

**RECONSTITUTE ROBERT FULTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND REMOVE AND REPLACE THE  
FULTON STAFF, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL,  
AT THE END OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board") approve the reconstitution of Robert Fulton Elementary School ("Fulton School"), Unit 3540, 5300 South Hermitage, Chicago, Illinois and remove and replace its staff, including the principal, at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Statutory Authority.** 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 at least one year for academic reasons, and the replacement and reassignment of its entire staff, including the principal.

**Procedural History: Public Notice, Public Hearings, and the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.** On January 24, 2008, the CEO gave written notice of his proposal to turn around Fulton School by reconstituting the school in accordance with Section 5/34-8.3 (d) of the Illinois School Code to:

- (a) the parents of students enrolled at Fulton School;
- (b) the principal of Fulton School;
- (c) the assistant principal(s) of Fulton School;
- (d) the teachers and staff of Fulton School; and,
- (e) the Local School Council members of Fulton School.

Beginning January 28, 2008, the CEO's designee published a notice of a public hearing regarding his proposal to reconstitute Fulton School. The public hearing was scheduled for February 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at 125 South Clark Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Chambers, Chicago, Illinois.

On February 11, 2008, the CEO, through his appointed Hearing Officer, Michael Hernandez, Esq., convened the public hearing to receive public comment on his proposal to reconstitute Fulton School. Oral and written comments were received from those members of the public who wished to comment. The record of the public hearing was left open until Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., to receive any additional comments that members of the public wished to submit in writing to the hearing officer.

On February 19, 2008, Hearing Officer Hernandez issued a report and recommendation to the CEO in which Hearing Officer Hernandez recommended that the CEO proceed with his proposal to reconstitute Fulton School.

On February 27, 2008, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment to members of the Board at the Board's regular February 27, 2008 meeting, which was held pursuant to a published notice.

**Basis for CEO's Recommendation.** On December 19, 2007, the CEO published proposed criteria to turn around schools, through reconstitution and other means, which have seen persistent academic failure. The CEO is proposing to turn around, through reconstitutions and other legal means, clusters of elementary and related high schools, so that graduating elementary school students are academically prepared to attend high school and receive a rigorous education in high school. Fulton School was selected for turn around through reconstitution because of (A) its probation history, (B) it meets the final turn-around criteria adopted by the CEO, (C) it is part of a cluster of schools proposed for turn around,

including the Orr Campus High Schools, which Fulton School's graduates may attend, and (D) reconstitution is in the best interests of the present students of Fulton School, as detailed below.

**A. Fulton's Probation History.** Fulton School has been on probation for at least five (5) years. During that time, Fulton School has received support in the form of: a full-time reading specialist; guidance on the development of the school improvement plan and alignment of the school budget to the Chicago Public Schools' priorities; and direct support from Area Instruction Officers and their support staff including Area Reading and Math Coaches and School Improvement Coordinators.

**B. Fulton School Meets the Turn-Around Criteria.** Fulton School satisfied the school turn-around criteria for the following reasons:

1. **The school is one of the lowest performing schools in the district:** Thirty-nine percent (39%) of students at Fulton met or exceeded ISAT composite standards in the 2006 – 2007 school year.
2. **The low performance is consistent over time:** Thirty-one percent (31%) of students at Fulton met or exceeded ISAT composite standards on average from 2005 through 2007.
3. **The low performance is consistent across subjects:**
  - 29% of students at Fulton met or exceeded ISAT standards on average from 2005 through 2007 in Reading.
  - 32% of students at Fulton met or exceeded ISAT standards on average from 2005 through 2007 in Math.
  - 35% of students at Fulton met or exceeded ISAT standards on average from 2005 through 2007 in Science.
4. **The students at the school are not catching up:**
  - 40% of students at Fulton made expected year-to-year increases on standardized tests from the 2006 school year to the 2007 school year in Reading.
  - 39% of students at Fulton made expected year-to-year increases on standardized tests from the 2006 school year to the 2007 school year in Math.

**C. Fulton is Part of a Cluster of Related Schools Proposed for Turn Around.** In addition to the CEO's proposal to turn around Fulton School, the CEO is also proposing to turn around Harper High School, in which Fulton School graduates may enroll. By turning around both Fulton and Harper High School, the CEO believes that Fulton students will be better prepared to succeed academically in high school and will receive a more rigorous education in high school.

**D. Reconstitution is in the Best Interests of Fulton School Students.** Reconstitution will enable the CEO to select a principal and administrative team to develop and implement a new educational focus at Fulton School and to hire teaching and educational support staff with credentials to implement that educational focus. No current or prospective Fulton School student will be displaced from the school.

After reviewing the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation, the Chief Executive Officer has determined to recommend that the Board approve the reconstitution of Fulton Elementary School at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. The reconstitution of Fulton will take effect June 30, 2008.

#### **LSC IMPLICATIONS:**

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

pursuant to Section VIII of the Board's School Remediation and Probation Policy for the 2007-2008 School Year, or any successor policy on school probation.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

Pursuant to 105 ILSC 5/34-8.3(d)(4), all Fulton employees, including the principal, will be removed and replaced in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

**Approved for Consideration:**



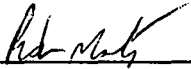
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Approved:**



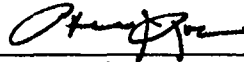
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel

