

February 22, 2006

CLOSE JAMES H. BOWEN HIGH SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of James H. Bowen High School ("Bowen"), located at 2710 East 89th Street Chicago, Illinois 60617, at the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

DESCRIPTION:

In March 2002, Bowen submitted a request to convert to small schools in response to a CPS Small Schools Request for Proposals and thereafter submitted a written conversion proposal. The proposal was preliminarily accepted and on June 7, 2002 a public hearing was conducted on the proposed conversion of Bowen.

Since the conversion process began in 2002, four new schools have opened on the Bowen campus:

1. Chicago Discovery Academy, opened in September 2002;
2. Bowen Environmental Studies Team (BEST), opened in September 2002;
3. Global Visions Academy, opened in September 2003; and
4. The New Millennium School of Health, opened in 2004.

In 2003, Bowen stopped accepting incoming freshman in order to complete the school's phase out by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Currently, the four new Bowen campus schools are sharing the facility with Bowen High School and its remaining 12th graders for the 2005-2006 school year. Bowen is ready to complete the school's conversion and phase out by closing at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Upon the closing of Bowen, the four new Bowen campus schools will continue to operate as planned.

A racial impact analysis was conducted and determined that the proposed closing of Bowen would have no significant impact on the racial composition and stability of the new Bowen campus high schools.

PUBLIC HEARING:

In accordance with the Board of Education's Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO02 ("Closing Policy"), a public hearing on the proposed closing of Bowen was convened on February 11, 2006, following proper notice to receive public comment. An independent hearing officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer received comments and supporting documents at the hearing. 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Closing Policy, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may, following a public hearing, recommend to the Board the closing of schools for any of the reasons stated in the Closing Policy. After receiving the Hearing Officer's Report, the CEO has determined to recommend that the Board complete the phase out process and close Bowen in accordance with Section I.C of the Closing Policy (for alternative use of school facilities), at the end of the 2005-06 school year for non-academic reasons. Upon the closing of Bowen, the Bowen unit number 1240 may remain open for administrative purposes related to the operations of the new small schools located on the Bowen campus.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

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

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

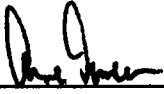
Tenured teachers assigned to Bowen shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Other personnel shall be laid off in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining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

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



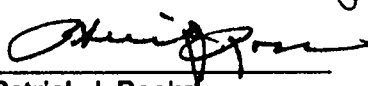
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel