

**RECONSTITUTE GEORGE W. CURTIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND
REMOVE AND REPLACE THE CURTIS STAFF, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL,
AT THE END OF THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board") approve the reconstitution of George W. Curtis Elementary School ("Curtis School"), Unit 3160, School ID 609900, located at 32 East 115th Street, Chicago, Illinois and remove and replace its staff, including the principal, at the end of the 2009-10 school year.

DESCRIPTION:

Statutory Authority. Pursuant to Section 5/34-8.3(d) of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3(d), and following the opportunity for a public hearing, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may recommend to the Board the reconstitution of a school on probation for at least one year for academic reasons, and the replacement and reassignment of its entire staff, including the principal.

Procedural History: Public Notice, Public Hearings, and the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation. On January 19, 2010, the CEO gave written notice of his proposal to close Curtis School to:

- (a) the parents of students enrolled at Curtis School;
- (b) the principal of Curtis School;
- (c) the assistant principal(s) of Curtis School;
- (d) the teachers and staff of Curtis School; and,
- (e) the Local School Council members of Curtis School.

Beginning January 19, 2010, the CEO's designee published a notice of a public hearing regarding his proposal to close Curtis School. The public hearing was scheduled for January 28, 2010 at 5:30 pm. at 125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor, Board Chambers, Chicago, Illinois.

On January 27, 2010, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment to the members of the Board at the Board's regular January 27, 2010 meeting, which was held pursuant to a published notice.

On January 28, 2010, the CEO, through his appointed Hearing Officer, Frederick Bates, Esq., convened the public hearing to receive public comment on his proposal to close Curtis School. Oral and written comments were received from those members of the public who wished to comment. The record of the public hearing was left open until January 29, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., to receive any additional comments that members of the public wished to submit in writing to the hearing officer.

On February 7, 2010, Hearing Officer Bates issued his report and recommendation, in which he found that Curtis Elementary School was eligible for closure for academic reasons. The Hearing Officer also noted that some members of the Curtis Elementary School community requested that that the CEO consider turning around the school by reconstitution rather than closing the school. The Hearing Officer noted that he had no authority to direct the CEO to recommend turnaround by reconstitution but he encouraged the CEO to consider that option.

After due consideration of the turnaround option, the CEO has revised his recommendation from a recommendation for closure of Curtis Elementary School to a recommendation to turnaround Curtis Elementary School by reconstitution, which is a lesser of the remedies available to the CEO under 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3(d).

On February 24, 2010, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment on the recommendation to turnaround Curtis Elementary to members of the Board at the Board's regular February 24, 2010 on the meeting, which was held pursuant to a published notice.

Basis for CEO's Recommendation. On December 16, 2009, the CEO published the criteria that would qualify underperforming schools for turnaround, by reconstitution and other means. The CEO determined that schools that had received less than 33.3% of possible performance points under the CPS School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy for school years 2007–08 and 2008–09 would be considered for turnaround. That policy assesses Elementary School performance based on current status and growth trends with respect to (1) ISAT Reading, (2) ISAT Mathematics (3) ISAT Science, (4) ISAT Composite - All Grades , (5) ISAT Composite – Highest Grade Students, (6) attendance, (7) Value-Added – ISAT Reading , (8) Value-Added – ISAT Mathematics. Curtis Elementary School met the CEO's turnaround criteria.

A. Curtis School's Probation History. Curtis School has been on probation for three consecutive years. During that time, the District has provided Curtis School the following:

- 1) Professional development for staff, including monthly professional development meetings;
- 2) Assignment of reading and mathematics specialists to the school in order to assist staff in those areas;
- 3) Assigned Area Office staff to conduct model classrooms for Curtis School staff demonstrating best practices to Curtis School teachers assigned to those classrooms; and,
- 4) Purchased supplemental instruction materials for use by staff at Curtis School.

B. Curtis School Meets the Turnaround Criteria. Curtis School satisfied the school turnaround criteria in that it received 23.8% available performance points for the 2007–08 school year and 4.8% of available performance points for the 2008–09 school year.

C. Reconstitution is in the Best Interests of Curtis School Students. Reconstitution will enable the CEO to select a principal and administrative team to give Curtis School a clean slate. No student will be displaced from the school.

After reviewing the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation, the CEO recommends that the Board reconstitute Curtis Elementary School at the end of the 2009–10 school year in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3(d). The reconstitution of Curtis School will take effect July 1, 2010.

FINANCIAL: None.

LSC IMPLICATIONS: As Curtis School will remain on probation after its reconstitution, the powers and duties of the Curtis School Local School Council with respect to the School Improvement Plan and School Expenditure Plan will remain the same after reconstitution. As the result of the removal and replacement of the current principal pursuant to section 5/34-8.3(d) of the Illinois School Code, the Curtis School Local School Council has no current authority to select a new four-year contract principal. The Curtis School Local School Council will not have that authority until the school is removed from probation pursuant to Section VIII of the Board's School Remediation and Probation Policy for the 2009–10 school year, or any successor policy on school probation.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3(d)(4), all Curtis School employees, including the principal, will be removed and replaced in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:



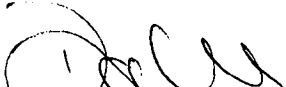
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



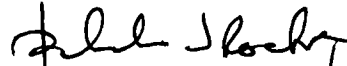
Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Diana S. Ferguson
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

