

February 24, 2010

**RECONSTITUTE MYRA BRADWELL COMMUNICATIONS ARTS & SCIENCES ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL AND REMOVE AND REPLACE THE BRADWELL STAFF, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL,
AT THE END OF THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board") approves the reconstitution of Myra Bradwell Communications Arts & Sciences Elementary School ("Bradwell Elementary School"), Unit 2340, School ID 609806, located at 7736 S. Burnham Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and remove and replace its staff, including the principal, at the end of the 2009-10 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 19, 2010, the CEO gave written notice of his proposal to turnaround Bradwell Elementary 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 Bradwell Elementary School;
- (b) the principal of Bradwell Elementary School;
- (c) the assistant principal(s) of Bradwell Elementary School;
- (d) the teachers and staff of Bradwell Elementary School; and,
- (e) the Local School Council members of Bradwell Elementary School.

Beginning January 19, 2010, the CEO's designee published a notice of a public hearing regarding his proposal to reconstitute Bradwell Elementary School. The public hearing was scheduled for February 10, 2010 at 5:30 pm. at 125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor, Board Chambers, Chicago, Illinois.

On January 27, 2010, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment to the members of the Board at the Board's regular January 27, 2010 meeting, which was held pursuant to a published notice.

On February 10, 2010, the CEO, through his appointed Hearing Officer, Michael Dudek, Esq., convened the public hearing to receive public comment on his proposal to reconstitute Bradwell Elementary 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 February 11, 2010 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 17, 2010, Hearing Officer Dudek issued a report and recommendation to the CEO in which Hearing Officer Dudek recommended that the CEO proceed with his proposal to reconstitute Bradwell Elementary School.

On February 24, 2010, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment to members of the Board at the Board's regular February 24, 2010 meeting, which was held pursuant to a published notice.

Basis for CEO's Recommendation. On December 16, 2009, the CEO published the criteria that would qualify underperforming schools for turnaround, by reconstitution and other means. The CEO determined that schools that had received less than 33.3% of possible performance points under the CPS School Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy for school years 2007–08 and 2008–09 would be considered for turnaround. That policy assesses Elementary School performance based on current status and growth trends with respect to (1) ISAT Reading, (2) ISAT Mathematics (3) ISAT Science, (4) ISAT Composite - All Grades, (5) ISAT Composite – Highest Grade Students, (6) attendance, (7) Value-Added – ISAT Reading, (8) Value-Added – ISAT Mathematics. Deneen Elementary School met the CEO's turnaround criteria. Bradwell Elementary School met the CEO's turnaround criteria.

A. Bradwell Elementary School's Probation History. Bradwell Elementary School has been on probation for three years, and for the five out of the last six years. During that time, the District has provided Bradwell Elementary School the following:

- 1) Intensive on-site support to increase student and teacher attendance, minimize the achievement gap, increase academic rigor, and build the capacity of the administrators, teachers and school-based content-area specialists;
- 2) Chief Area Officer-led efforts to update content area instructional materials, implement a 20-week summer program for first and second grade students at-risk, provide funding for mentoring and extended day teacher professional development, and staff the school with an additional disciplinarian, assistant principal, and full-time specialists in reading, mathematics, and science;
- 3) Targeted professional development conducted by the Area Office, which customized the development to meet needs specific to Bradwell Elementary School teachers;
- 4) Regular on-site visits by the Chief Area Officer to direct the principal, participate in leadership team meetings; and
- 5) Area staff support with grade-level meetings, instructional lesson planning, delivery and pacing, teacher mentorship, and execution of individualized grade-level action plans.

B. Bradwell Elementary School Meets the Turnaround Criteria. Bradwell Elementary School satisfied the school turnaround criteria in that it received 11.9% of available performance points for the 2007–08 school year and 9.5% of available performance points for the 2008–09 school year.

C. Reconstitution is in the Best Interests of Bradwell Elementary School Students. Reconstitution will enable the CEO to select a principal and administrative team to give Bradwell Elementary School a clean slate. No student will be displaced from the school.

After reviewing the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation, the CEO recommends that the Board reconstitute of Bradwell Elementary School at the end of the 2009–10 school year in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-83(d). The reconstitution of Bradwell Elementary School will take effect June 30, 2010.

FINANCIAL: None.

LSC IMPLICATIONS: As Bradwell Elementary School will remain on probation after its reconstitution, the powers and duties of the Bradwell Elementary School 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 Bradwell Elementary School Local School Council has no current authority to select a new four-year contract principal. The Bradwell Elementary School Local School Council will not have that authority until the school is removed from probation pursuant to Section VIII of the Board's School Remediation and Probation Policy for the 2009–10 school year, or any successor policy on school probation.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Pursuant to 105 ILSC 5/34-8.3(d)(4), all Bradwell Elementary School 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:



Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

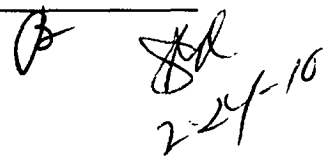


Diana S. Ferguson
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel



JD
2-24-10