

**CLOSE GRANT COMMUNITY ACADEMY AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF  
HERBERT AND CALHOUN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Ulysses S. Grant Community Academy ("Grant") (unit 3610), located at 145 South Campbell 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 Victor Herbert Elementary School ("Herbert") (unit 3950), located at 2131 West Monroe Street, and the John Calhoun North Elementary School ("Calhoun North") (unit 6610), located at 2833 West Adams Street, to include portions of the attendance area of Grant.

**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.

Grant Community Academy satisfied the school closing inclusion criteria for the following reasons:

1. **Probation Status:**

Grant was placed on academic probation in the 2003-2004 school year.

2. **2004 Scores:**

Only 13.0% of Grant students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

Only 15.9% of Grant 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 22.7% of Grant students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

In 2002, only 18.9% of Grant students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

In 2003, only 12.8% of Grant students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

In 2004, only 13.0% of Grant students met or exceeded state standards on ISAT Composite.

In 2001, only 24.0% of Grant students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

In 2002, only 28.5% of Grant students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

In 2003, only 15.4% of Grant students were at or above national norms on ITBS Reading.

In 2004, only 15.9% of Grant 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 16.9% and an average ITBS Reading score of 21.0% for the same period.

4. **Student Gains:**

Over the last four years, Grant students gained on average only .83 of a full year's progress.

**Exclusionary Criteria**

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

1. There is available space at better-performing schools (Herbert and Calhoun North) that are located within close proximity;
2. Grant is not a Chicago Teachers' Union/Chicago Public Schools Partnership school;
3. The principal of Grant has been serving more than two (2) years; and
4. The closing of Grant will not result in moving students who had previously been reassigned to Grant 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 Grant and the assignment of most of its students to Herbert and Calhoun North 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 Grant was held on February 9, 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 Grant Community Academy at the end of the 2004-2005 school year as well as adjust the attendance areas of Herbert and Calhoun North.

### **Attendance Area Adjustments**

The CEO recommends adjusting the attendance areas of Herbert and Calhoun North as follows:

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Victor Herbert Elementary School (Unit 3610)

*Grades kindergarten through eighth:*

Beginning at Campbell Avenue and Madison Street  
East to Leavitt Street  
North to Washington Boulevard  
East to Hoyne Avenue  
North to the RR at Kinzie Street  
East to Wolcott Avenue  
South to Washington Boulevard  
West to Damen Avenue  
South to the Eisenhower Expressway  
West to Western Avenue  
North to Van Buren Street  
West to Campbell Avenue  
North to the Starting Point.

- Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of John Calhoun North Elementary School (Unit 3950)

*Grades kindergarten through eighth:*

Beginning at Kedzie Avenue and Fifth Avenue  
Northeast to Monroe Street  
East to California Avenue  
North to Madison Street  
East to Campbell Avenue  
South to Van Buren Street  
East to Western Avenue  
South to the Eisenhower Expressway  
West to Kedzie 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 Grant will be dissolved effective the end of the 2004-2005 school year as the result of the closing of Grant.

**PERSONNEL  
IMPLICATIONS:**

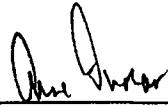
Tenured teachers assigned to Grant shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Non-tenured teachers assigned to Grant will be laid off. Educational Support Personnel assigned to Grant will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



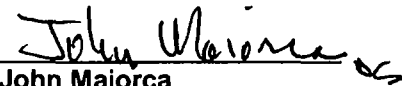
**Barbara Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer**



**Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer**

**Within Appropriation:**

**Approved as to legal form:** 



**John Maiorca  
Chief Financial Officer**



**Ruth M. Moscovitch  
General Counsel**