the Board's school renaming
6 policy will be filed to ensure both school and
7 community engagement in evaluating potential
8 new names.

9 In conclusion, Williams
10 Elementary and Williams Middle are
11 underutilized.

12 The combined enrollment of
13 Williams Elementary and Williams Middle and
14 Drake students, as well as Urban Prep students
15 at the 2710 South Dearborn facility, will not
16 exceed the facility's enrollment efficiency
17 range and Drake is a higher-performing school.

18 The CEO believes that these
19 proposed school closures will help the district
20 better serve all students and is prepared to
21 assist students with additional supports as
22 they transition.

23 Thank you for your time and
24 attention. This concludes my statement.

1 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Thank you.

2 MS. MILOVICH: Your Honor, I would now like
3 to introduce the CEO's final representative to
4 speak this evening, Mr. Cory Davis, his
5 statement in support of the proposals. And his
6 statement is located in your binder at tab
7 C-28.

8 MR. DAVIS: Good evening, your Honor. My
9 name is Cory Davis. C-O-R-Y D-A-V-I-S.

10 I am director of Capital
11 Renovation and New Construction.

12 In this role, I am responsible
13 for the renovation of existing CPS facilities
14 and the construction of new facilities.

15 This provides me with knowledge
16 of CPS facilities and how they support the
17 academic programming of a school.

18 I have been in the position for
19 over three years.

20 The Chief Executive Officer, or
21 CEO, has asked me to appear before you today at
22 this hearing to convey to you, to the parents,
23 staff members, and Local School Council members
24 as well as interested members of the public in

1 attendance information relevant to the proposal
2 to co-locate Drake Elementary with Urban Prep
3 Academy for Young Men Charter High School,
4 Bronzeville, or Urban Prep.

5 As stated in the Board's 2005
6 shared facility policy, which is located in the
7 binder at tab B-13, CPS believes that it is in
8 the best interest of the students and the
9 communities to identify facilities that are not
10 being utilized to their full capacity and to
11 improve the use of those facilities.

12 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Mr. Davis, I've
13 read your statement and I've looked at your
14 slides. But as I've indicated earlier, this
15 school is already a shared facility. So what
16 differences are there going to be between how
17 it exists today and how it will exist after
18 this transition?

19 MR. DAVIS: So if we go ahead on the
20 slides. If you can see the shared spaces. You
21 can see there's natural demarcations,
22 floor-by-floor obviously for the two schools.
23 And then there are non-load bearing
24 demarcations. Look at, for example, floor two,

1 you can see that there are double-hung doors
2 that we installed for the previous co-location.

3 You will see in this case that
4 it's moving over -- you will see a red line.
5 CR-27 is the classroom right now that's
6 currently with Urban Prep. If we move that
7 over, the double doors move from the location
8 directly to the south, and it would be north
9 and the new red line. This is a non-load
10 bearing wall, so you can move these throughout
11 the facility depending on what the MOU result
12 is.

13 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: So that's going
14 to be a new wall?

15 MR. DAVIS: That's correct, a wall based
16 on double doors.

17 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Okay. And what
18 else?

19 MR. DAVIS: What else?

20 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: The structure
21 exists today as a divided school or shared
22 space.

23 MR. DAVIS: Correct.

24 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: So there is not

1 going to be a lot of -- it would seem to me
2 that what's relevant is how the physical layout
3 of the building is going to change as opposed
4 to going through its -- giving everyone the
5 impression that this is a new project. It's
6 not really a new project; it's really perhaps
7 making an adjustment in the existing facility.

8 MR. DAVIS: That's correct, depending upon
9 what the memorandum of understanding between
10 the two schools come up with, there will be a
11 demarcate where the different locations are for
12 the separations.

13 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: There is a
14 memorandum of understanding between the parties
15 now.

16 MR. DAVIS: Which is expired, I believe.
17 Correct. Williams and Urban Prep. There will
18 be a new MOU developed.

19 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: It's not really
20 Williams, it is really with the CPS.

21 MS. MILOVICH: It's primarily made between
22 the schools who will be sharing facilities with
23 the assistance of the district offices.

24 But they would be based on the

1 particular needs, student populations and
2 everything on the ground that's occurring in
3 that building. So they would come up with a
4 detailed MOU specific to their individual
5 needs.

6 This is just a plan for how it is
7 achievable in terms of the standards we have
8 for school actions to ensure that they can fit
9 within the building.

10 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay go ahead.

11 MR. DAVIS: Where was I again.

12 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: You were at the
13 facility description.

14 MR. DAVIS: Okay. There is slide
15 presentation on the screen in front of you
16 which provides diagrams of this facility. A
17 copy of the slide presentation is also located
18 in your binder at tab C-29.

19 The 2710 South Dearborn facility
20 was originally constructed in 1952 with
21 subsequent additions constructed in 1955 and
22 1994.

23 The facility is a three-story
24 structure with a centralized corridor flanked

1 primarily by classrooms.

2 On the south end of the facility
3 on the first floor is an auditorium, lunchroom,
4 gymnasium. And on the second floor is a
5 library. At the north end, there's
6 administrative space on the first floor and
7 classrooms on the floors above.

8 Science labs, computer labs and
9 lunch rooms are disbursed throughout the
10 facility.

11 2710 South Dearborn facility has
12 sufficient space to accommodate the needs of
13 both Drake Elementary and Urban Prep for
14 academic courses, lunch, physical education,
15 administrative office and other programming.

16 If this proposal is approved, a
17 specific memorandum of understanding, MOU, to
18 allocate space between the two schools will be
19 drafted in accordance with the Board's 2005
20 shared facility policy.

21 At this time, I will outline a
22 recommendation as to how these two schools to
23 allocate the space to ensure the needs of both
24 schools are met.

1 A recommendation for the
2 allocation of space can be seen in the next
3 five slides.

4 As the legend shows, you will see
5 that the proposed Drake Academy, Drake
6 Elementary space is in blue. Proposed Urban
7 Prep space is in light brown. And shared space
8 is shown in red.

9 I understand that Drake needs a
10 total of 27 classrooms, and that Urban Prep
11 needs a total of 28 classrooms.

12 To fulfill this need, Drake can
13 use the majority of the space on the first and
14 second floor for classrooms. To fill Urban
15 Prep's needs, Urban Prep can use the north side
16 of the second floor and the entire third floor
17 for classrooms.

18 Both schools need administrative
19 office space. Urban Prep will use
20 administrative space on the northwest on the
21 first floor and Drake will use administrative
22 space on the southeast side of the first floor.

23 Additionally, both schools need
24 to maintain separate school identifies while

1 still sharing certain common areas. So we have
2 identified separate entrances to the facility.
3 Drake can use the existing Williams main
4 entrance on Dearborn Street while Urban Prep
5 Academy could continue to use their main
6 entrance on 27th Street.

7 Lastly, each school will have
8 their own lunchroom. Drake will use the
9 existing lunchroom on the south side of the
10 first floor, and Urban Prep will use the
11 converted recreational room in the basement as
12 a new lunchroom.

13 To meet other needs of these two
14 schools, we propose they share the library,
15 auditorium, gymnasium and weight room.

16 If this proposal is approved, CPS
17 will work with both schools to develop MOU
18 confirming all dedicated and shared spaces and
19 scheduling use of each space.

20 If this co-share proposal is
21 approved, the Department of Operations will
22 propose the following facility improvements to
23 2710 South Dearborn facility for the benefit of
24 all Drake and Urban prep students and staff.

1 Provide signage that reflect all newly
2 allocated spaces, provide window ACs for all
3 classrooms, provide selective interior cosmetic
4 improvements as needed, convert existing space
5 into a new lunchroom, provide Americans with
6 Disabilities Act accessibility upgrades in
7 accordance with Titles I and II compliance
8 requirements.

9 The Department of Operations
10 anticipates the cost to equip this facility to
11 welcome the new students and provide for
12 existing students will be close to \$2 million.

13 To conclude, these two schools
14 can fit within the 2710 South Dearborn
15 facility, and if this co-location is approved
16 by the Board, CPS will work to develop an MOU
17 that outlines all dedicated and shared spaces.

18 Thank you, your Honor. This
19 concludes my statement.

20 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: I hate to be a
21 pest. But you say that you've been told that
22 Drake needs 27 classrooms to operate. The
23 earlier proposal said that there are 29
24 classrooms, currently available to Williams.

1 And that all of the numbers concerning
2 utilization are based on the formula that
3 determines which is 76.9 percent of the
4 available classrooms equals the number of
5 homerooms. 17.5 for elementary school and 11.5
6 to the middle school.

7 Now, I was a lawyer and math is
8 not my first strong point, but that comes to
9 29, not 27.

10 So the numbers concerning
11 utilization of the individual schools is
12 different than what was presented earlier.

13 And there are 55 classrooms. And
14 if Williams currently occupies 29 of them, that
15 means there are only 26 classrooms for Urban
16 Prep used now. And you say that you were told
17 they need 28.

18 MS. MILOVICH: Your Honor, I would just
19 offer that these are suggested divisions
20 between number of classrooms to accommodate the
21 numbers.

22 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: No, there is no
23 question that suggestion is to him.

24 My problem is, in evaluating the

1 proposal of the CEO, the capacity of the school
2 in terms of the elementary school students
3 can't be based on the number of 29. It can
4 only be based on the number of 27, because
5 that's all the classrooms that the CEO proposes
6 to negotiate with Urban Prep, giving Urban Prep
7 two additional classrooms than they have
8 already.

9 So the earlier computations are
10 wrong, if that's the proposal.

11 MS. MILOVICH: Well, we will be happy to
12 supplement record to show enrollment efficiency
13 based on the 27. The 17.5 and the 11.5 were
14 presented to demonstrate underutilization
15 currently. And what we will be happy to
16 provide you --

17 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: You used those
18 numbers to show that when you put the schools
19 together they would be within the number.

20 MS. MILOVICH: And we will be happy to
21 provide the numbers to show how they would be
22 still within the efficiency range within the
23 new proposed number if you'd like.

24 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: I mean I can

1 figure it out myself. I mean it is a simple
2 math problem, and I have one of these things
3 that you punch numbers in and you get numbers
4 back, so I mean I can figure it out.

5 I'm just saying that -- what I
6 want is a commitment from the CEO as to whether
7 or not when they negotiate with Urban Prep, are
8 they going to propose 29 classrooms for
9 Williams, which is what they have now, or are
10 they going to say 27 classrooms, is what we
11 need to accommodate. That's really the key.
12 Because if the CEO says I'm going to open the
13 school with 27 classrooms, that school may well
14 have a different efficiency -- ideal enrollment
15 and efficiency enrollment range than a school
16 with 29 classrooms. I don't know. I haven't
17 done the math.

18 But it seems to me that you're
19 going to have at least one less homeroom.

20 So that's really what the issue
21 is, what is the CEO proposing, to co-locate a
22 school with 29 classrooms or with 27
23 classrooms?

24 And I don't expect that you're in

1 a position to commit to that today -- tonight.

2 MS. MILOVICH: Well, other than to say the
3 proposal here -- our draft proposal subject to
4 determinations when an actual MOU is developed,
5 if this proposal is approved by the Board, that
6 that's where those specific numbers based on
7 actual enrollments and other factors the
8 schools identify, that's where the details of
9 that would be addressed.

10 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: But the problem
11 is the guidelines for 2012/2013 say you cannot
12 close a school if the school that you're going
13 to put these students in exceeds the efficiency
14 enrollment range.

15 So if you recalculate the
16 numbers, and it doesn't meet the effic -- that
17 was my point earlier with the earlier
18 presentation, is there's really three things
19 here that have to be considered. One, does the
20 new Drake school fit into the space allocated
21 for that facility in the larger building. And
22 that's why it's important to find out whether
23 it's 29 or 27 classrooms that you're proposing.
24 The second number is, how many students are

1 going to be from Urban Prep. Something tells
2 me that their occupancy standards don't really
3 figure in terms of whether they want to put 500
4 students into this remaining part of the
5 facility and allocate students per classroom,
6 however they want to do it. But then when you
7 combine the schools' enrollment, you have to be
8 within the range.

9 It would seem to me that if the
10 grammar school or elementary school population
11 doesn't fit, then you can't do it. So that's
12 all I'm saying.

13 MS. MILOVICH: So I believe both
14 testimonies were intended to demonstrate how
15 the proposal of the 27 classrooms would be
16 within that range. But we're happy to provide
17 additional information if that's what you would
18 like to see.

19 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Whatever you want
20 to do. It's your case. Anything else?

21 MS. MILOVICH: No, your Honor. That
22 concludes the presentations in support of the
23 CEO's proposals.

24 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Okay. We're

1 going to move to the public comment section.
2 And as I indicated, I will be calling you in
3 the order in which you have signed in. And the
4 first person who has asked to speak is
5 Katherine Selden.

6 MS. SELDEN: I'm sorry. There was a
7 misunderstanding. I won't be speaking.

8 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Never mind. The
9 next person who was who asked to speak is Wend
10 Bond. Good evening.

11 MS. BOND: Good evening. I'm actually on
12 behalf of a parent who had a family emergency,
13 so I'm here on her behalf. But my name is
14 Wendy Bond. I am a special ed teacher at
15 Williams Prep School right now. And I'm
16 currently also a Chicago police officer that
17 works in the area. So I've been in that area
18 for over eight years as a police officer. And
19 also I live in the Bronzeville community. But
20 I am here strictly to read this letter on
21 behalf of the parent.

22 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Great. Would you
23 have a copy for us?

24 MS. BOND: Yes, I do.

1 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Wonderful.

2 MS. BOND: One of her children is actually
3 a special ed student of mine, and she had a
4 former student that was a student of mine as
5 well. It's drafted April 26, 2013. Dear
6 Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Chicago executive
7 officer, Chicago Public Schools.

8 To Barbara Byrd-Bennett, or shall
9 I say to whom it may be that is seeking to
10 undermine intelligence. I'm a proud graduate
11 of Williams. I have a son and many relatives
12 who have graduated from Williams. And I
13 currently have two children that are attending
14 Williams Multiplex Middle School.

15 It burns me up inside to hear
16 that you have decided to close down my
17 children's school due to under-enrollment or
18 lack of performance, only to replace their
19 school with a school that is pretty much
20 identical.

21 As a matter of fact, Williams has
22 more resources than the school that is coming
23 in to replace them.

24 With that being said, where is

1 the improvement of the quality of education for
2 my children?

3 If you had decided to move a
4 level-one performing school into Williams,
5 then, yes, I can easily see the logic in your
6 decision-making; however, what you are electing
7 to do is to move another level-three school to
8 replace an existing school. It's an outrage
9 and not a good chase. Though I am not a rocket
10 scientist, I am wise enough to see that no
11 serious thought was put into place by your
12 staff when the decision was made for the
13 improvement of my children's education.

14 It has been stated that Williams
15 Middle School was underutilized; however, I do
16 not recall any representative from downtown
17 visiting the school to work with the parents or
18 administration to effectively show them how
19 they could best utilize the space when Urban
20 Prep occupies the building.

21 It is to my understanding that
22 due to Urban Prep moving into the facilities,
23 the space at Williams was quite limited.
24 Limited to the point where potential students

1 were turned away.

2 If you were aware of the fact
3 that we were not utilizing space to its full
4 potential, why didn't anyone from downtown come
5 into Williams to offer their services to assist
6 us?

7 Chicago Public Schools' slogan
8 has always been children first. But in this
9 past year you have made it quite clear that
10 this is not the case.

11 If money was lost over the years,
12 I am almost certain that it was not spent by
13 the children.

14 If an ineffective administration
15 was responsible for a failing performing
16 school, I'm sure they were not hired by the
17 students.

18 If you are guaranteeing a safe
19 passage, I am certain you are not the one that
20 will be walking to school.

21 We are all aware that stability
22 is a very important tool when it comes to
23 children's development.

24 So I ask you where is the

1 stability in closing over 54 schools when you
2 are uprooting children throughout the City of
3 Chicago?

4 Decisions have been made, yet no
5 one has visited or school to talk to parents or
6 the community.

7 I find it very interesting
8 concerning that most of the funding of public
9 schools come from our tax paying dollars.

10 Yes, I happen to be one of those
11 parents who own property in the Bronzeville
12 area, so decisions are being made with our
13 money. Yet it is our children that will be
14 suffering behind your decision.

15 To allow you to dictate my
16 children's educational future, along with
17 risking my children's safety, seems to be
18 violating my children's constitutional rights.

19 I do believe that you and the
20 Board have made a decision. And I am hear to
21 tell you regardless of the outcome of your
22 decision-making, I will not lie down and allow
23 you to continue playing with my children's
24 future as if they didn't matter.

1 Sincerely, Tiffany Peewee.

2 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Thank you. If
3 you could give a copy of the letter to the
4 court reporter, please.

5 Nai Colton.

6 Let the record reflect that Ms.
7 Bond has asked to make of record a loose-leaf
8 folder containing numerous documents that has a
9 cover page of Preserve Our History and Save Our
10 School Daniel Hale Williams School. There's
11 only one copy of that and I will receive that
12 into the record.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're at the same
14 school. I have more copies.

15 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Great, if you can
16 give one to the Board and if you have one for
17 me that would be wonderful as well.

18 (WHEREUPON, said
19 document was marked as
20 Public Exhibit No. 1 for
21 Identification.)

22 MS. COLE: I wanted to speak on the
23 subject of underutilization.

24 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Ma'am, give us

1 your name again.

2 MS. COLGON: My name is Nai Colton. And
3 I'm a teacher at Williams Middle. And one of
4 my concerns about the underutilization formula,
5 they're not taking in account of the space in
6 the building.

7 Each classroom that Williams Prep
8 and Williams Elementary utilize, we don't even
9 have a teachers' lounge. The teachers pretty
10 much eat in our classrooms or we go to one of
11 our co-workers rooms to eat lunch.

12 And one of the rooms which is the
13 eighth grade room already has 41 students in
14 that room.

15 My concern is, and the parents as
16 well, overcrowded classrooms. Our max is
17 already 41, which is a problem in one eighth
18 grade room.

19 I'm trying to figure out, as well
20 as the community, the parents, and the
21 partnerships that we hold where are the rooms
22 going to come from.

23 The only way I can see us fitting
24 an extra 240 students in that building is if

1 Urban Prep moves out. One of our other
2 issues --

3 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: How many children
4 are in the seventh grade?

5 MS. COLE: We have two seventh grade
6 classrooms. So one room -- it's 51 total
7 seventh graders.

8 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay.

9 MS. COLE: An issue, too, is the
10 scheduling.

11 In partnering with Urban Prep,
12 our Elementary students has to eat lunch at
13 10:30 a.m., so they can -- so Urban Prep,
14 freshman, sophomore and junior classes can have
15 their individual lunch periods.

16 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: The proposal, I
17 kind of cut the witness off, but in the slides,
18 they are going to build an additional lunchroom
19 in the basement for Urban Prep.

20 MS. COLE: Got you. Okay.

21 So, well, the main thing really
22 is the overcrowded classrooms.

23 We're already at capacity to the
24 point that we had to turn children away that

1 stay right in the community. So that's our
2 biggest issue.

3 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay.

4 MS. COLE: Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Thank you, ma'am.

6 Student A. I believe you were
7 not here when I made my opening remarks. But
8 if you are under age 18, we ask that you not
9 tell us your name, just identify yourself as
10 student A, because of Illinois privacy laws.
11 Okay? Thank you.

12 STUDENT A: Okay. There are several
13 reasons why I think Williams should be
14 consolidated instead of closed.

15 The teachers have a strong bond
16 with their students. The students shouldn't be
17 forced to have to relearn teachers and their
18 habits that they have grown to love.

19 Students have programs that keep
20 them proactive and off the streets. Our tests
21 scores have increased for the last five
22 years.

23 Our scores dropped last year
24 slightly because we were forced to continue

1 testing under roof repair, smoke, drilling and
2 hammering. But we will be on the rise again.

3 Williams --

4 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: What is the
5 source of that?

6 STUDENT A: I was there.

7 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: No. Why is that
8 interfering -- where is that coming from?

9 STUDENT A: Because students can't test
10 well if they have to sit there and smell stuff
11 and hold their noses.

12 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Where is the
13 smell coming from?

14 STUDENT A: The roof. Construction for
15 that year.

16 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They remodeled the
18 school for Urban Prep.

19 STUDENT A: The students shouldn't have
20 to relearn their teachers and habits that they
21 learned to love. The students shouldn't be
22 subjected to having all new teachers thrown in
23 their faces.

24 Not all teaches are the natural

1 teachers like at Williams Middle. Not all
2 teachers follow the same procedures.

3 Teachers don't handle situations
4 the same, just as all students don't handle the
5 situations in the same manner.

6 Our students that are in the
7 diverse population will feel more -- will feel
8 the change more than students in the general
9 education population, because many will become
10 frightened and will begin the next school as
11 new babies coming into an unknown world for the
12 first time. But what will that do for their
13 academic progress?

14 Williams should be consolidated
15 because it is a community school. And we have
16 programs operate that keep students proactive
17 and off the streets.

18 Students should have access to
19 both male and female mentors. Over half the
20 students participate in some kind of
21 after-school during the week.

22 Teachers remain after school
23 until 6:00 o'clock in the evening to help
24 students.

1 In the community school, hmm, put
2 a big check next to another reason why Williams
3 should be consolidated and not closed.

4 I have given you several reasons why
5 Williams should be consolidated, not closed.

6 The teachers have a very strong
7 bond with their students. The diverse
8 population of students housed at Williams
9 should not be subjected to unknown people and
10 procedures without some knowledge of their
11 habits.

12 The students have access to
13 after-school programs because Williams is a
14 community school that keeps students proactive
15 in school and off the streets.

16 Finally, our NWEA scores from
17 fall to winter demonstrate and stood against
18 some of the highest ranks in our network, plus
19 students in grade levels. We're on the road to
20 college and careers. Please don't stop us now.
21 Please don't close the doors to Williams Prep.
22 Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Thank you.

24 Rebecca Martinez.

1 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello, I am with the
2 Chicago Teachers Union. And I am here in
3 opposition to all school closings. And
4 definitely with opposition to the closing of
5 Williams School. For the Board and for many
6 other people here working for the Board, for
7 the unelected school board, it is a decision
8 based on numbers, right? It is a decision
9 based on false and inflated numbers at that.
10 Budget crises, you know, faulty
11 underutilization formula that creates -- or
12 that sees 30 to 36 students as efficient.

13 Where, you know, that's in our
14 public systems --

15 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Where would those
16 30 to 36 students be?

17 MS. MARTINEZ: That's a large classroom
18 size. Is what I am getting at.

19 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: I understand
20 that. But are you saying that that's in every
21 classroom?

22 MS. MARTINEZ: Their formula is based on
23 students not exceeding 36 in a classroom as
24 being --

1 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Actually, that's
2 not true.

3 MS. MARTINEZ: Between 24, 26 and 36.

4 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: That's not true.

5 MS. MARTINEZ: How is it based?

6 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: They take the
7 number of classrooms, and you can correct me if
8 I'm wrong --

9 MS. MARTINEZ: It's based on 30. They are
10 saying it's underutilized if it's under a
11 certain number.

12 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: That's not
13 correct.

14 MS. MARTINEZ: Clarify for me.

15 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: They take the
16 number of classrooms in a given building, and
17 the building means a physical building. It
18 does not include any classrooms that are mobile
19 or outside. The actual physical building.
20 They multiply that number by 76.9 percent.
21 That gives you a product. And you multiply
22 that number by 30. That is the ideal
23 population for a school. The school operates
24 efficiently if it has students that are greater

1 than 80 percent of that number or less than 120
2 percent of that number. Am I correct?

3 MS. RICHARDSON: You are correct.

4 MS. MARTINEZ: The numbers that they use
5 when they make these presentations is that they
6 take the number of classrooms times 30. That's
7 what they've been doing. That's what I've
8 read. And that's what I've seen. And they
9 take that number and they multiply it by 20
10 percent up and down and that is -- what gives
11 you the ideal size. Right? And it -- those
12 two specific amounts and they say within that
13 range that's a certain percentage --

14 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: That's not --

15 MS. MARTINEZ: Even if it's not correct.
16 Even if what I am saying is incorrect. If
17 there is are classrooms -- some of these
18 classrooms they have not checked out that are
19 special ed classrooms that don't have the space
20 for 30 students. Even if your formula is what
21 you're saying is correct --

22 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: It's not my
23 formula.

24 MS. MARTINEZ: Their formula. Let's

1 suppose it is. Let's suppose it's even a
2 decent formula. It's still penalizing schools
3 who have 20 to 24 students in the classroom.
4 Right?

5 Where in any place, any school,
6 where the mayor sends his kids, that number of
7 students in that classroom is looked at -- if
8 they have 24 students is looked as
9 overpopulated. Right? And they look at the
10 ideal class size as being somewhere between 18
11 and 22. Right?

12 So why is it that within -- I
13 mean the schools that CPS has and schools that
14 are mostly of color and under-resourced schools
15 and poor schools, poor communities, why are we
16 looking at small class size as something that's
17 wrong and should be closed down, is what I'm
18 getting at? Because that's what they're
19 saying, that there's not enough students in the
20 building so we need to close it down.

21 What they're doing is closing
22 these so-called underutilized buildings and
23 they're sending those students to another
24 building to then flood those classrooms with

1 anywhere between 30 plus students.

2 That's not a good quality
3 education. That's not a good quality
4 education. That's what I'm here to say a
5 statement. That's my statement. That's not a
6 quality education that CPS is trying to
7 provide. And if they're arguing that the
8 students who are going to be sent to
9 overcrowded classrooms is what guarantees a
10 quality education, then that's not true.

11 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: Well, I'm not
12 defending what they're doing, I'm only the
13 hearing officer. But I'm telling you that none
14 of the schools -- this is the third hearing
15 I've had, will have an average population of
16 greater than 27 students in a classroom.

17 MS. MARTINEZ: I Hope you're right. I
18 doubt it.

19 HEARING OFFICER McGANN: That's by the
20 math that I have.

21 MS. MARTINEZ: I've lived in the city way
22 too long and have seen administrations come and
23 go, and I've been part of this education system
24 and school system for most of my life. And

1 never have I seen CPS come through with any of
2 its promises, unless they come from a wealthy
3 or well-to-do white neighborhood in the city.
4 Okay. I'm telling you that by experience.
5 From what I've seen in CPS for the last four
6 years, there's been a new CEO almost every
7 single year. So how can we believe that this
8 new administration is going to doing anything
9 that is in the best interest of the students of
10 the City of Chicago? It's hard to believe.
11 That's my statement.

12 HEARING OFFICER MCGANN: Okay. We've come
13 to the end of the list of individuals who have
14 asked to make a public presentation, and
15 therefore we will recess this hearing at this
16 time.

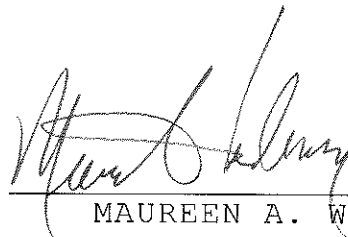
17 Thank you all for attending.
18 Good evening and have a good weekend.

19 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings
20 were adjourned at 7:00
21 p.m.)

22
23
24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)
4

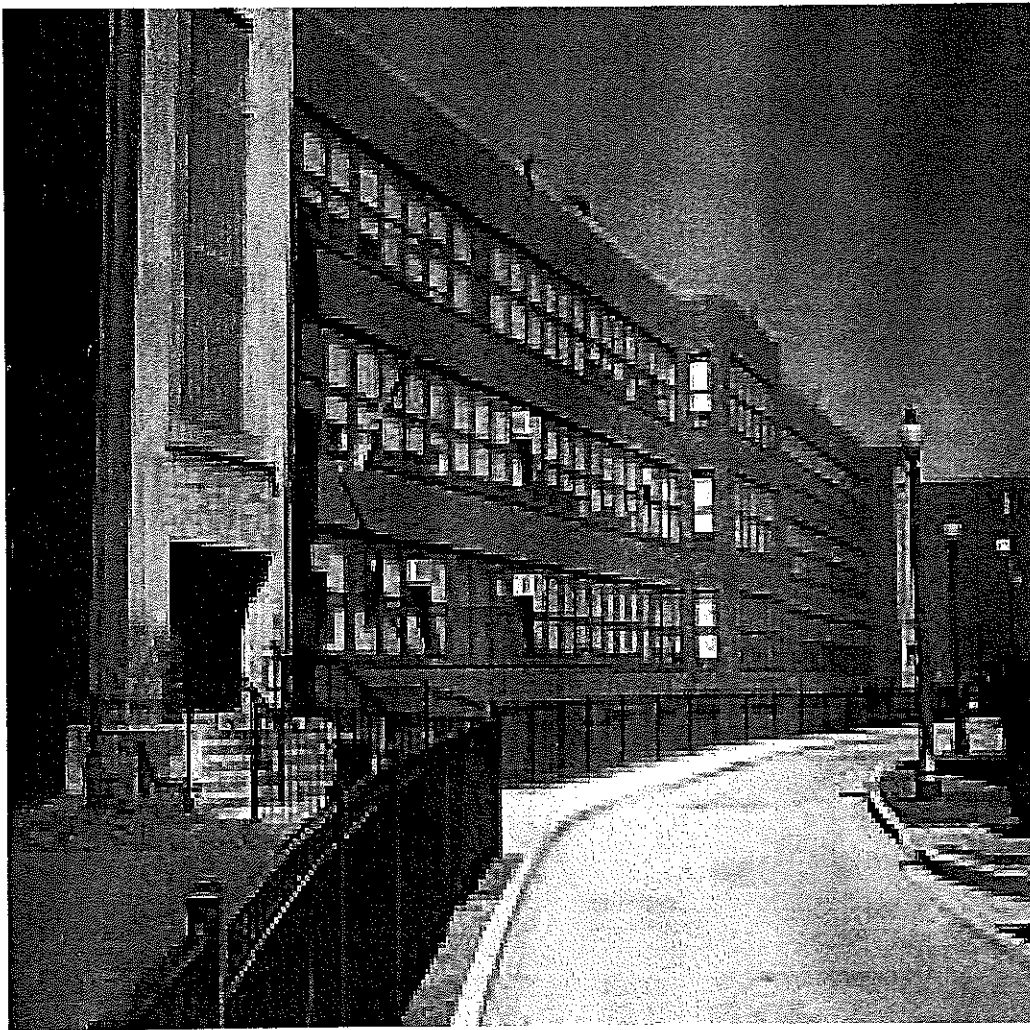
5 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., being first
6 duly sworn, says that she is a court reporter
7 doing business in the City of Chicago; that she
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings had at
9 the hearing of said cause; that the foregoing
10 is a true and correct transcript of her
11 shorthand notes, so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



Preserve Our History and Save Our School “Daniel Hale Williams School”



EX-1

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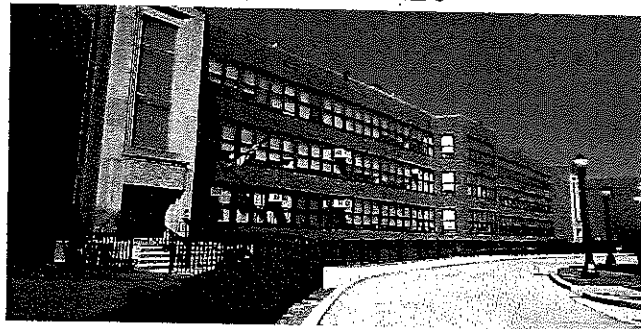
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6th thru 8th Grade

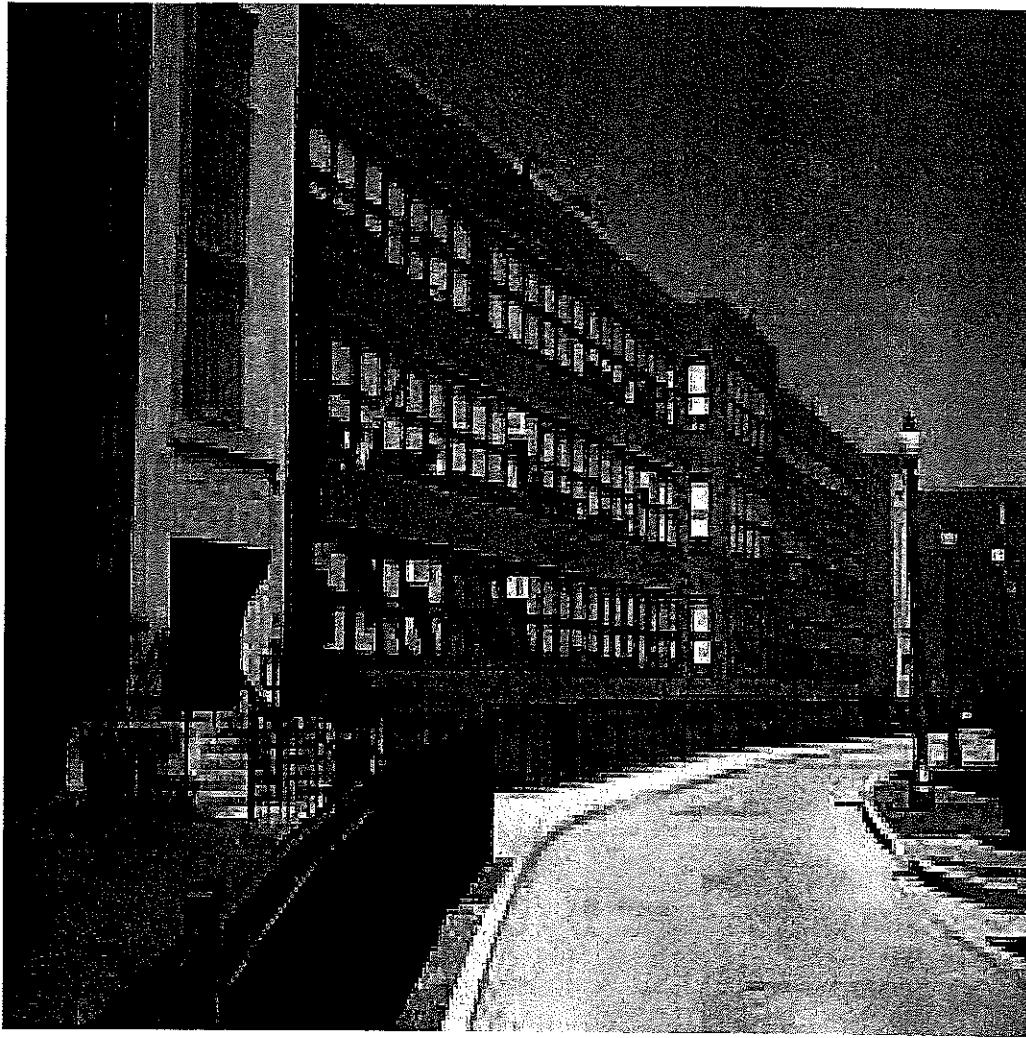
Theresa Rhea, Principal-Williams Preparatory Academy

Frances Oden – Senior Advisor

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Preserve Our History and Save Our School

“Daniel Hale Williams School”





Marshawn Miller

Rm 209

8th Grade

Williams Prep

I believe Williams should be consolidated and not closed because it actually has great value to many of its former, current, and soon to be students. I myself, being the third member of my family to attend and graduate from Williams it holds significant value to a lot of my family members and a lot more other people from many different places. I also believe that this school should be consolidated because it is the most important pillar in the Dearborn Homes community; this school keeps everything from falling in on each other. It also holds some historical value to this community and other communities too. The final reason why I say this school should be consolidated because of its teachers, every student in this building knows or at the least seen one of the teachers. If the school is closed and all the teachers fired then a whole new group of strangers will come in and any child that is staying would have to adjust to them being their teachers and not their original teacher either. There are many more reasons why this school should be consolidated but right now those are my most important ones, if you don't believe that this school is worth consolidating then keep listening I can be very persuasive when something I care about is on the line.

The reason why I believe that Williams should be consolidated is because there are many people that call this school their Alma matter and this school holds quite the historical value too many families around the Chicago area and to those families that might have left the state. It holds great historical value too many families including my own and some of my class mates families too. This school is the chosen school for many of the Dearborn homes residents and some of the other communities too, such as the Ikies, before they were torn down and some other communities too. This school is special to many of the people that have attended it and it to people that might have wanted to attend, this school is like my second home since I've been here since Pre-K. So to me this school holds all of my school memories and too be honest with you

those are some of the best memories I have. There are many people that hold the same sentimental value I hold towards this school, and there are many more reasons if I have not yet persuaded. This was just the tip of the iceberg for me.

I also say that my school Williams Multiplex should remain open because it is a major; no I mean the major pillar in my community. Being from the Dearborn Homes there were only two places that I felt safe being at, one was inside of my home where you were safe from all the violence that engulfed this community, the second was Williams. In Williams there was not a single person that would want to fight you because you came from the other side of the Dearborn's being 27th or 29th. It was the pillar that kept this community from falling in on each other, without Williams I shudder to think what this community might have evolved into over the course of history. The school also keeps things friendly between 27th and 29th by having little contests to see who is better, taking apart in those contests cause everyone to vent their anger towards each other and really mend the relationship between the two factions. Now I think that if Williams were to be closed and Drake to come then this community would continue to attack each other and put everyone in danger. This came from my perspective as a resident of the Dearborn homes but I still have one more reason to consolidate my school.

My last reason for saying that Williams should be consolidated because of the great teachers that we have here in this great school are some of the best that this city has to offer. Also almost every teacher is familiar with every student and vice versa, with Drake coming then everyone would have to get to know each other again. I also know that every student in this school knows almost every teacher and they are not that trusting to see new faces believe that honestly. The teachers here are some of the best that keep trying to challenge us to try to think hard and make us question everything we thought we knew and that's why I love them for that.

every reason. They are also like parents toward many of the students in the building and they give us great advice whenever we need it, with every problem and situation that arises.

Those are some of the reasons why I believe this school should be consolidated and not closed and taken over by Drake. This school holds many memories to a lot of students, former and current also to some future students too. This school is also the key pillar that keeps the whole community from falling in on each other, without Williams this community might have been condemned for demolition like so many of the other projects such as the Ikies and Cabrini Greens. The teachers are also the reason why this school should remain open, they have been praised by many organizations for their great teaching skill, and very few schools can say such praise for their teachers. In conclusion, I love this school and the people in this school like they were actual members of my family, and it would be a crime to close such a magnificent school with such amazing people. So please consolidate this school or at the least think about if not for me and my classmates, but for the people that might want to come to this school or for the people that have history here thank you.

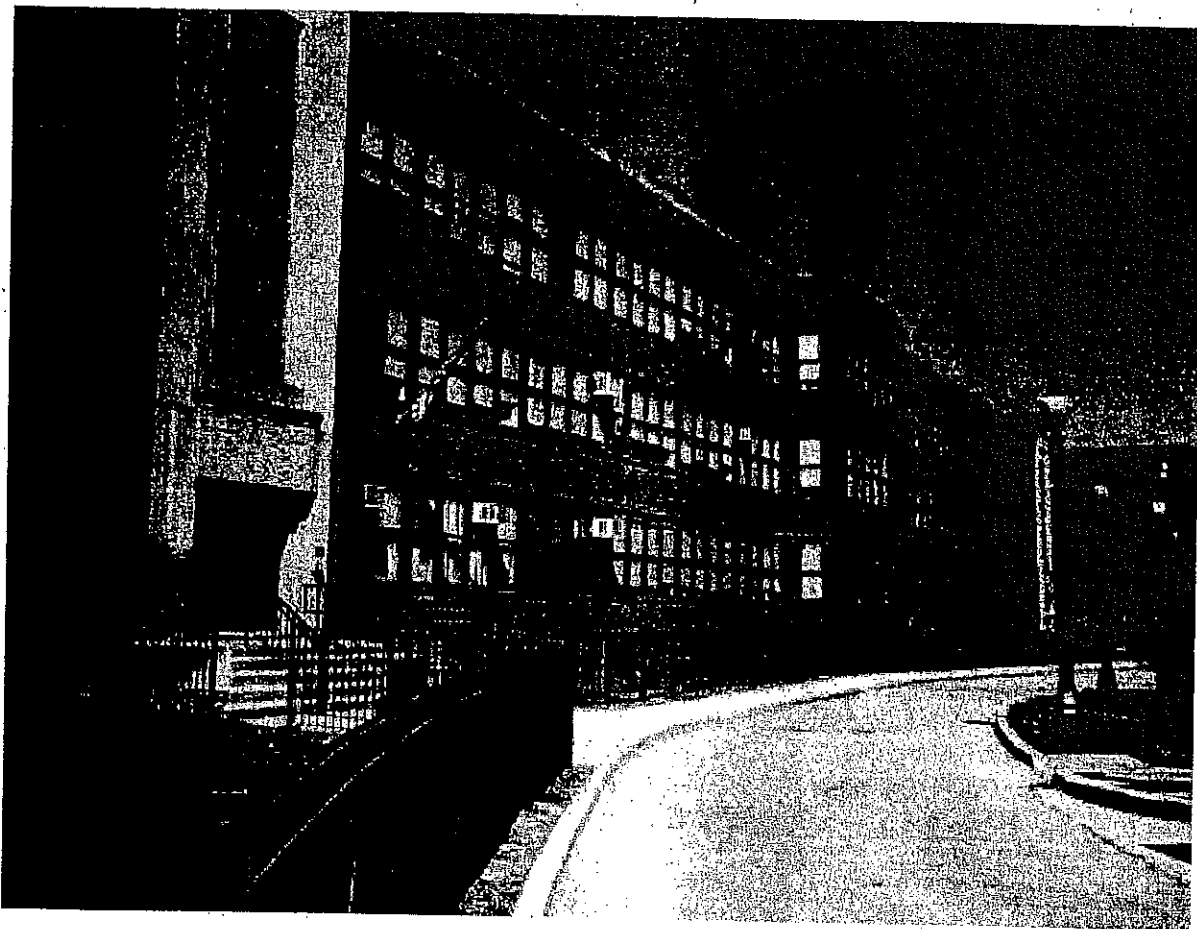
Robert Allen

Williams Prep

Room 209

8th Grade

Save Williams



There are several reasons why I think Williams should be consolidated instead of closed. The teachers have a strong bond with their students. The students shouldn't be forced to relearn their teachers and the habits that they have grown to love. Students have programs that keep them proactive and off the street. Our test scores have increased for the last 5 years. Our scores dropped slightly last year because we are forced to continue testing under roof repairs, tar cent, smoke, drilling and hammering. We are on the rise again.

Williams should be consolidated because the teachers who are very strong have a bond with their students. Teachers know what students they can trust and that they can have to do things for them such as gardening work outside of the school, messengers and peer tutors.

The students shouldn't have to relearn their teachers and the habits. The students shouldn't be subjected to having all new teachers thrown in their faces. Not all teachers are natural teachers like the teachers at Williams Middle School. Not all teachers follow the same procedures. Teachers don't handle situations the same just as all students don't handle situations in the same manner. Our students that are in the diverse population will feel the change more than students from the general education population. Many will become very frightened and will have to begin the school year as new babies coming into an unknown world for the first time. What will this do for their academic progress?

Williams should be consolidated because Williams is a community school and we have programs operating that keep students proactive and off the street. Students have access to both female and male mentoring. Over ½ of the students participate in some kind of after school program during the week. Teachers

remain and teach after school until 6:00 in the evening to help students. A community school, hmmm. Put a big check next to another reason that Williams should be consolidated and not closed.

I have given you several reasons why Williams should be consolidated and not closed. The teachers have a very strong bond with their students. The diverse population of students that are housed in Williams should not be subjected to unknown people and procedures, without some knowledge of their habits. The students have access to after school programs because Williams is a community school that keeps students proactive in the school and off of the street.

Finally our NWEA target growth scores from fall to winter demonstrated and stood against some of the highest gains in our network for students and grade levels. We are on the road to college and careers. Don't stop us now.

Please don't close the doors to Williams School.

Why Williams should Stay Open



Rahmeir Hampton

Rm.209

8TH grade

I think the school should be consolidated instead of closed for many reasons. This school is like a second home to many of the students that attend here. It'll be hard for many students to adjust to the new environment of whatever school they end up in. The school also holds a lot of precious memories to those that go here and have already graduated.

This school is like a second home to many of the student here. We consider all the staff and other students as a part of our family. The students have learned to trust and love many of the teachers here. They can talk to the teachers about with any problems that they have. The school is also open to about 9'o clock keeping students off the streets afterschool. The school also engages the students in many extra circular's like basketball, tai Kwan do, open book and African dance. This school is a safe haven in the community.

Another thing is that many students have spent most of their elementary school grades here at Williams. So it'll probably be hard for them to adjust to an entirely new environment at a different school. They might end up at a school with a variety of different races which we don't have here. Some students have special need that the teachers here handle well. It took many of the students here a long time to make friends so it'll become harder when they go to a new school. Closing down the school and sending the kids somewhere else would not only cause great states of discomfort but it could cause many problems.

Lastly Williams prep and elementary holds precious memories to those who go here. There are students who have been here since Pre-k and are graduating this year. And it ails us know that next year we won't be able to come back here and visit. Almost all the teachers and staff have been here for a long time and know all of the students like their own children, and know they'll be out of jobs. Some students also have parents and also grandparents that went to Williams. And by closing the school down all those memories would be killed.

These are my reasons why they should consolidate Williams. This school is a safe haven and a second home to all students. It would be hard on the students to adjust to the environment of a new school. And also the school is full of memories to a lot of people. I hope you these reasons into consideration and decided not to close Williams.

Close or consolidate

Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**

THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Teachers Unions and Social Justice

Lois Weiner

kindle edition

Pearl McGee

Room209

I think that Williams should be consolidated and not closed because some of the kids live in that Dearborn and many of the parents don't think that their kids should walk 5 to 10 blocks just to go to a school. Some think the teachers are most successful than the ones at Williams. Williams's school is half filled. Many, many kids need a better score on their test. The bad thing about the consolidated is that they're renaming Williams into Drake.

Many Kids needs better grades and a higher score on the ISAT. The other bad thing about the consolidated is that all of the teachers from Williams will lose their jobs because of this. It's easier for the kids at Williams that the school is getting consolidated because they won't have to walk a long way to another school when they can just go across the street.

Another reason why the school should be consolidated is that a lot of kids scores are really low. The teachers at Drake are going to help the kids that are very low their scores. Get a higher grade and score.

Another reason is that there are a little bit of kids in this school and the school has an high school and two other different schools. I think it's crazy that they have to move another school into this one instead of closing it completely. I don't understand why they have to rename the school drake instead of keeping it Williams.

I really don't understand why the teachers at Williams have to lose their one and only job when they tried their best to get a better score and helping the kids on their test. It's also a good thing that the school is getting consolidated because if Williams was have to be closed the kids will have to walk into gang territory every day and that's not right for the kids neither the parents.

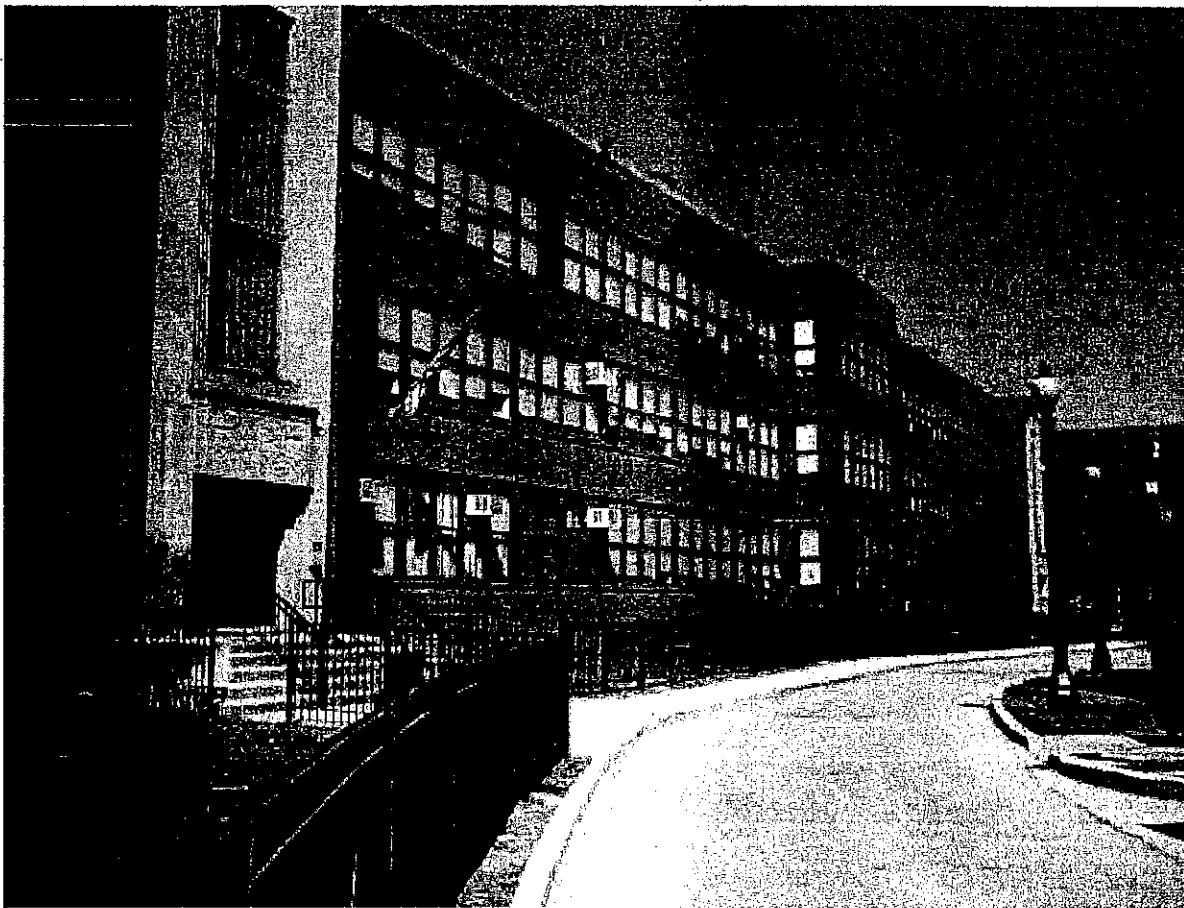
Robert Allen

Williams Prep

Room 209

8th Grade

Save Williams



There are several reasons why I think Williams should be consolidated instead of closed. The teachers have a bond very strong with their students. The students shouldn't be forced to relearn there teachers and the habits that they have. Students have programs that keep them proactive and off the street

Williams should be consolidated because the teachers very strong have a bond with their students. Teachers know what students that they can trust and that they can have do things for them such as gardening work or taking something to their next teacher. Some teachers have that one student that is there right hand and they can look to them to do anything. That is why Williams shouldn't be close.

The students shouldn't have to relearn there teachers and the habits that they have. The students should not be subjected to having all new teachers thrown in their faces at the beginning without having some knowledge about how they handle things. Not all teachers have the same procedure as the one that they and before, Teachers don't

handle situations the same and some of the mentally challenged students won't do the same thing as the one that they had before when they become frightened. That is why I think that Williams should be consolidated.

Williams should be consolidated because They have programs that keep students proactive and off the street. Students have access to both female and male mentoring. Over $\frac{1}{2}$ the students participate in some kind of after school during the week. Teachers teach afterschool during the week so they are here till 6:00 in the evening to help students. That is why Williams should be consolidated.

There are several reasons why Williams should be consolidated instead of closed. The teachers have an very strong bond with their students. The students shouldn't be subjected to having a new teacher without knowing their habits. The students have access to after school that keeps them proactive in school and off the street.

Let Williams Stay Open



Billy Harper

Williams Prep

Room 209

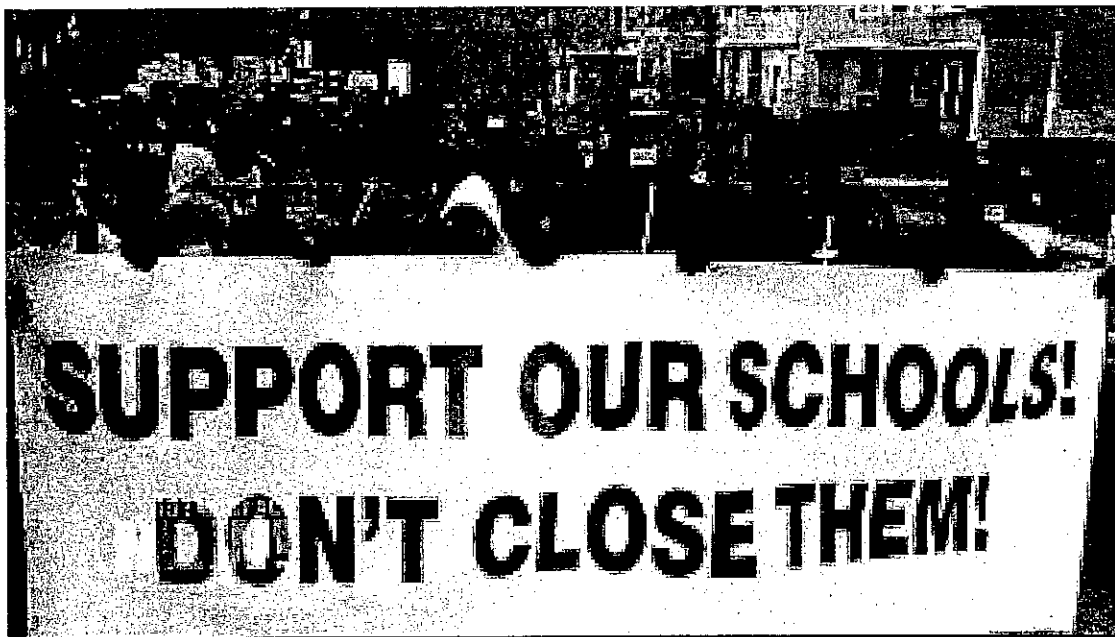
I think Williams should be consolidated instead of closing because it's a place to get an excellent education, also it is named after an amazing African American, and it's very beneficial to the community. If Williams is closed instead of consolidated it will be a big bomb hitting the community and staff members that work at the school. This school has been around for a long time and it will be wrong to close it now or anytime. A lot of people in the community count on this school for their kids so they can be educated and become something in life. Closing Williams will be a very baffling thing to do and will disheartened multiple people.

I said Williams is a good school to get an education from because I know a lot of people that went here and are very successful in life. Some people in my family went to Williams and tell me all of the time how great Williams was to them, also taught them important things. I 'am in eight grade graduating this year and from personal experience the things that they taught us will help us all the way through our life. The teachers do their best for the students to successes and are able to do whatever they want to in a positive profession. Plus it will be wrong to get rid of this school and put one that is not better in this building.

This school is very important because of its name Daniel Hale Williams. This school is named after the first African American to do open heart surgery and he was successful at it. The kids in this school look up to the name because they want to be the next efficacious black person and be known for it. Williams is named after a great human being who helped save lives. To change the name of this school will be devastating and wrong to community also everything else.

The last thing is the school is very beneficial to the community all the time no matter what. The school helps out with the community by having programs to keep the youth from out the street and staying alive also to be positive. If a kid in the community is poor the staff will give the kid some clothes or shoes to help them out and kids always appreciate this help from the staff. The school also has something called female and male mentoring it teaches the boys also girls to do the right in a tuff situation no matter what. Now why would you take all of that away from the kids and fire the staff that's been doing their job tremendous.

I think Williams should be consolidated instead of closing because it's a place to get an excellent education, also it is named after an amazing African American, and it's very beneficial to the community. If Williams is closed instead of consolidated it will be a big bomb hitting the community and staff members that work at the school. This school has been around for a long time and it will be wrong to close it now or anytime. A lot of people in the community count on this school for their kids so they can be educated and become something in life. Closing Williams will be a very baffling thing to do and will disheartened multiple people so please let Williams stay open for the kids and the community.



By: Shavonte Randle

Room 209

Please don't close my school

Williams Prep should be consolidated instead of close because this school is like a second home to me there's people here who really care and that take the time out there day to help you I feel that this school should not be close because we had some fun times here and on top of that I have made a lot of friends and bonded with a lot of the teacher that's here this school remind me of all the up's and down's and how far that I have come.

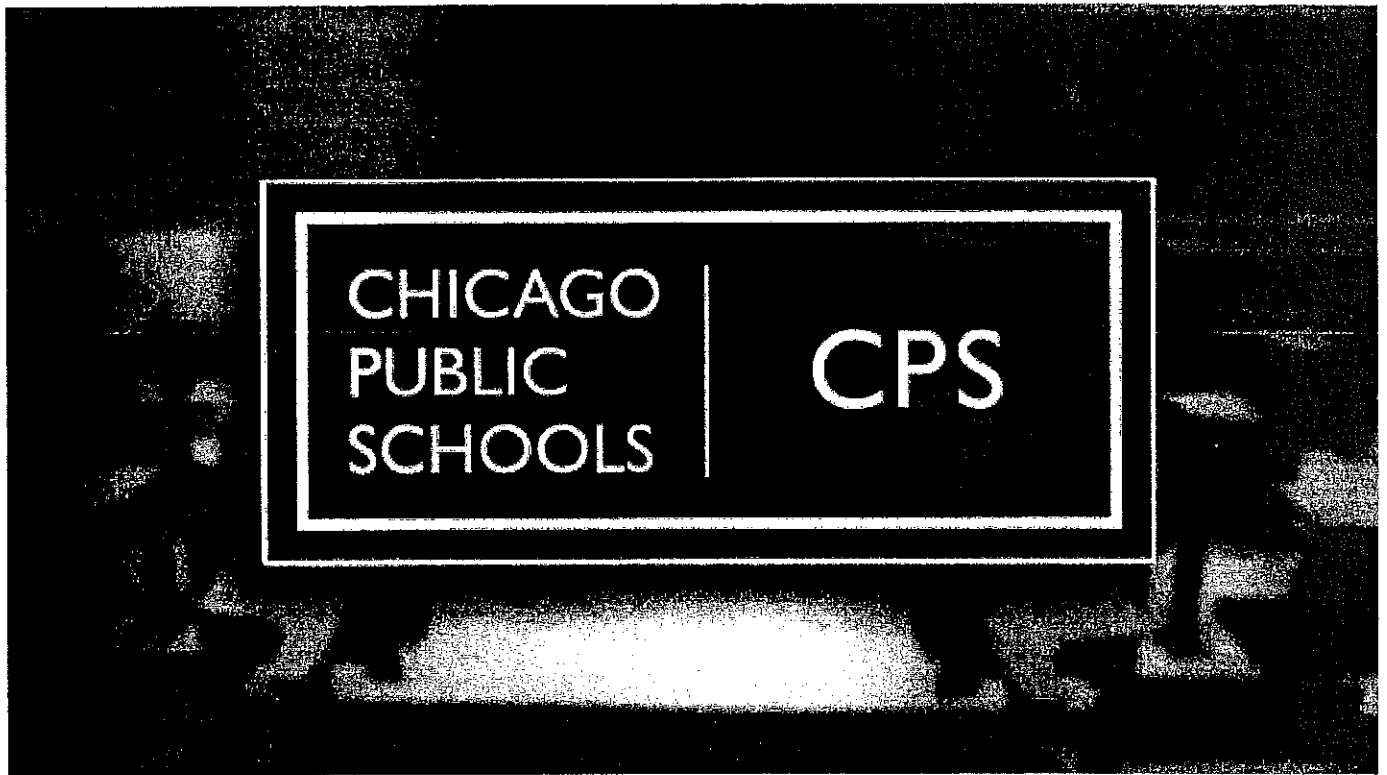
Williams Prep should be consolidated instead of close because people live right across the street and they parent probably don't have enough money to send them to another school every day this school should be consolidated instead of close because this school have taught me a lot and I learned to control my anger and to open up to people.

I think it should remain open because there are a lot of great kids in here and the teachers really do a good job at teaching and they always treat you with respect and try and get to know you better instead of just giving you the work and calling it a day and because I would to come back and visit some day and see some of my old teachers and tell them what is going on in life and with me.

In conclusion I just want you guys to think about the kids and the teachers and how they are going to be living and how this will affect them I want this school to stay open because this school is like a second home to me there's people here who really care and that take the time out there day to help you and because this school help me control my anger and to open up to

people and someday I would like to come back and visit some of my old teachers and tell them what is going on in life and with me.

Williams Should be consolidated instead of Closed



Cc Lawhon

Williams prep

Room 209

Cc lawhon

4-23-13

Williams Prep

Room 209

Williams should be consolidated instead of closed

I think that Williams should be consolidated because, it would be unfair to closed the school and make a lot of kids have to walk 8-12 blocks or longer to get to and from school each day, if they have to go to another school. I also think that the school should be consolidated because I do not think that the teachers deserve to lose that their jobs because of the school closing. Lastly I just don't think it would be a smart choice to close the school because of all the bad out comes it will have.

I think it would be unfair to the students that would have to walk 8-12 blocks to school, because if they walk a long distance like that already, it would be almost impossible for them to get to and from the nearest school if Williams closes. Also it would be even worse if students would have to walk a long distance like that to get home at night with all of the crime going on in the streets. If I was not going to high school next year it would affect me to because I have to take the bus then walk 5 blocks to get to and from school each day school each day, and if I was going to be here next year I would have to travel even farther each day.

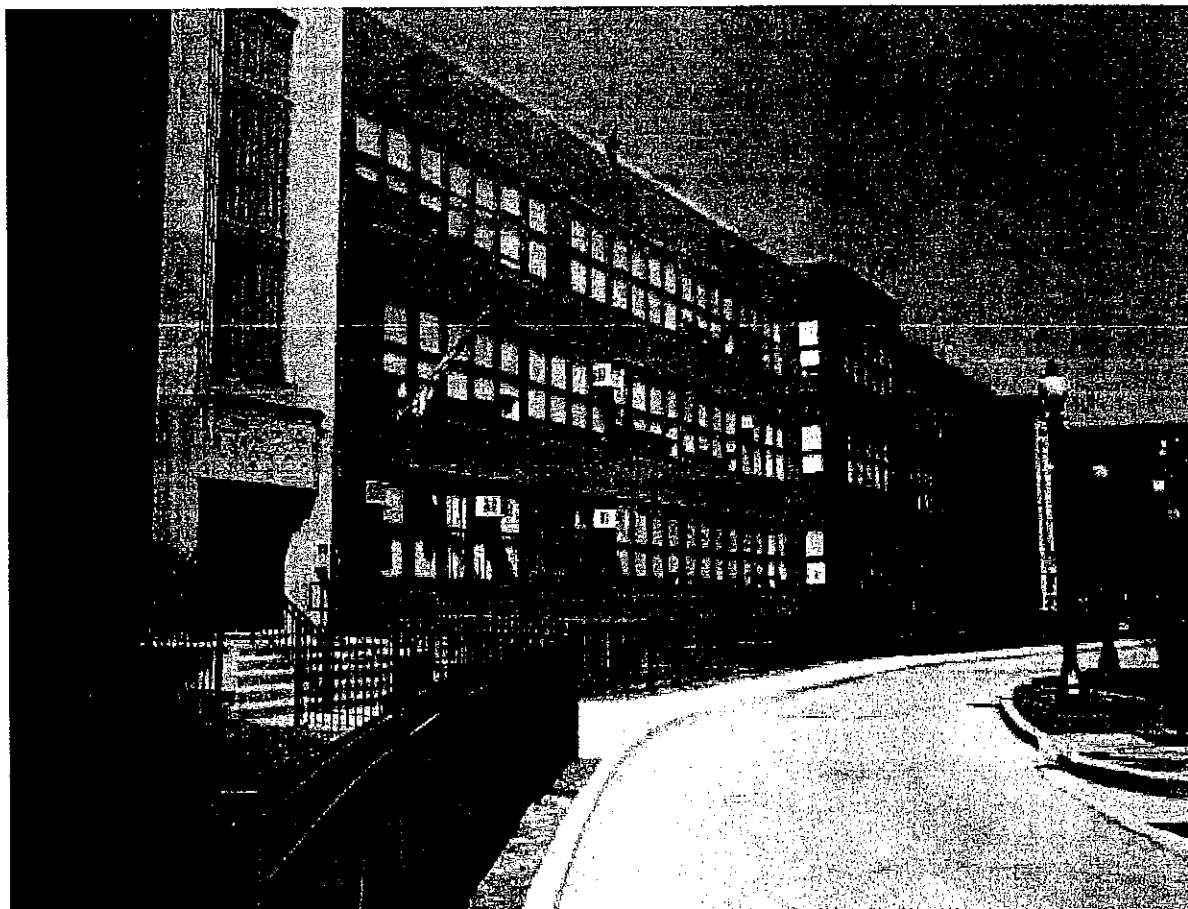
I don't think that the teacher deserve to lose their jobs if the school closes because of all the things they have done for us. The teachers at Williams have done an impeccable job. They always pus us to do better, to succeed in everything we do in every subject. They make us want to stride for success no matter what. That is why I don't think that deserve to lose their job if the school closes because they have dine an amazing job.

