

**CLOSE HOWLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF
DVORAK ACADEMY AND JOHNSON AND POPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Howland School of the Arts ("Howland") (unit 4070), located at 1616 South Spaulding Avenue, effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year for academic reasons in accordance with the Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO2, and adjust the attendance areas of: Anton Dvorak Specialty Academy ("Dvorak") (unit 6760), located 3615 West 16th Street; James Weldon Johnson Elementary School ("Johnson") (unit 6940), located at 1420 South Albany Avenue; and Nathaniel Pope Elementary School ("Pope") (unit 5480), located at 1852 South Albany Avenue, to include portions of the attendance area of Howland.

DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to the Board of Education's Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO2 ("Closing Policy"), and following a public hearing, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may recommend to the Board the closing of schools for any of the reasons stated in the Closing Policy.

School Closing Criteria

To identify schools for possible closing at the end of the 2004-2005 school year for academic reasons, the CEO relied on the criteria set forth in the Closing Policy. The CEO also designed an extensive community engagement process involving hundreds of parents and other stakeholders. From this community involvement emerged additional criteria that was used to select the schools to recommend for closing. In particular, "exclusion" criteria were developed to recognize signs of school progress where they existed.

The criteria employed to select schools for possible closing for academic reasons at the end of the 2004-2005 school year were the following:

1. **Probation.** The school has been on academic probation for at least one year;
2. **2004 Scores.** The school has a Composite Score on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) of less than 25.0% of students meeting or exceeding state standards and a Reading Score on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) of less than 25.0% of students at or above national norms for the 2003-04 school year;
3. **4-Year Average Scores.** The school has a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of less than 25.0% of students meeting or exceeding state standards and a 4-year average ITBS Reading Score of less than 25.0% of students at or above national norms for the 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years; and
4. **Student Gains.** The school has a four-year average students' gain index of less than 0.9 on the ITBS Reading Test for the 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years. A gain of 1.0 means a student has made one year's progress.

The additional criteria employed to exclude schools from possible closing for academic reasons at the end of the 2004-2005 school year were the following:

1. There is no space available at a better-performing school to send students affected by the closing that is located within close proximity;
2. The school is a Chicago Teachers' Union/Chicago Public Schools Partnership school;

3. The school's principal has been serving for less than two (2) years; or
4. The school has students who had been previously re-assigned there from another school due to a prior Board action in the last two (2) years.

Howland Elementary School satisfied the school closing inclusion criteria for the following reasons:

1. **Probation Status:**

Howland has been on probation since the 1996-1997 school year.

2. **2004 Scores:**

Only 24.3% of Howland students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT.
Only 18.6% of Howland students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

Note: The 2004 District-wide average for reading on ITBS was 42.9%. The 2004 District-wide average ISAT Composite was 45.3%.

3. **4-Year Average Scores:**

In 2001, only 12.5% of Howland students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT.
In 2002, only 19.3% of Howland students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT.
In 2003, only 24.0% of Howland students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT.
In 2004, only 24.3% of Howland students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT.

In 2001, only 21.0% of Howland students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2002, only 23.3% of Howland students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2003, only 20.2% of Howland students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2004, only 18.6% of Howland students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

These scores give the school an average ISAT Composite score for the last four years of 20.0% and an average ITBS Reading score of 20.8% for the same period.

4. Over the last four years, Howland students gained on average only .70 of a full year's progress.

Exclusionary Criteria

Howland did not meet any of the Exclusion Criteria for the following reasons:

1. There is available space at better-performing schools (Dvorak, Johnson and Pope) that are located within close proximity;
2. Howland is not a Chicago Teachers' Union/Chicago Public Schools Partnership school;
3. The principal of Howland has been serving more than two (2) years; and
4. The closing of Howland will not result in moving students who had previously been reassigned to Howland from another school due to a prior Board action in the last two (2) years.

Racial Impact Analysis and Enrollment Projections

In accordance with the Closing Policy and the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree, the Office of Demographics and Planning conducted a racial impact analysis including 3-year enrollment projections. The analysis determined that the proposed closing of Howland and the assignment of most of its students to Dvorak, Johnson and Pope would have no significant impact on the racial composition and stability of

those schools. In terms of racial composition and stability, the option of maintaining the status quo offers neither an advantage nor disadvantage over the option of closing the school. While other possibilities were examined, no alternatives affected the resulting racial ethnic distribution of students. A copy of this report is available for review.

Public Hearing

The public hearing for the proposed closing of Howland was held on February 10, 2005, following proper notice to receive public comment. An independent hearing officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer presided at the hearing and received comment and supporting documentation. The hearing was transcribed by a certified court reporter. The hearing officer has prepared and submitted a report of the proceedings to the Chief Executive Officer. A copy of the Hearing Officer's Report is available for review. After receiving the Hearing Officer's Report, the Chief Executive Officer has determined to recommend that the Board close Howland Elementary School at the end of the 2004-2005 school year as well as adjust the attendance areas of Dvorak, Johnson and Pope.

Attendance Area Adjustments

The CEO recommends adjusting the attendance areas of Dvorak, Johnson and Pope as follows:

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Anton Dvorak Specialty Academy (Unit 6760)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Ridgeway Avenue and 16th Street
East to Millard Avenue
North to 15th Street
East to Central Park Avenue
North to Douglas Boulevard
East to St. Louis Avenue
South to 15th Street
East to Trumbull Avenue
South to 18th Street
West to Lawndale Avenue
South to 19th Street
West to Ridgeway
North to the Starting Point.

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundary of James Weldon Johnson Elementary School (Unit 6940)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Trumbull Avenue and 15th Street
East to Kedzie Avenue
North to the B&Q RR
East to Whipple Street
South to Roosevelt Road
West to Albany Avenue
South to 16th Street
West to Trumbull Avenue
North to the Starting point

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Nathaniel Pope Elementary School (Unit 5480)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at St. Louis Avenue and 18th Street
East to Trumbull Avenue
North to 16th Street
East to Albany Avenue
South to 19th Street
East to California Avenue
South to the CB&Q RR
Southwest to Albany Avenue
South to Cermak Road
West to Sawyer Avenue
North to 21st Street
West to Spaulding Avenue
North to Ogden Boulevard
Southwest to St. Louis Avenue
North to the Starting Point.

**LSC
IMPLICATIONS:**

LSC Review is not applicable to this Board Report. Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of Howland will be dissolved effective the end of the 2004-2005 school year as the result of the closing of Howland.

**PERSONNEL
IMPLICATIONS:**

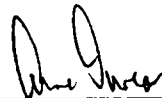
Tenured teachers assigned to Howland shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Non-tenured teachers assigned to Howland will be laid off. Educational Support Personnel assigned to Howland will be laid off and placed on an eligibility list pursuant to the Board's policy, "Layoff of Educational Support Personnel", 03-0423-PO02.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:



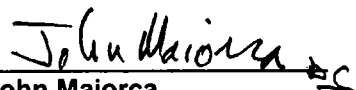
**Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer**



**Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer**

Within Appropriation:

Approved as to legal form:



**John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer**



**Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel**