



Proposed School Closure of Hope High School

January 23, 2020

Kershaw Elementary School

6450 South Lowe Ave

5:30-7:00 PM

CPS Staff in Attendance:

Herald “Chip” Johnson, Adrian Segura, Lauren Feldman, Megan Hougard, Judith Camacho-Campbell, Adrienne Garner, Cheryl Nevins, Bing Howell, Jamel Chambers, Carlos Aldaco, James Malnati and Mirlene Dossous

CPS Presentation

Chief Herald “Chip” Johnson opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing himself. He then shared the logistics of the meeting, stating that there would be a short presentation followed by the public comment period. He encouraged those present to sign up to speak to make public comments. Mr. Johnson then introduced Chief of High School Network 16, Megan Hougard.

Chief Megan Hougard began by describing the school action process to attendees. She explained the law that governs Chicago Public Schools and actions the district must take when closing, consolidating or co-locating schools. She stated that before Chicago Public Schools can take any action, they must receive community feedback. She informed the community that this is the second of two community meetings before the Public Hearing. Once the public hearing has occurred, CPS will then make a recommendation to the Board. The Board may vote on this proposal as early as February 2020.

Chief Hougard then shared with attendees information about the Hope High School proposed closure for July 1, 2020. She shared that the District made an investment of nearly \$100 million for new high school in Englewood, which encompasses the Hope High School boundary. She stated that last year Hope High School had 20 students, and to date all students have transferred to other schools of their choice. The district has and continues to provide an additional \$6,100 per student per year for transition support to the students in academics, social and emotional learning, and other supports. This support shows the district’s commitment to ensure the students are successful in their new school environment. Finally, she shared that if this proposed action is not approved by the Board, Hope High School will close on July 1, 2021.

Mrs. Judy Camacho-Campbell was then called to facilitate the public comment portion. She reminded the audience of the registration process for speakers, and that each individual would have 2 minutes to speak. She then called the first speaker.

Public comment

Derek Ferguson: Alumni of Hope High School. Mr. Ferguson stated he found out about the closing of the school on the morning news and wanted to come and share his concerns as an Alumni. He stated that the developments of the railroads within the community displaced so many families, and that now those families cannot send their students to the school. He expressed his frustration that more could not have been done to keep the school open. He stated that he is saddened that the neighborhood has deteriorated.

Closing

Chief Hougard asked if there are any other speakers. No other speakers signed up to speak. Chief Johnson made a last call for speakers, and Chief Hougard thanked everyone present and shared that there will be a public hearing on Wednesday, January 29th at 5:30 p.m. in the Board chambers at 42 West Madison St.

The meeting concluded at 5:41pm.