I don't think that it would be a smart idea to close the school because of all the faults it will have from the teachers losing their jobs, to students forced to walk blocks and locks to school. I feel that Williams should not be closed I think that nothing should change; I feel that everything is fine the way that it is. The conduct t of the students is good, the test scores are ok, and every class room is being fully used everyone has a part to play in the Williams family. Of all of the many years that this building has been called Williams it should not change now.

In conclusion I think that Williams should be consolidated because it would be unfair to the students if they have to walk very, very long distances like 8-12 blocks or more to get to and from the nearest school if Williams closes. The school should also be consolidated because the teachers really don't deserve to lose their jobs even though they did their job perfectly each day. Lastly I feel that if the CPS board decides to close Williams

instead of consolidating the school, it would not be a smart choice, it would have many faults towards both the students and teachers alike.

Keep Williams Open



Mariah Hall

8th Grade

Rm. 209

Mariah Hall
Williams Prep

April 23, 2013
Rm. 209

Keep Williams Open

Williams should be open for many reasons. Williams was like a second home for me, Williams's staff has been a big help of my education, and Williams test scores were higher than drakes for 5 whole years. Williams was the first school named after the first Black American to do heart surgery, and I don't feel it needs to be closed.

Attending Williams for 12 years was a second home to me. Most of the teachers in Williams were either good helpers or mentors to me. Everyday walking in Williams there's always a wonderful greeting to prep me up for an excellent day. This why I consider Williams as my second home. Not only have they taught me right from wrong, but also wrong from right, but they helped me realize a better life for myself in the future. Without having Williams as my main educational priorities but u had it as a home.

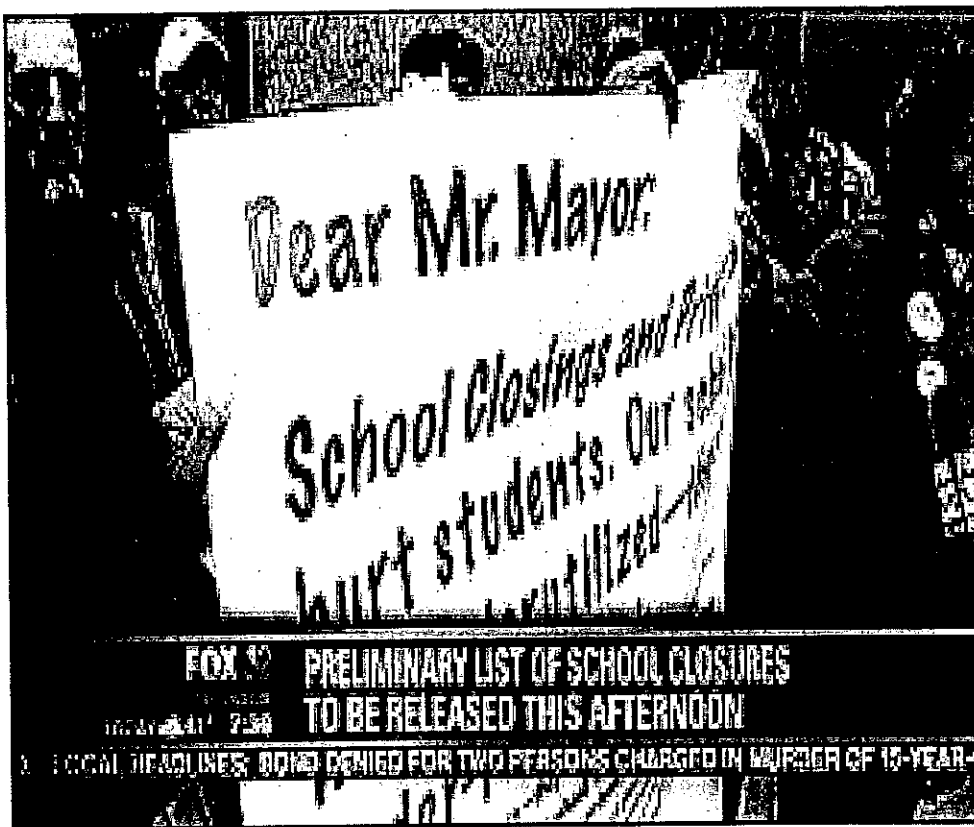
Williams have the best staff I can ever appreciate. Attending Williams the staff was a big help. They was basically the only ones I had to know what I needed to know as I get older, and move to high school, and college. Now knowing that my school is about to close, and this is my last year how am I supposed to come back and tell them all the good things I have accomplished in life. When I was in Williams Elementary I was having hard times realizing certain strategies, but the teacher still pushed me to learn them, and keep trying my best. As I moved on to the middle school, I am now an A, and B student at Williams, and the strategies I

had hard times realizing I know now because the teachers helped me. William staff is great, and most teachers can't do things like they can.

Williams test scores is much better than drakes. For 5 years our scores have been higher than there is. The first year which was last year was the only time our scores didn't beat there's, but it's a reason to everything. Ours haven't achieved because while we were testing they were doing construction. How are we supposed to know and think when there's hot tare outside, and the smell, and we can't think. Let's remind you all it was the spring time going into summer.

So once again why is Williams getting closed when there's no reason for it to. Its better if you consolidate both of the schools. Like Williams was a second home, the staff was a big help of my education, and Williams test scored were higher than drakes for 5 years. I'm still questioning why is Williams being closed, and not consolidated?

Why Do You Think Williams Should Be Consolidated And Not Closed?



Lakia Belmont

Williams Prep

Rm.211

I think that Williams should be consolidated and not closed because the students that were already in the school shouldn't have to go sign up for another school and the teachers that were already here shouldn't have to find the a different job because that's would mess up the way the students learned from their old teacher they would have to learn something way different and new that will mess up the way the students use to learn about the things from their old teachers that's why I Williams shouldn't be closed it should be consolidated and become whole school.

Williams should be consolidated because all the students and teachers would have to deal with different people that they don't know and some of the kids have be a problem and would need extra help doing class when the other students might need the teacher to help them that's why closing Williams wouldn't be a good thing because its going to mess up the way that the students use to think and write they will have to put their mind set on something different, then what they have already learned from their old teacher.

Williams shouldn't be closed because it's a good school the students and teachers get alone and have no problems with each other and if there ever was a problem it would be a big deal because the teachers would be able to handle it. And the students know better than to just mess up if the needed help the teacher would stay after school just so that they would make sure that the students understand the work and how it should be don't that's why I think Williams shouldn't be closed.

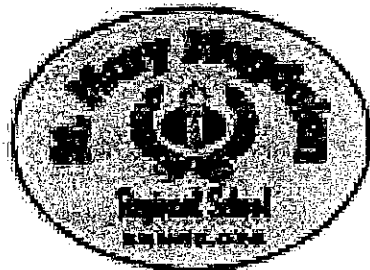
Williams should be consolidated because closing the school would make the other entire student have to go sign up for a whole new school and the teachers would have to go look for a different job. Bring another school into this school would upset a lot people because the students

that were already in the school would have to get used to the new teachers and the way that teach
that's why Williams should be consolidate and not closed.

I think that Williams shouldn't be closed it should be consolidate because the way that
other teachers teach the students in Williams would have to forget about what they old teacher
touch them and start all over and learn something new from the new teachers that comes to the
school that's will mess up most of the students minds set because things will be different and
some of the student will need more help than others that's why I think Williams should be
consolidated because that would make thing a little better.

Please Don't Close My School

S.O.S.



SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Jamal McKinney

Williams Academy

Room 209

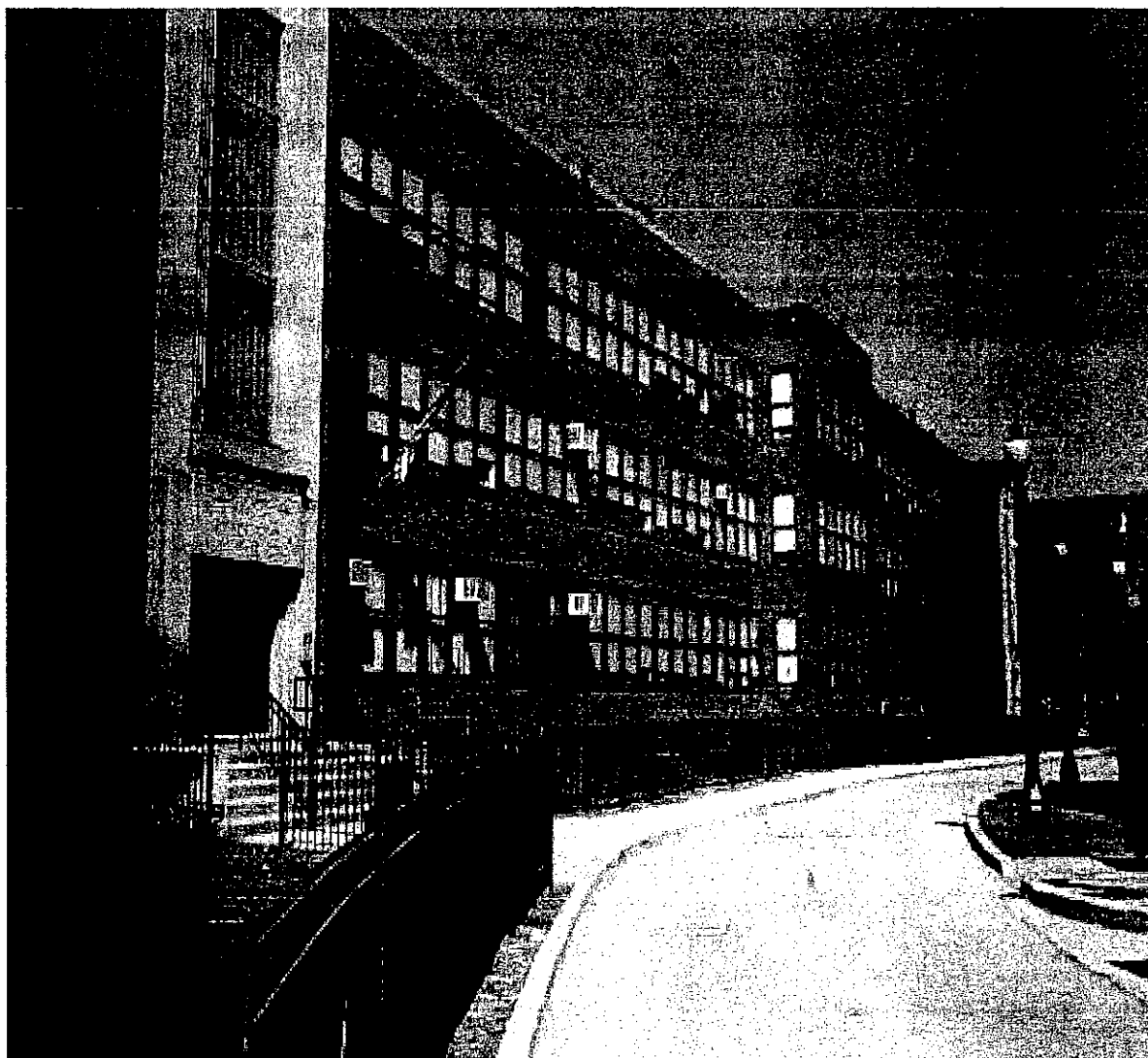
Save Our School

There are multiple reasons, why I believe my school Daniel Hale Williams would be better, if it was consolidated and not closed. I say we should be consolidated because our school can use the help on test scores (not saying we're behind). I also think we should be consolidated because every school has minor problems, and as a good school we also have some minor issues we can fix by joining the little kids. Older kids tend to act more mature and respectful around younger kids because they probably have younger brothers and sisters at home, and they wouldn't want anyone to act disrespectful around them.

Our school really has some issues that need to be fixed but everyone who visits us can deal with the problems. We are very trifling, irresponsible, and disrespectful at certain times. We are trifling because when students buy food items from the stores and eat them outside on the court, or in the gym. Once, they are done eating, they just toss the empty pop can or chip bag on the gym floor, then when they get caught, they want to get belligerent and say that they didn't never have any chips. I know because I've have done my self before plenty of times.

Our schools' students are very irresponsible because they always have a reason they didn't do their homework, or they have an excuse for why they left their homework in their locker. We always say that we have it but when our teachers' we can go get our homework, then we go to our locker but we always come back to class empty-handed. Our school may have some irresponsible students but our school does have a lot of smart kids, who deserve to go here and that do their homework daily.

Consolidated Williams



Lamya Rouls

Room 209

Garde 8th

Williams should be consolidated because teachers became a family from elementary to Prep, seem to have built a family. Student's education has taking on higher level then what they have been on. Teacher as also taught us. Teacher here at Williams work hard and has been every good with the job they have. Consolidated Williams would be the best thing for Williams.

Being at Williams for 9 years would really hurt to see Williams close. I think bring Williams elementary and prep wopuld be best for students and teacher. That way student would already know the teacher and teacher would know what this student is having problems with. I have been hear kindergarten I almost had every teacher. Seeing and knowing that Williams is about to close it just like spreading a family. Both principles have work hard trying to keep Williams. Consolidated Williams would be best because we know everybody.

All grades level has been taking to a higher level. If Williams be consolidated it would be good students because they would know how teacher would expect from them and be able to talk to the teacher. Also knowing what the students need help with. Being in 8th grade with teacher that prepares me for 9th is the best because I can already see it coming. But I would not be able to look back tell other teacher what school taught me this great things. Williams being consolidated would help the community out to because they already know most of the staff.

Elementary and prep has had problem but being a team we had work hard to do our best. Williams had improves and many things seeing them improve help me realize they want it best for the student. Teacher's care more for the students if when they have they bad day but we all help each other students have teacher they can talk to. Consolidated Williams would help this stay a team because kids would teacher they knew when they was elementary. Williams multiplex has all prepare us for the real world. Telling us what are right from wrong telling us what to do and what not to do.

In conclusion, Williams should be consolidated our teacher here know what's best for us here. Williams became a family knew students or not everybody welcome second out education was taking into higher level. Third not only have they helped us without education they also helped with outside world Williams should be consolidated.



Davarius brooks

Williams prep

Room:211

I think Williams prep should be consolidated and not closed. The teacher at Williams is good teachers. We learn some new by the week. And I like being and learning at Williams. I came to Williams when I was in fourth grade in till eight grade. I hope the school stays open for many more children to come. Because Williams help me became successful.

Williams school have good teaches they teach you what you need to know. The teacher at my school help you with a lot of things that you need help with. Like if you get stuck on your work you could come back after school and ask for help. The teacher at my school is nice teachers to learn with. *That why I like Williams so much and don't want it school to close.*

Teacher teaches us a lot of what we need to know. The teachers in this school help us be successful in life. They gives us challenges to see where we are at and if we not where we at they would help us pass that challenge. I think from my point of view Williams should be consolidated instead of closing. I love being at williams.

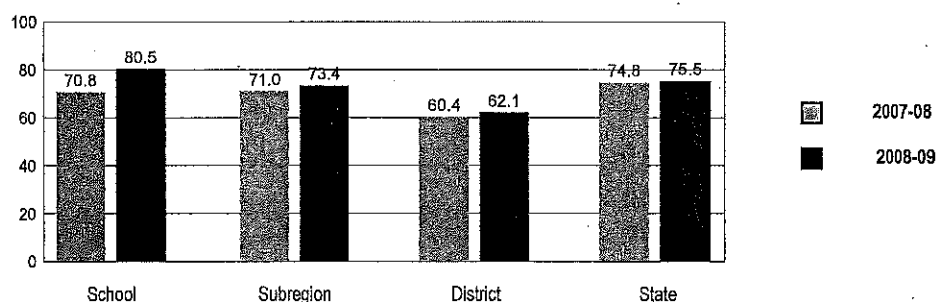
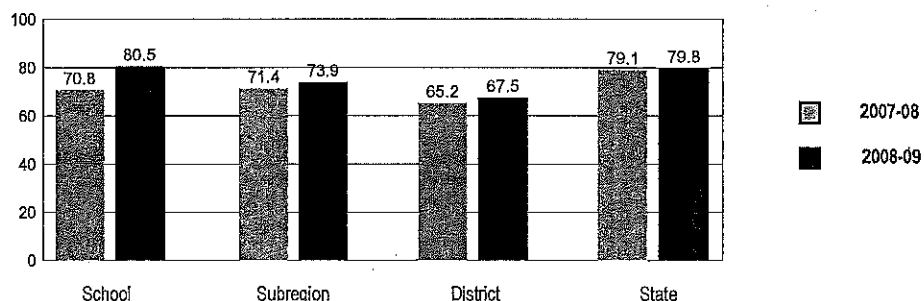
I like being at Williams iam the six person out my family to goto williams my mom, aunte, and uncles went to williams when they was growing up. Williams taught me a lot through out the years. I hope williams stay open so noe day my kids will goto this school. Closing williams is the wrong thing to do because many kids love williams school.

From my point of view williams should be consoldated. Williams has good teachers at this school. I learn new things at williams that would help me in life. Williams shouldn't be close because many kids love williams. That why it should be consolidated.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**OVERALL STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

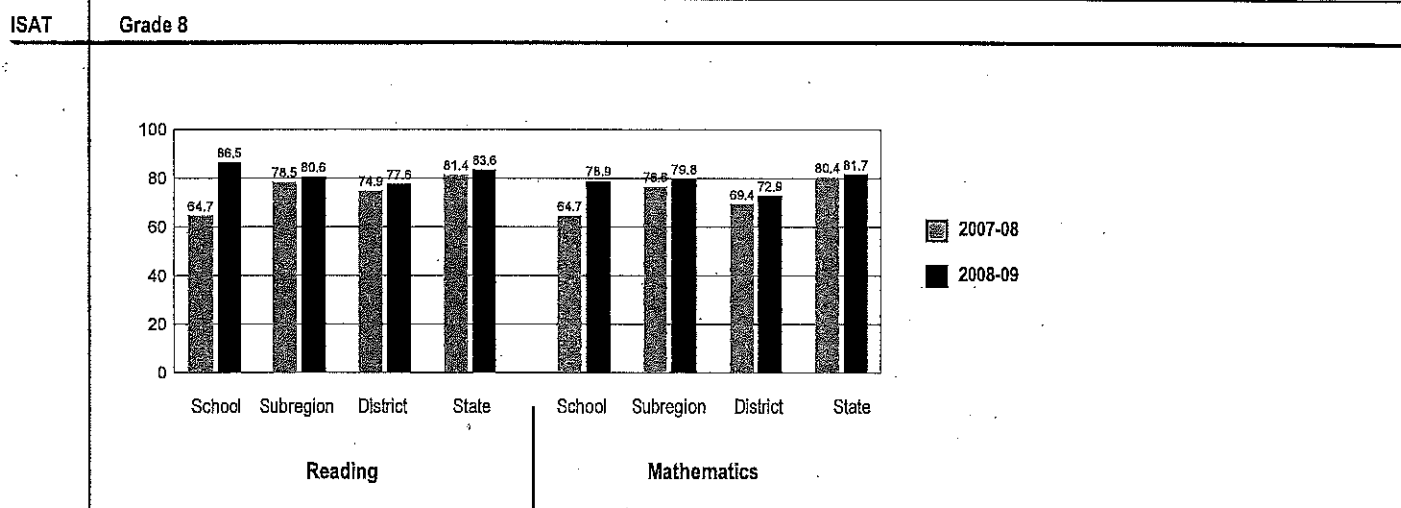
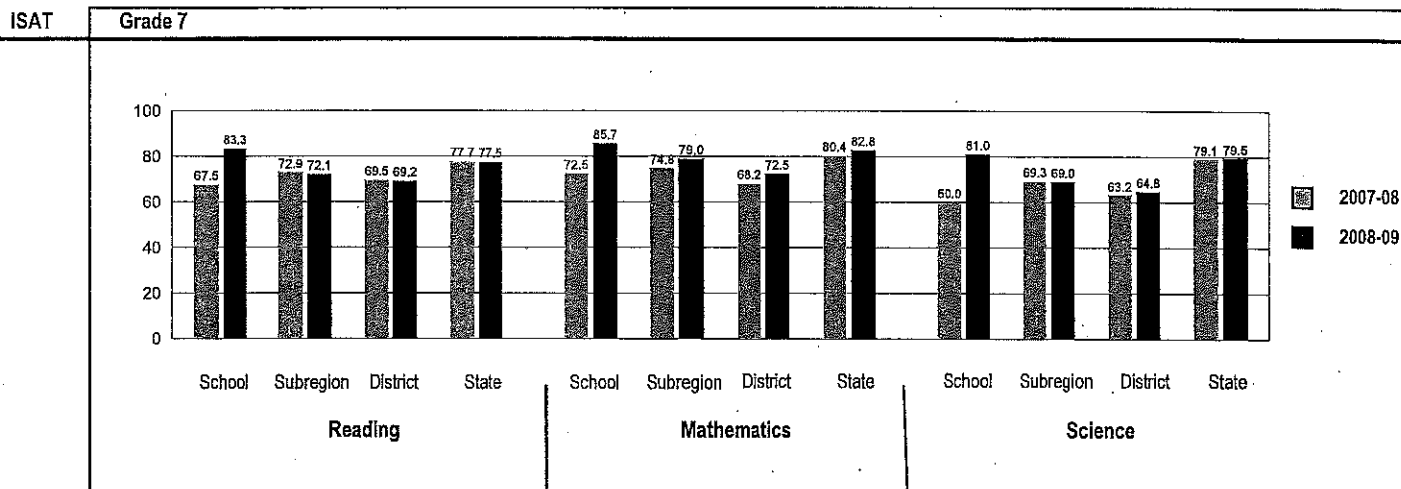
These charts present the overall percentages of state test scores categorized as meeting or exceeding the Illinois Learning Standards for your school, district, and state. They represent your school's performance in reading, mathematics, and science.

The 2007-08 school year was the first time that Limited English Proficient (LEP) students took the ISAT or PSAE (with accommodations) instead of the IMAGE test. Therefore, any comparisons with prior year's achievement levels for LEP students should be made with appropriate caution.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE - ALL STATE TESTS**OVERALL ILLINOIS STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TEST (ISAT) PERFORMANCE**

ISAT PERFORMANCE

These charts provide information on attainment of the Illinois Learning Standards. They show the percents of student scores meeting or exceeding Standards for the grades and subjects tested on ISAT.

**PERFORMANCE ON STATE ASSESSMENTS**

Federal law requires that student achievement results for reading, mathematics, and science for schools providing Title I services be reported to the general public.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is administered to students in grades 3 through 8. The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) is administered to students in grade 11. The Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) is administered to students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) indicate that participation in the ISAT or PSAE would not be appropriate.

Students with disabilities have an IEP (No Child Left Behind Act). An IEP is a written plan for a child with a disability who is eligible to receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Reading and Mathematics are tested in grades 3 through 8, and 11. Science is tested in grades 4, 7, and 11.

In order to protect students' identities, test data for groups of fewer than ten students are not reported.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS NOT TESTED IN STATE TESTING PROGRAMS FOR READING AND MATHEMATICS

		Gender			Racial/Ethnic Background						LEP	Migrant	Students with Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged
		All	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Multi racial /Ethnic				
School	*Enrollment	114	58	56	0	113	0	0	0	1	0	0	26	101
	Reading	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0							0.0	0.0
	Mathematics	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0							0.0	0.0
Subregion	*Enrollment	7,907	3,986	3,921	585	2,012	3,420	1,505	19	366	1,390	0	1,051	6,766
	Reading	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1		0.0	0.1
	Mathematics	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1		0.0	0.1
District	*Enrollment	204,201	102,942	101,259	16,296	93,506	80,801	6,568	228	6,802	24,523	0	28,756	177,599
	Reading	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3		1.2	0.6
	Mathematics	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3		1.2	0.6
State	*Enrollment	1,073,392	548,452	524,651	574,717	203,366	215,934	43,962	1,676	32,799	72,638	258	152,593	473,876
	Reading	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.4
	Mathematics	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.4

* Enrollment as reported during the testing windows for grades 3-8 and 11.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS NOT TESTED IN STATE TESTING PROGRAMS FOR SCIENCE ONLY

		Gender			Racial/Ethnic Background						LEP	Migrant	Students with Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged
		All	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Multi racial /Ethnic				
School	*Enrollment	42	21	21	0	41	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	36
	Science	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0								0.0
Subregion	*Enrollment	2,648	1,334	1,314	196	696	1,158	474	7	117	426	0	371	2,266
	Science	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
District	*Enrollment	81,983	40,809	41,174	6,714	37,907	31,724	2,793	100	2,745	7,957	0	11,771	70,365
	Science	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.7	1.9	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.7		2.4	1.2
State	*Enrollment	448,699	228,285	220,300	248,119	82,562	85,745	18,385	751	12,734	25,035	120	62,799	186,799
	Science	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.8

* Enrollment as reported during the testing windows for grades 4, 7, and 11.

ISBE School Report Card
Comparison of Overall Performance on State Test
5 years (2007 – 2012)

School	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	5 yr Avg.
Williams	70.8	80.5	70.0	76.0	67.3	72.9
Drake	59.7	65.2	66.0	66.9	69.9	65.5
Network	71.0	73.4	63.7	68.9	68.9	69.2
Highest Performing School	Williams +11.0	Williams +15.3	Williams +4	Williams +9.1	Drake +2.6	Williams +7.4 higher than Drake

The Data reveals:

Williams 5 year average performance is 72.9 (+7.4 higher than Drake)

Network 5 year average is 69.2

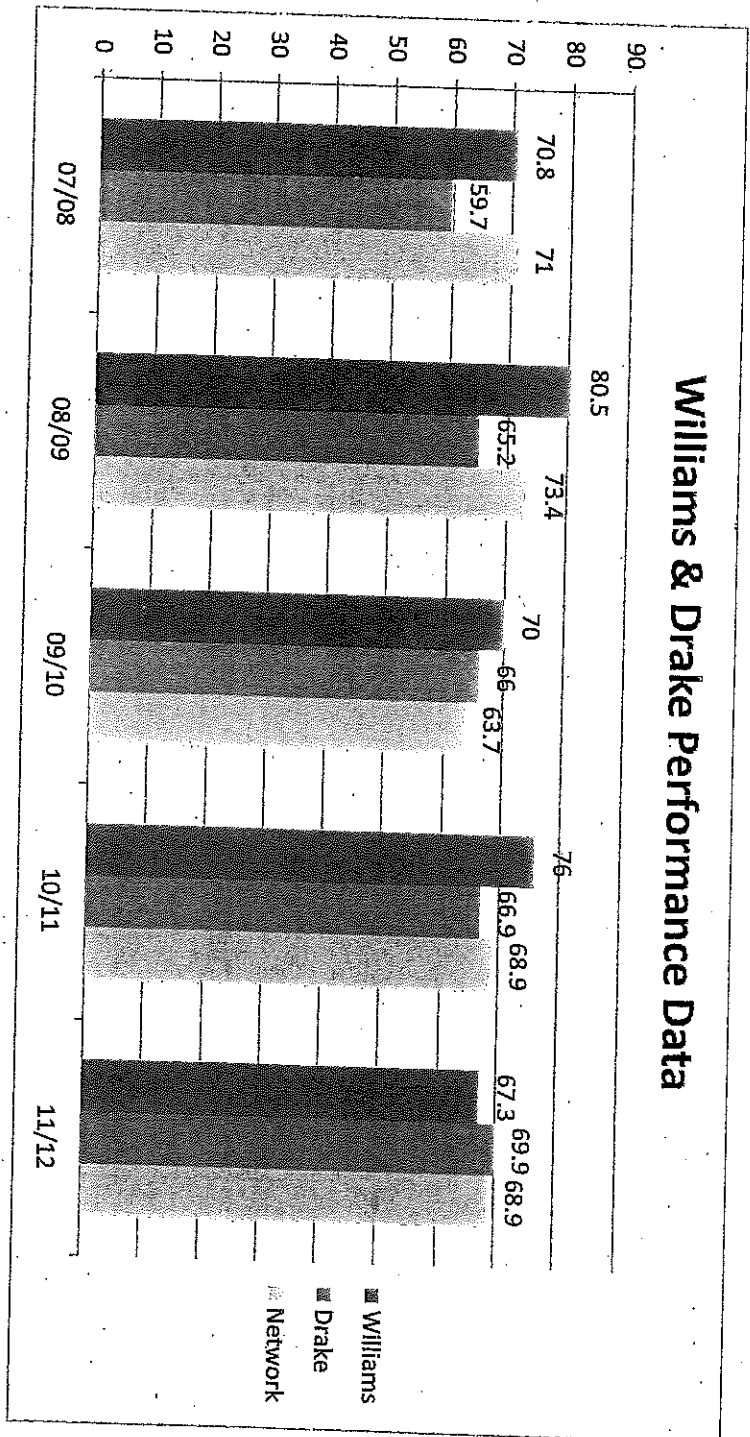
Williams is +3.7 over Network for the last 5 years

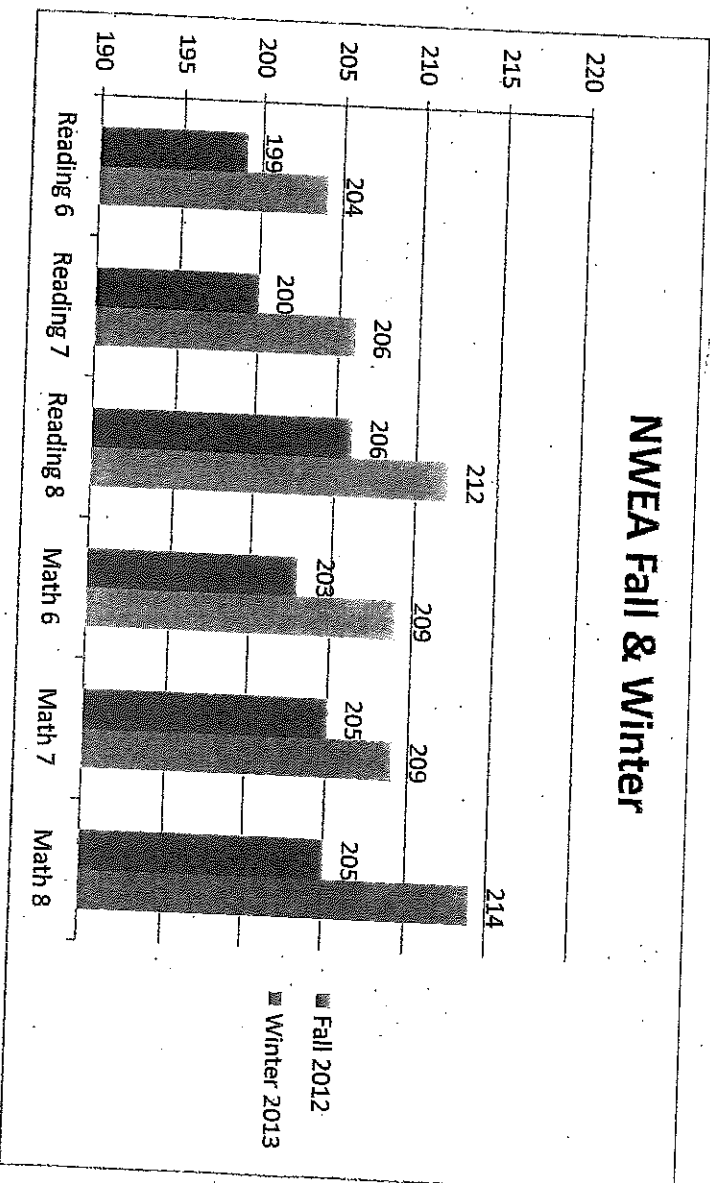
Drake is -3.7 behind Network for the last 5 years

Williams has outperformed Drake four (4) of the last five (5) years (2007 – 2011)

Williams has consistently been above (60) for all 5 years

Williams & Drake Performance Data





- Williams was the only school in the network that showed gains on the NWEA for all grade levels



Colton, Nai <nvcotton@cps.edu>

Fwd: NWEA Preliminary Growth

1 message

Rhea, Theresa <trhea@cps.edu>

Fri, Feb 1, 2013 at 10:21 AM

To: Wendy Bond <wmbond@cps.edu>, Anna Epps <abepps@cps.edu>, Cynthia Anderson <ccanderson@cps.edu>, Nayram Adadevoh <NTAdadevoh@cps.edu>, "Smith, Andrea" <asmith107@cps.edu>, Brenda Jenkins <bdjenkins@cps.edu>, Estella Oden <eoden@cps.edu>, Felicia Bullock <fmbullock@cps.edu>, John Blackman <jblackman@cps.edu>, Fleming Brewer <fmbrewer@cps.edu>, Nai Colton <nvcotton@cps.edu>, O'Neal Burns <opburns@cps.edu>, Taylor Heard <tmheard1@cps.edu>, Teresa Tyler <tptyler@cps.edu>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Price, John** <jpprice@cps.edu>

Date: Fri, Feb 1, 2013 at 7:13 AM

Subject: NWEA Preliminary Growth

To: Theresa Rhea <trhea@cps.edu>, Margaux Tuck <mgtuck@cps.edu>, Brigitte Louis <bdlouis@cps.edu>

Ms. Rhea:

This morning, please share my congratulations with your staff on what looks to be very positive NWEA growth from Fall to Winter. Average growth in Reading was 5.7, and average growth in mathematics was 6.4. This is great growth, and means that your teachers are closing the achievement gap between Williams' students and students across the nation.

The gap is still significant. In mathematics, the average Williams student is 17 points behind their grade level peers across the country - that's about 2 years. But, in the fall that gap was 20.8 points on average. Again, you are closing the gap and moving students forward.

Keep up the hard work - maintain your focus on student growth, and intensify your efforts for the second half of the school year. With focus, creativity, and hard work, your students can leave Williams ready for high school, college, and career.

The best to you.

Sincerely,

—
 John P. Price
 Chief of Schools, Burnham Park Network
 Chicago Public Schools

773-535-8080
 f: 773-535-8075

—
 Theresa Rhea

April 26, 2013

Barbara Byrd-Bennett

Chief Executive Officer

Chicago Public Schools

Dear Barbara Byrd-Bennett:

Or shall I say to whom it may be that is seeking to undermine my intelligence! I am a proud graduate of Williams, I have a son and many relatives who have graduated from Williams, and I currently have two children that are attending Williams Multiplex Middle School. It burns me up inside to hear that you have decided to close down my children's school due to under enrollment or lack of performance, only to replace their school with a school that is pretty much identical. As a matter of fact, Williams has more resources than the school that is coming in to replace them.

With that being the case, where is the improvement of the quality of education for my children? If you had decided to move a level one performing school into Williams, then yes I can easily see the logic in your decision making. However, what you are electing to do, is to move another level three school to replace the existing school. It's an outrage and not a good choice! Though I am not a rocket scientist, I am wise enough to see that no serious thought was put into place by your staff when the decision was made for the improvement of my children's education.

It has been stated that Williams Middle School was underutilized; however I do not recall any representative from downtown visiting the school to work with the parents or administration to effectively show them how they could best utilize the space when Urban Prep occupied the building. It is to my understanding that due to Urban Prep moving into the facilities, the space at Williams was quite limited; limited to the point where potential students were turned away. If you were aware of the fact that we were not utilizing the space to its full potential, why didn't anyone from downtown come into Williams to offer their services to assist us?

Chicago Public School's slogan has always been "Children First" but in this past year you have made it quite clear that this is not the case. If money was lost over the years, I am almost certain that it was not spent by the children. If an ineffective administration was responsible for a failing performing school, I'm sure they were not hired by the students. If you are guaranteeing a safe passage, I am certain you are not the one that will be walking to school. We all are aware that stability is a very important tool when it comes to a child's development, so I ask you where is the stability in closing over 54 schools, when you are uprooting children throughout the City of Chicago?

Decisions have been made, yet no one has visited our school to talk to parents or the community. I find it to be very interesting considering that most of the funding of public schools comes from our tax paying dollars. Yes, I happen to be one of those parents who own property in the Bronzeville area. So decisions are being made with our money, yet it's our children that will be suffering behind your decision. To allow you to dictate my children's educational future, along with risking my children's safety seems to be violating my children's constitutional rights.

I do believe that you and the Board have made a decision, and I am here to tell you that regardless of the outcome of your decision making, I will not lie down and allow you to continue playing with my children's future as if they didn't matter!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Peewee

Good Evening,

My name is Lillian Allen. I am a concerned parent of a student at Williams Prep Academy, 2710 South Dearborn. I am wondering about two issues that have been proposed by the Chicago Board of Education, regarding Drake School to replace Williams School.

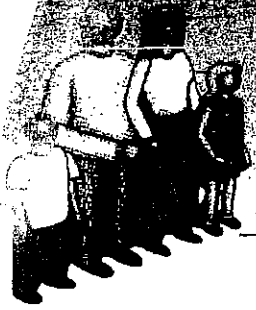
Underutilization is the main issue. Williams Prep is 53% underutilized and Drake is 35% underutilized. Williams is underutilized because we are using 3 rooms for our special needs students. CPS wants us to place 31 students in each classroom. Due to disabilities, special needs students have utilized those rooms in order to receive the free-appropriate services designated in their IEPs, which will ensure their academic success. To be removed from the list, one must be 70% utilized. Drake doesn't meet that criteria; yet, they are remaining open and relocating to the Williams' campus. It has been brought to my attention that Drake will be operating two campuses. Explain how we are solving the underutilization with this process? If CPS is really trying to help our children, can they be bused and guaranteed seats at Lenart, Kellogg, Whitney Young, Murray, Carnegie????

Yes, parents asked for Williams to be consolidated. We understood that process to mean that both Williams Prep and Williams Elementary would join to become one consolidated, community school. That was clear. Our voices were heard; our intent was not. Why traumatize and disenfranchise the teachers, staff, community, parents, and most important, students, with a second school closing? Dr. Byrd-Bennett said students would transition to a higher performing school. Will our children really be in a better place? Williams Prep is at 67.3%; Drake is at 69.9%. The difference? 2.3%. Drake is at 70.5% in reading; Williams Prep is at 67.3% in reading. Drake is at 76.8% in math; Williams Prep is at 73.5% in math. Which school made adequate yearly progress?

According to the 2012 report card, two of Drake's benchmark data in the middle school is missing. Williams's data is there. Are we comparing apples to oranges? Williams has a high subgroup; still, 80% of its students showed improvement. Drake's data? Missing.

Again, according to the 2012 school progress report, Williams' curriculum was cited as strong. Drake's curriculum was cited as neutral. Drake's culture and climate were partially organized; Williams' culture and climate were cited as organized. Williams has made great strides since its reopening. We have a library, science lab, computer lab, and Illinois Math and Science Academy. We offer Mandarin Chinese and have a state-of-the-art fitness center to support our Nutrition and Wellness Program for parents and students. We have an after-school program that supports our curriculum, with several community partners. Our before- and after-school programs offer homework help, tumbling, cheerleading, basketball, male mentoring, muntu dancers, pom-poms, True Star Magazine, Open Book Program, Park District after-school programs such as roller skating and tutoring through Wheaton College. Students also have the opportunity to build their own computers.

We connect the home and school by engaging in weekly meetings, with topics like stress management, anger management, book clubs, and a variety of other interests.



PASSAGES

Alternative Living Programs, Inc. (PALP)

"Dedicated to Family Advocacy"

April 26, 2013

TO: Chicago Public School Committee:

This is a formal recommendation that your committee allow Williams Preparatory Academy.

The Academy principal and staff work very aggressively in providing education for the students. In addition to the resources provided by the Board of Education and teaching staff, the principal looks to the community for additional resources to assist the staff with educating the students. School year 2013, Passages Alternative Living Programs, Inc. was recruited to conduct weekly tutorial session to help increase the students' reading and math grade level.

She is constantly seeking support from staff, parents and the community for ideas to assist the students with preparing for their future. I strongly recommend that Williams Preparatory Academy be allowed to remain open for the benefit of the students and the community.

Sincerely,

Christine Smith

Executive Director



INSTITUTE
for
POSITIVE LIVING

Ms. Theresa Rhea
Williams Elementary School
2710 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Friday, April 26, 2013

Dear Ms. Rhea,

The Institute for Positive Living has enjoyed partnering with Williams Middle School over the past thirteen years, partnering with you and the William's staff to create a love of reading for our youth has been a wonderful experience. Bringing books alive for Williams's youth has been a joy for our Open Book Staff.

The opportunity to assist you in providing mentoring for males peace circle meditations before testing, I'm sure has contributed to the growth of William's youth. The highlight of our sharing with the youth was the retreat at the blue harper resort in Wisconsin. Thank you again Principal Rhea for your love of our children.

Best,


The Reverend Marrison Coverson

435 E. 35th Street, Suite One
Chicago, IL 60616

P: 773.924.9802

F: 773.924.6801

openbook@ameritech.net

WWW.OPENBOOKPROGRAM.ORG

27th St
DEARBORN

SPRING 2013

2710

POWERED BY  TRUESTAR

DANIEL HALE
WILLIAMS
PUBLIC SCHOOL

**CPS SCHOOL
CLOSURES:**

**HOW WILL
THEY IMPACT YOU?**

**SPRING
FASHION
2013:**

ASTHMA

**IN MY
NEIGHBORHOOD**

LETTERS FROM OUR FUNDER & PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the first issue of Williams' School Magazine, 2710, Powered by True Star. We are extremely proud of the young reporters at your school who have produced such a wonderful magazine. What a group of wonderful gifted writers! Being able to express one's self on paper is one of the keys to being successful academically.

We sincerely hope you enjoy this magazine and it inspires you to join the Williams' community of writers.

Sincerely,
Rev. Marilee Caverton
 President, Institute for Positive Living
 Executive Director, Open Book Program

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the first issue of Williams' School Magazine, 2710...Powered by True Star Magazine. We are extremely excited to have worked with young reporters at Williams to produce our school magazine. The magazine theme for this spring 2013 issue is Youth Expression.

I believe that youth expression is the key means in which students are able to assert and defend claims and to demonstrate their knowledge of a subject. Youth expression is a way that students can convey past experiences, thoughts and feelings.

It is important that youth express themselves because they need to know how to combine elements of different kinds as they gather information, evaluate sources and cite material accurately, and be able to report findings in a clear and cogent manner as they prepare for future educational choices in college and in future careers.

My hopes for this magazine are to ensure that the students who helped create this periodical will have a mastery of skills in expression, retaining or further developing the ability for interaction and collaborating with others. I also hope that this magazine will enable all readers to demonstrate an increased sophistication and love for reading.

We hope you enjoy our publication. Continue to express yourself!

Sincerely,
Theresa Rhea
 Principal
 Williams Middle School

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PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS
 ON 2710 MAGAZINE
 CONTACT US:
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THE TALK

CPS School



BY JAYLAN WESTMORELAND

But parents and teachers are wondering if these CPS school closings will be a good or bad thing for our Chicago neighborhoods. The closing list was released in March, and on that list is our very own, Williams Elementary. Reports say that students from Williams' rival school, Drake, will now move over to Williams School. Several families are concerned.

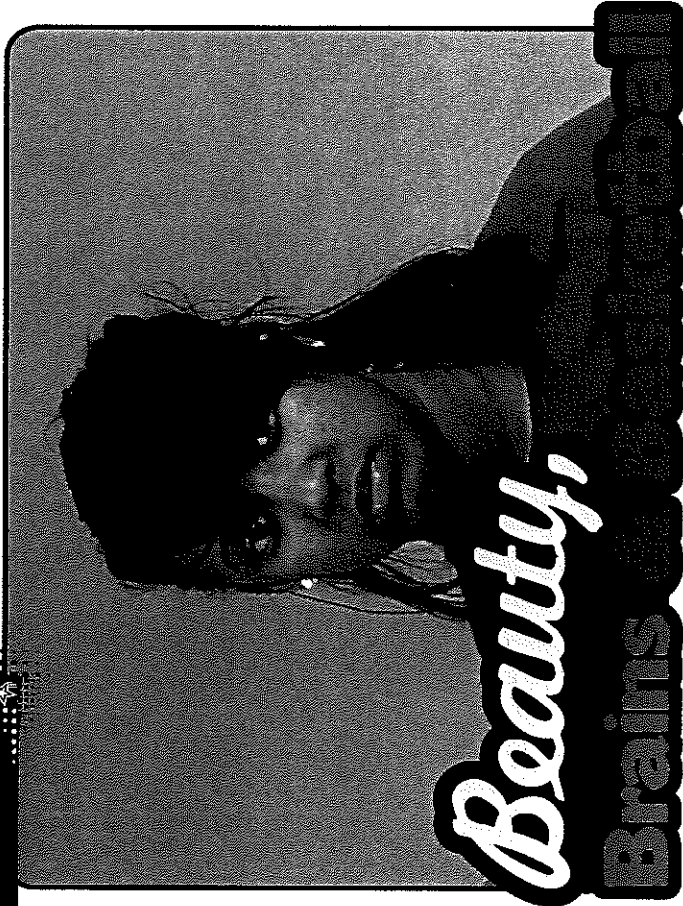
"WE NEED TO MAKE CHOICES IN EDUCATION HERE IN CHICAGO THAT WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY," SAID HILL.

The upcoming school year should be very interested. Several students will be moved around and several lives in Chicago will change. How will the CPS closures impact you and your family?

Chicago Public Schools will be closing 53 schools. After several meetings were held across Chicago for parents and teachers who were impacted by these closings, families began to speak out. Parents and students are worried that the school closures will increase violence in Chicago neighborhoods. Families believe that although several Chicago Public Schools are having academic and violence issues, the answer is to not close these schools down.

"I think that Chicago's young people need all the education they can get," said Ashley Hill, a parent of one and a teacher assistant for Chicago Public Schools. "It is very important that young people in Chicago value the schools that are left for them."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel released a statement saying "Consolidating schools is the best way to make sure all of our city's students get the resources they need to learn and succeed."



BY DEMETRIUS SHEPHERD

2 710 Magazine caught up with one of Williams' own, Mariam Poracha, to talk basketball, school, hobbies and keeping it all balanced on and off the court. The 5th grader is a star basketball player at the school and discusses what it's like being a student-athlete at Williams Elementary.

2710: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Mariam Poracha: A WNBA star of course!

2710: Is it hard being a female athlete at school?

MP: To be truthful, it is kind of hard because males can be stronger and sometimes sports come easier to them. I guess you just have to be a confident player, no matter your gender.

2710: How do you balance school and basketball?

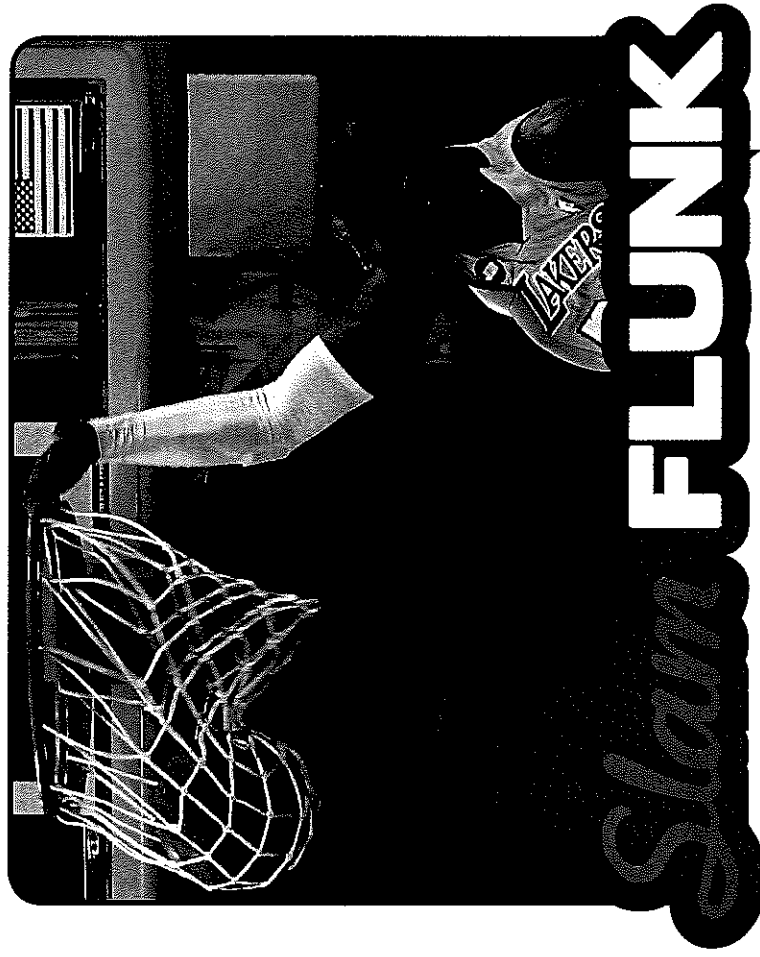
MP: I mostly place school as being the most important. But when I have a game to prepare for, I have to be ready.

2710: When you're not in the classroom or on the court, what else are you doing to enjoy your time?

MP: The things I enjoy far fun are singing and just talking on the phone with my friends.

2710: Who is your all-time favorite basketball player that you admire?

MP: It will always be Leslie Johnson. She is such a great player and she represents for the WNBA.



BY RAYVON SPARKS

Making it from your elementary basketball team all the way to the NBA is a big deal. However, it is not done overnight. It is very important to put your school work first if you are going to be a good student athlete. Several players, who are now famous and play for the NBA, did not always do so well in school. Check out a few players who did not do so good before entering into pro sports.

•Kobe Bryant skipped high school to play for the Minnesota Timberwolves.

•Kevin Garnett skipped high school before playing for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Although so many of these players are our role models, we have to keep in mind that it is very important to complete high school and go on to college. Make good choices when it comes to your education because everyone needs a backup plan. Put the books before the sports and play it safe! Education is very important if you want a bright future in any sport.

•Reggie Harding currently plays for the Philadelphia 76ers but, before making it to the NBA he did not complete high school.

•Darryl Dawkins of the Boston Celtics dropped out of high school before going pro.

MIRROR, MIRROR

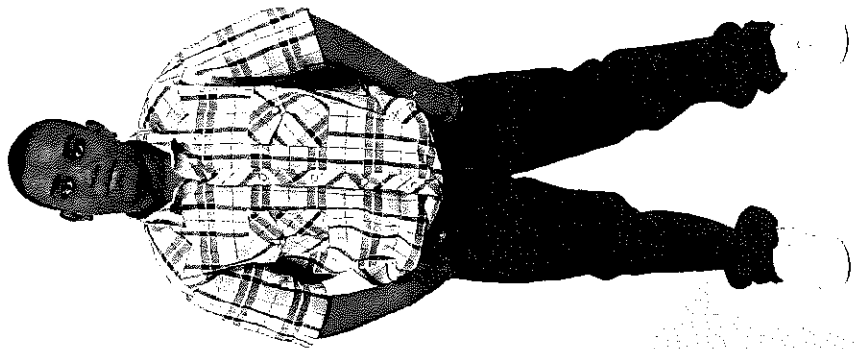
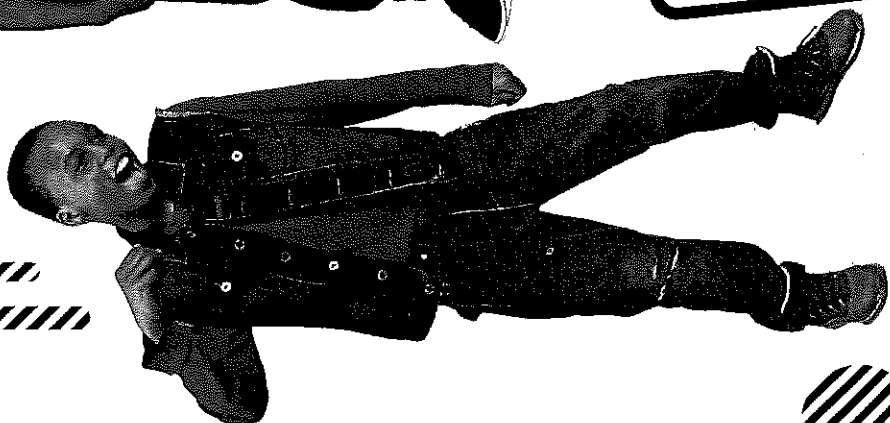
Rain, Rain

GO AWAY

SPRING INTO STYLE

hip hop LIVES

SPRING BREAK STYLIN'

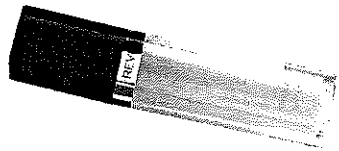
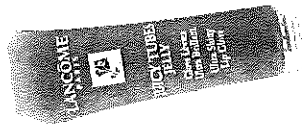


Top 10 LIP GLOSSES: What's your favorite brand?

BY: LANEKAH PHILLIPS

Is your lip gloss poppin'? With the bright colors, the yummy flavors and glossy shine, every brand of lip gloss is one to know. The beauty experts at 2710 count down the top 10 lip gloss brands.

Pucker up...ready, set, shine!

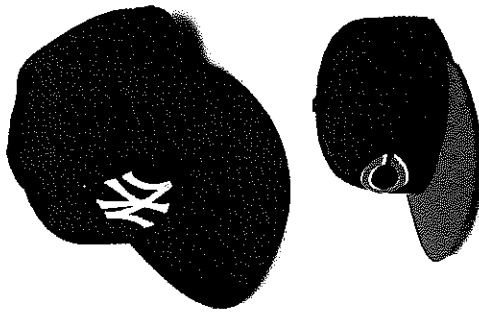
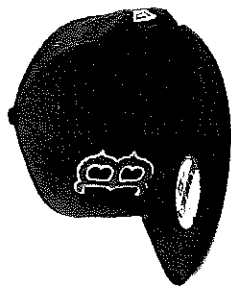


10. **Wetlicks by Cover Girl**
9. **Colour Riche by L'Oréal**
8. **Lippin' Large Lip Plumper by New York Color**
7. **8-Hour Infallible by L'Oréal Paris**
6. **Volume XL Lip Plumper by Maybelline**
5. **Dazzleglass by Mac**
4. **Long Lasting Glossware by Clinique**
3. **Crème de Gloss by Christian Dior**
2. **Super Lustrous Lip Gloss by Revlon**
1. **Juicy Tubes Ultra Shiny Lip gloss by Lancome**

Top 10 BASEBALL CAPS

BY JUSTUS PHILLIPS

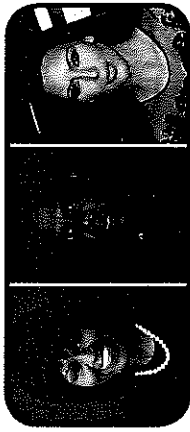
To stay ahead of the fashion game, it's important to know the hottest baseball caps and the most popular teams to sport. Which are your favorite teams to sport? 2710 Magazine counts down the most popular caps.



10. **St. Louis Cardinals**
9. **San Francisco Giants**
8. **Philadelphia Phillies**
7. **Pittsburgh Pirates**
6. **Chicago White Sox**
5. **Los Angeles Dodgers**
4. **Cincinnati Reds**
3. **Boston Red Sox**
2. **Atlanta Braves**
1. **New York Yankees**

Celebrity HACKING

BY DAYLAN MAYFIELD



Recently in the news there have been reports about celebrities being hacked. Several major people like First Lady Michelle Obama and rapper Jay-Z have been hacked to where their personal financial information has been released to the public. The biggest question is how is this all happening?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been investigating the details of these cases. Without a doubt, this is major in politics and entertainment, but how can it impact our neighborhood? One thing is for certain; learning of all of these celebrity hackings should encourage everyone to be safer with their personal information.

For example, don't leave papers with personal information around strangers. Also, be very careful of the personal information you share online with people you do not know.

Identify theft and personal hacking are both serious crimes. Just understand that if major people like Beyoncé and Kim Kardashian can be hacked and exposed to the world, what makes you any different? Be smart and keep your personal business personal. Be safe online and offline, too.

Top 5 Young CELEBRITY COUPLES

BY LANEKAH PHILLIPS

YOUNG LOVE IN HOLLYWOOD IS BLOOMING ALONG WITH THIS SPRING'S FLOWERS. THERE ARE SO MANY CUTE COUPLES IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. AND EVEN IF THEY MAY BE TOO YOUNG TO MARRY, THEY ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LOVE! HERE ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE YOUNG, CELEBRITY COUPLES!

5. **Princeton (Mindless Behavior) and Baby Doll (OMG Girlz)**

4. **Chris Brown and Rihanna**

3. **Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron**

2. **Ashton Kutcher**

and **Mila Kunis**

1. **Justin Bieber**

and **Selena Gomez**

Top 10 SONGS of Spring 2013

BY JAYLEN JOHNSON

10. Brand New Me by Alicia Keys
9. Believe by Justin Bieber
8. Adorn by Miguel
7. Call Me Maybe by Carly Rae Jepsen
6. Diamonds by Rihanna
5. Love and War by Tamar Braxton
4. When I Was Your Man by Bruno Mars
3. Keep Her on the Low by Mindless Behavior
2. Leggo by B. Smyth feat. 2 Chainz
1. Started from the Bottom by Drake

Top 10 MOVIES of Spring 2013

BY JAYLEN JOHNSON

10. Zombie Colony
9. Snitch
8. Wreck-it Ralph
7. The Croods
6. The Hobbit
5. The Call
4. Dorothy of Oz
3. Taken 2
2. Les Misérables
1. Iron Man 3

FACE 2 FACE

Parents... Trusting Youth

BY KAYLA WILBURN

So many young people say that their parents have a problem trusting them. Parents need to be able to trust their kids in order for them to be safe. If a parent does not have that trust from his or her son or daughter, it may upset that particular young person.

Jada Portis, 11, says that her parents don't trust her.

"I feel like my parents don't trust me because I was lying to them about things," said Portis. "When I'm finally telling the truth, they have trouble believing me."

Young people often give up on their parents ever trusting them again. However, it is unhealthy to have a relationship with your mom or dad if honesty is not the key. So, as young people, we have to work hard to show our parents that we are trustworthy. It shows respect and care for our safety and well-being.

Young Abusive Relationships: What are the Warning Signs?

BY MALINDA LAMBERT

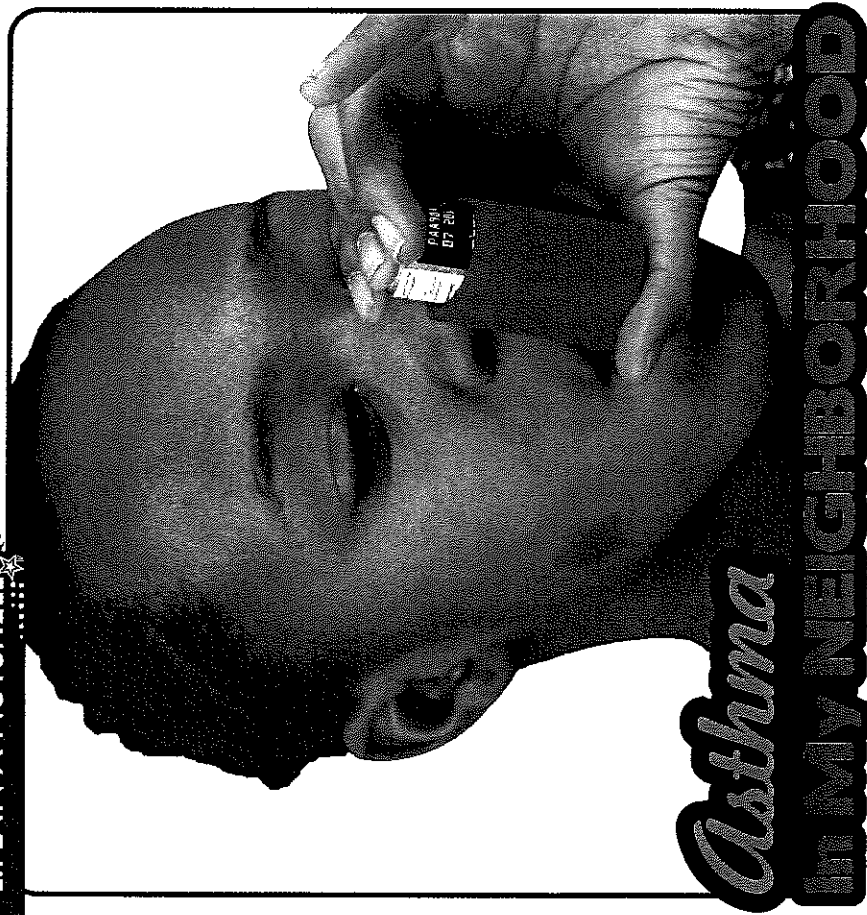
Believe it or not, young people deal with young abusive relationships every day. These types of relationships are unhealthy, especially for a young person. Always know the warning signs of a relationship that could potentially be an abusive relationship.

If you or one of your friends or anyone you know is in a violent relationship and they feel unsafe, it is important to let an adult know. Here are some ideas on how to create a safety plan:

- **Talk to someone that you can trust.**
- **Plan in advance to have a safe place to go if you are in an abusive relationship.**
- **Keep money and your cell phone on you at all times for your safety.**
- **Establish a code word or sign with family and friends to call them for help.**

Sherece Hymon is a mental health professional at Neumann Family Services, 5547 N. Ravenwood.

"There is no reason for anyone to place physical harm on another person," said Hymon. "Physical abuse or verbal abuse is not acceptable. Both are damaging to a young person."



Asthma IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

Asthma is a deadly disease in my neighborhood. People in my neighborhood, however, don't realize how serious asthma can be. According to the National Institutes of Health website, asthma is a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows the airways. Several things can trigger a person's asthma and can cause terrible asthma attacks.

So many young people deal with asthma every day by carrying doctor recommended breathing inhalers to help them breathe. As a neighborhood, one way to help those with asthma is to lessen the amount of driving we do to reduce pollutants in the air that can trigger asthma

attacks. Also, to stop smoking in homes would help young people who already have issues with their asthma. Asthma in my neighborhood can be dangerous so we have to educate people to help keep them alive. Some of the following things can trigger an asthma attack for people who have asthma:

- Colds and flu
- Indoor allergies
- Pets
- Exercise
- Smoke
- Air pollutants

Health & Beauty WORD SEARCH

BY LINDA LAMBERT

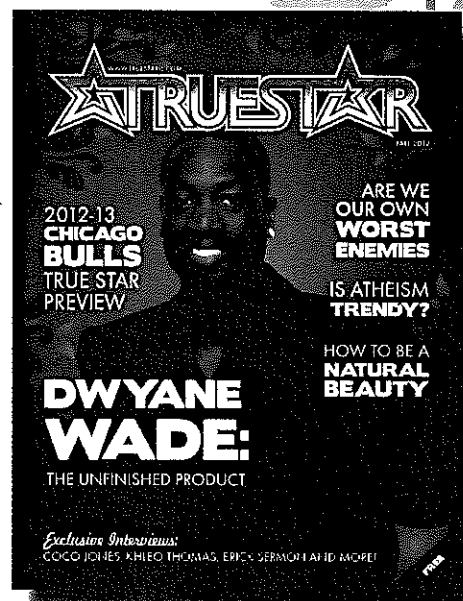
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APPLE	DIABETES	LUNGS	ORANGE
ASTHMA	EXERCISE	MAKEUP	PEACH
BELTS	EYESHADOW	MASCARA	
CANCER	LIPGLOSS	MIRROR	

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