

CLOSE BIG PICTURE HIGH SCHOOL AT BACK OF THE YARDS**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Big Picture High School at Back of the Yards ("Big Picture-BOTY"), Unit 7280, located at 4946 South Paulina Street, Chicago, Illinois 60609, effective June 30, 2010.

DESCRIPTION:

From inception in 2003, Big Picture-BOTY had a history of poor cost effectiveness within the Chicago Public School District. At various points during the history of the school, the per pupil cost significantly exceeded that of other small schools under the Board's Small/Alternative Schools Policy.

In May 2006, the District asked Big Picture-BOTY and the "Big Picture Company" to re-evaluate the program and develop a plan for better cost-effectiveness. The resulting proposals were insufficient and Big Picture-BOTY stopped accepting incoming freshmen beginning in September 2006. At the close of the 2008-2009 academic year, there were no students remaining in membership at Big Picture-BOTY.

PUBLIC HEARING:

In accordance with the Board's Policy on the Closing of Schools, 07-0523-PO2, hereinafter referred to as the "Closing Policy", a public hearing on the proposed closing of Big Picture-BOTY was convened July 29, 2009, following proper notice, to receive public comment. An independent hearing officer received comments and/or supporting documents at the hearing. The hearing officer has prepared a report including findings regarding the proposal to close Big Picture-BOTY.

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 reasons stated in the Closing Policy. After receiving the hearing officer's report, the CEO has determined to recommend that the Board close Big Picture-BOTY in accordance with Section I. A. of the Closing Policy (due to cost ineffectiveness) effective June 30, 2010.


LSC IMPLICATIONS:

There are no LSC implications.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

The employment status of all faculty and staff members currently assigned to Big Picture-BOTY has been determined pursuant to CPS staffing formulas, Board policies and any applicable bargaining agreements.

Approved for Consideration:



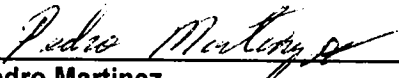
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:




Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel 