

**RECONSTITUTE SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN LIEU OF CLOSING
AND REPLACE AND REASSIGN THE SHERMAN STAFF, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the reconstitution of William T. Sherman Elementary School ("Sherman") (Unit 5890), located at 1000 West 52nd Street, due to chronic academic underperformance and the replacement and reassignment of its staff, including the principal, in lieu of closing the school.

DESCRIPTION:

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 a least one year for academic reasons and the replacement and reassignment of its entire staff, including the principal.

School Closing Criteria

In accordance with the Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO2, the CEO employed the following inclusion criteria to identify schools for possible closing at the end of the 2005-2006 school year due to chronic academic underperformance.

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.

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

1. **Probation:** The school has been on probation in successive years since the 2002-2003 school year and has been on probation for nine (9) out of the past (10) school years.

2. **2005 Scores:** The school's 2004-2005 ISAT Composite Score was 24.0% of students meeting or exceeding state standards; the school's 2004-2005 ITBS Reading Score was 18.6% 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: 23.5% in 2001-2002; 19.8% in 2002-2003; 22.3% in 2003-2004; and 24.0% in 2004-2005.

These scores give the school a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of 22.4%.

Over the same period, the school's ITBS Reading Scores were: 25.8% in 2001-2002; 20.1% in 2002-2003; 21.3% in 2003-2004; and 18.6% in 2004-2005.

These scores give the school a 4-year average ITBS Reading Score of 21.5%.

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 .83, which is .17 less than a full year's worth of growth as defined by the ITBS National Gains Index.

Exclusionary Criteria

Although Sherman met the inclusion criteria and is considered chronically underperforming, it also met one of the criteria for exclusion from closing:

1. There is no better performing school located within close proximity to Sherman with available space for its students.

Based on the application of the inclusion and exclusion criteria, the CEO determined that instead of recommending the closure of Sherman, reconstitution would be more appropriate.

Public Hearing

Following proper notice, the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed reconstitution of Sherman 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 approve the reconstitution of Sherman Elementary School at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. The reconstitution of Sherman will take effect June 30, 2006. This reconstitution shall be subject to any Accountability or School Probation policies in effect at that time and the reconstituted school shall operate pursuant to those policies.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

As Sherman Elementary School will remain on probation after its reconstitution, the powers and duties of the Sherman 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 replacement and reassignment of the current principal pursuant to section 5/34-8.3(d) of the Illinois School Code, the Sherman Local School Council will have no authority to select a new four-year contract principal until the school is removed from probation.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

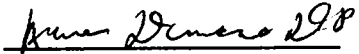
In accordance with 105 ILSC 5/34-8.3(d)(4), all Sherman employees will be replaced. All employees, including the principal, will be reassigned or laid off in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



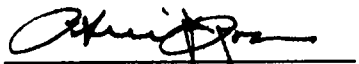
Arne Duncan
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

