

CLOSE GEORGE W. COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL DUE TO COMPLETED PHASE-OUT**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of George W. Collins High School ("Collins"), Unit 1880, located at 1313 South Sacramento Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60623, effective August 26, 2009.

DESCRIPTION:

In February 2006, the Board of Education approved attendance area boundary changes for Collins for academic reasons. The attendance area boundary changes resulted in the cessation of a 9th grade offering at Collins during the 2006-07 school year, which initiated the gradual phase-out of the school.

Prior to the action to change the attendance boundaries and phase out the school, Collins had been on probation for nine (9) years and was one of the lowest performing Chicago public high schools on the 2005 Prairie State Achievement Examination. Only 8.7% of the students who took the test met or exceed state standards.

Students enrolled in Collins at the time the Board commenced its phase-out were permitted to complete their high school education there. At the close of the 2008-2009 school year, 134 students, all seniors, were enrolled. Of the 134, 128 graduated in June 2009. The remaining 6 students, who did not graduate, either enrolled in summer school and/or will be enrolled at Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School in fall 2009.

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 Collins was convened July 13, 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 Collins.

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 Collins in accordance with Section II.A. of the Closing Policy (due to academic reasons) effective August 26, 2009.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of Collins High School will be dissolved effective August 26, 2009, as a result of the closing of Collins.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

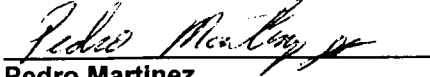
The employment status of all faculty and staff members assigned to Collins during the 2008-2009 school year has been determined pursuant to CPS staffing formulas, Board policies and any applicable bargaining agreements.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved:



Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel