

**CLOSE BUNCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF
EARLE AND O'TOOLE ELEMENTARY AND GOODLOW MAGNET SCHOOLS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School ("Bunche") (unit 6830), located at 6515 South Ashland 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: Charles W. Earle Elementary School ("Earle") (unit 3130), located at 6121 South Hermitage Avenue; Luke O'Toole Elementary School ("O'Toole") (unit 5230), located at 6550 South Seeley Avenue; and Elaine O. Goodlow Magnet School ("Goodlow") (unit 3290), located at 2040 West 62nd Street, to include portions of the attendance area of Bunche.

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 consideration for 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.

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

1. **Probation Status:**

Bunche has been on academic probation since the 2000-2001 school year.

2. **2004 Scores:**

Only 16.4% of Bunche students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

Only 21.0% of Bunche students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

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

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

In 2001, only 17.4% of Bunche students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.
In 2002, only 16.0% of Bunche students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.
In 2003, only 16.4% of Bunche students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.
In 2004, only 16.4% of Bunche students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

In 2001, only 22.7% of Bunche students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2002, only 19.0% of Bunche students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2003, only 19.8% of Bunche students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.
In 2004, only 21.0% of Bunche 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 16.6% and an average ITBS Reading score of 20.6% for the same period.

4. **Student Gains:**

Over the last four years, Bunche students gained on average only .82 of a full year's progress.

Exclusionary Criteria

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

1. There is available space at better-performing schools (Earle, O'Toole and Goodlow) that are located within close proximity;
2. Bunche is not a Chicago Teachers' Union/Chicago Public Schools Partnership school;
3. The principal of Bunche has been serving more than two (2) years; and
4. The closing of Bunche will not result in moving students who had previously been reassigned to Bunche 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 Bunche and the assignment of most of its students to Earle, O'Toole and Goodlow 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 Bunche was held on February 8, 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 Bunche Elementary School at the end of the 2004-2005 school year as well as adjust the attendance areas of Earle, Goodlow and O'Toole.

Attendance Area Adjustments

The CEO recommends adjusting the attendance areas of Earle, Goodlow and O'Toole as follows:

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Charles W. Earle Elementary School (Unit 3130)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Wolcott Avenue and 59th Street
East to Ashland Avenue
South to 63rd Street
East to Laflin Street
South to 65th Street
West to Marshfield Avenue
North to 64th Street
West to Hermitage Avenue
North to 63rd Street
West to Wolcott Avenue
North to the Starting Point.

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Elaine O. Goodlow Magnet School (Unit 3290)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Western Avenue and 63rd Street
East to the RR
North to 59th Street
East to Wolcott Avenue
South to 63rd Street
East to Hermitage Avenue
South to 65th Street
West to Wolcott Avenue
North to 64th Street
West to Hamilton Avenue
South to 65th Street
West to Western Avenue
North to the Starting Point.

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Luke O'Toole Elementary School (Unit 5230)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Western Avenue and 65th Street
 East to Hamilton Avenue
 North to 64th Street
 East to Wolcott Avenue
 South to 65th Street
 East to Hermitage Avenue
 North to 64th Street
 East to Marshfield Avenue
 South to 65th Street
 East to Ashland Avenue
 South to Marquette Road
 West to Wolcott Avenue
 South to 68th Street
 West to Damen Avenue
 South to 69th Street
 West to Western 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 Bunche will be dissolved effective the end of the 2004-2005 school year as the result of the closing of Bunche.

**PERSONNEL
 IMPLICATIONS:**

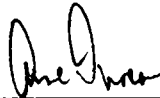
Tenured teachers assigned to Bunche shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Non-tenured teachers assigned to Bunche will be laid off. Educational Support Personnel assigned to Bunche 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:



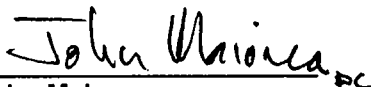
Barbara Eason-Watkins
 Chief Education Officer



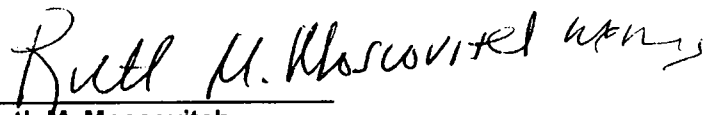
Arne Duncan
 Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

Approved as to legal form:



John Maiorca
 Chief Financial Officer



Ruth M. Moscovitch
 General Counsel