

CLOSE MORSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF MORTON CAREER ACADEMY AND RYERSON AND LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Samuel F. B. Morse Tech Elementary School ("Morse") (Unit 4900), located at 620 North Sawyer Avenue, for academic reasons in accordance with the Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO2, and adjust the attendance areas of: Morton Career Academy, located at 431 North Troy Street; Ryerson Elementary School, located at 646 North Lawndale Avenue; and Lafayette Elementary School, located at 2714 West Augusta Boulevard, to include portions of the attendance area of Morse Elementary School in accordance with the Policy on the Review and Establishment of School Attendance Boundaries, 05-0622-P01.

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

In accordance with the Closing Policy, the CEO employed the following inclusion criteria to identify schools for possible closing at the end of the 2005-2006 school year due to academic reasons:

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 25.0% or fewer students meeting or exceeding state standards and a Reading Score on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) of 25.0% or fewer students at or above national norms for the 2004-05 school year;
3. **4-Year Average Scores.** The school has a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of 25.0% or fewer students meeting or exceeding state standards and a 4-year average ITBS Reading Score of 25.0% or fewer students at or above national norms for the 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 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 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years. A gain of 1.0 means a student has made one year's progress.

The additional criteria employed to exclude elementary schools from consideration for possible closing for academic reasons at the end of the 2005-2006 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 Fresh Start 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.

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

1. **Probation:** The school has been on probation since the 2004-2005 school year.
2. **2005 Scores:** The school's 2004-2005 ISAT Composite Score was 18.3% of students meeting or exceeding state standards; the school's 2004-2005 ITBS Reading Score was 17.5% of students at or above national norms.
3. **4-Year Average Scores:** Over the past four school years, the school's ISAT Composite Scores were: 13.1% in 2001-2002; 27.9% in 2002-2003; 17.6% in 2003-2004; and 18.3% in 2004-2005.

These scores give the school a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of 19.2%.

Over the same period, the school's ITBS Reading Scores were: 28.3% in 2001-2002; 21.8% in 2002-2003; 20.3% in 2003-2004; and 17.5% in 2004-2005.

These scores give the school a 4-year average ITBS Reading Score of 22.0%.

4. **Student Gains:** The school's 4-year average student gains index on the ITBS Reading Test between the 2001-2002 and 2004-2005 school years is .68, which is .32 less than a full year's worth of growth as defined by the ITBS National Gains Index.

Exclusionary Criteria

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

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

Following proper notice, the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed closing of Morse was held on February 7, 2006. 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 Morse Elementary School at the end of the 2005-2006 school year and adjust the attendance areas of Morton, Ryerson and Lafayette to include portions of the attendance area of Morse.

Attendance Area Adjustments

The CEO recommends adjusting the attendance areas of Morton, Ryerson and Lafayette as follows:

Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Morton Elementary School (Unit 6800)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at St. Louis Avenue and Iowa Street
East to Spaulding Avenue
North to Grand Avenue
Southeast to Sacramento Boulevard
South to C&NW Railroad (Kinzie Street)
West to Homan Avenue
North to Franklin Boulevard
West to St Louis Avenue
North to the Starting point

Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Ryerson (Unit 5680)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Chicago Avenue and the Belt Railroad (at Kenton Avenue).
East to Pulaski Road
North to Iowa Street
East to St. Louis Avenue
South to Ohio Street
West to Drake Avenue
North to Huron Street
West to Monticello Avenue
South to Ohio Street
West to Avers Avenue
North to Huron Street
West to Pulaski Road
South to Kinzie Street
West to the Belt Railroad (at Kenton Avenue).
North to the Starting Point.

Adjust the Attendance Area Boundaries of Lafayette (Unit 4400)

Grades kindergarten through eighth:

Beginning at Kedzie Avenue and Augusta Boulevard
East to Sacramento Boulevard / Humboldt Drive
North to Division Street
East to Campbell Avenue
South to Cortez Avenue
North to Rockwell Street
South to Iowa Street
West to Washtenaw Avenue
South to the CM&ST Railroad
Northwest to Sacramento Boulevard
North to Grand Avenue
Northwest to Kedzie Avenue
North to the Starting Point

**LSC
IMPLICATIONS:**

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of Morse will be dissolved effective the end of the 2005-2006 school year as the result of the closing of Morse.

**PERSONNEL
IMPLICATIONS:**

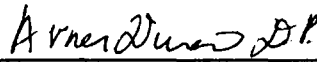
Tenured teachers assigned to Morse shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Other personnel shall be laid off in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer



Arne Duncan
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

Approved as to Legal Form:



John Maiorca
John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer



Patrick J. Rocks
Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel