



Proposed Reassigned Boundary Change of Orozco Community Academy
and Cooper Dual Language Academy
January 9, 2019
Orozco Community Academy
1940 W. 18th St.
6:00-7:30 PM

CPS Staff in Attendance

Cristina Carreto, Minerva Garcia Sanchez, Judith Camacho, Carla Escobar, Lauro Roman, Jaime Guzman, Cheryl Nevins, Efrain Martinez, Nurys Uceta Ramos, Ana Diaz

CPS Presentation

Ms. Cristina Carreto, Family and Community Engagement Manager for Network 7, welcomed the audience and proceeded to give a brief overview of the presentation structure: introduction, meeting logistics, presentation on school action, and time for public comments. She introduced Ms. Minerva Garcia Sanchez, Chief of Schools for Network 7, who presented the proposed action. She welcomed Vice-President of the Board of Education, Mr. Jaime Guzman, who was present.

Ms. Carreto explained that the meeting would be 90-minutes long consisting of a short presentation and public comments to follow. She advised that the meeting would be in English and Spanish. She advised that there was a stenographer and a note-taker present so all public comments and questions would be on record. She explained that each speaker would have two minutes to speak and/or ask questions. She reminded the audience that there would be a second community meeting next Wednesday, January 16th at Cooper Elementary from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She advised that on or around February 2019, recommendations will be made to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Board of Education after the community meetings and hearings are held and at that time the CPS Board will vote on any recommended school actions. She notified the audience that if they do not have an opportunity to comment or feel more comfortable sending an e-mail, they may do so at transitions@cps.edu.

Ms. Minerva Garcia Sanchez explained that she would go through the overview of the proposed school action. The proposal will be to adjust the Cooper attendance area grades served to include sixth grade in 2019-2020 school year, then the following year to adjust the Cooper attendance area grades served to include seventh grade in the 2020-2021 school year, and in the following year to adjust the Cooper attendance area grades served to include the eighth grade in the 2021-2022 school year. And additionally, Orozco will then expand its bilingual gifted program to serve more bilingual students.

She shared that the school community, elected officials, including an Illinois State Representative, the Cook County Commissioner – now U.S. Congressman, and 25th Ward Alderman, and Orozco and Cooper LSC's have advocated for the reassigned boundary change. Also in support of the proposed school action are community leaders and educational partners, including Cooper/Orozco Parent

Collaboration, Chicago Commons Association, Chicago Mariachi Project/Pilsen Arts & Culture Committee, Frida Kahlo Community Organization, Pilsen Education Task Force - School Specialization Initiative, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, and the Resurrection Project - Quality of Life Plan – Educational Component.

Ms. Sanchez then proceeded to supply in-depth detail regarding the proposal. She stated that Cooper is an attendance area school located at 1624 W. 19th Street that serves K-5, with a pre-K program. Cooper currently serves 418 students. Cooper currently has 73 students in grade 5 that would be eligible to stay at Cooper for grade 6 in SY19-20. Orozco is located at 1940 W. 18th Street and serves K-8 grade in its bilingual gifted program with a pre-K program, and 6-8th grade in its neighborhood program. Orozco currently served a total of 542 students with 116 students in grade 6 and 110 students in grade 7 and 110 in grade 8.

Ms. Carreto opened the public comments portion of the meeting by reminding everyone of the registration process in order to make a public comment and the two minute time limit.

Public Comments

Marissa Santiago: Parent. The proposal would benefit a lot of the children that live in the southwest side. We live in McKinley Park. We need Orozco to look like this. I would have to commute further north in order for my children to go to a school like this. There aren't many schools like this in the south side that look like this.

Anabel Perez: Parent and Cooper LSC member. I am in support of having this gifted program and also in support of Cooper including grades K-8. I have a child that attends Cooper and I was a student at Cooper. Lots of students and parents are in support of this. We have other parents here that are in support, including parents from Orozco.

Ana Padillo: Representative of Pilsen Neighbors Community Council. I'm here as a representative from Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, we are here to show our organizational support for the expansion for the Bilingual Gifted Program at Orozco. We support this because it started over two years ago with a parent to parent conference listening campaign. Our organizer began working with parents to develop their leadership and therefore organize for the betterment of education of their children. The result of our listening campaign in the Pilsen Schools have resulted in specialization of two other Pilsen schools, this specialization has brought an IB program and STEM program which has given quality education to the Pilsen Children Not only has these specialization initiatives brought excellent academic programs but we believe that this will encourage hundreds of families to choose Pilsen Public schools as schools of academic choice to expand their enrollment and save our Pilsen schools from future school closures.

Jose Reguenda: Representative of Pilsen Alliance. Present at the behest of some parents concerns about the transition. Sounds like an amazing opportunity to bring much needed resources and better programming to the students of the school and community which we absolutely support. The only concern is whether it would limit the community programming, does this really mean that we're going to take less students from a community school programming, and do we do a disadvantage to future students? Wants all students to have access to these programs in the future. Not here to derail any work but if students are not in attendance of these schools right now but would like to be in the future, would they have access to these programs. Asks that it gets shared more with the community.

Angel Salgado: Orozco LSC member. This project isn't known by him. Wants LSC to be taken into account. Does not know if they are good or bad changes because they haven't been talked about at LSC meetings. Asks organizers of this project to speak to the Orozco LSC. He asks for consideration and asks that the Orozco LSC gets a vote on the matter.

Efrain Martinez: Orozco Principal. He welcomed everyone. He received text messages from Orozco and Cooper moms and they are all in support of the boundary change.

Marissa Santiago: Parent. Confused about Mr. Salgado's comment. When this was presented, she presented it at an LSC meeting. She and other parents collected signatures from parents. The LSC was asked about what they thought about the changes. Even Mr. Salgado signed the petition that was presented to the LSC.

Maria Isabel Carillo: Parent. In support of proposal. How can anyone not support this plan?

Maria Sanchez: Parent of Orozco student. Proud of the progress she's seen in her child. The reason that she wants to speak is because she was one of the moms that was gathering signatures for the petition. She received a signature from Mr. Salgado.

Antonia Castro: Mom of Cooper students. She is in favor of this change. She had a daughter at Orozco and another in Cooper. Having her children go to both schools was tough. She has to take one child to one school and one to another school. If there is an opportunity for them to go to the same school, she prefers this.

Angel Salgado: Orozco LSC member. Wanted to clear up what he said. The proposal was never on the agenda at an LSC meeting. About the signature that he added to the petition – he says he signed it in reference to expanding the boundary but never the entire project. This was not voted on at the LSC meeting. There was a lack of attention by the leaderships. He did sign but they did not explain that they were going to close the regular program. Expansion was talked about. They did not talk about the regular program.

Public comments ended at 6:39 p.m.