

**CLOSE KATE S. BUCKINGHAM SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That effective June 30, 2013, the Chicago Board of Education close Kate S. Buckingham Special Education Center (School ID 610280) ("Buckingham"), located at 9207 South Phillips Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, for space utilization reasons and reassign returning Buckingham students to Moses Montefiore Special Elementary School (School ID 610075) ("Montefiore"), located at 1310 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to the Illinois School Code Sections 34-200 through 34-232 and the Chief Executive Officer's Guidelines for School Actions, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Chicago Public Schools may recommend the closing of schools.

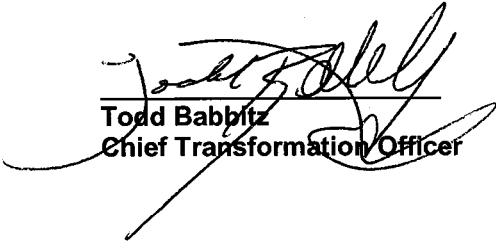
Pursuant to legal requirements, two community meetings were convened on April 6, 2013, and April 12, 2013, at Harlan High School, located at 9652 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and a public hearing was convened on April 23, 2013, at 125 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, following the issuance of proper notice. An independent hearing officer received oral and written comments and supporting documents at the hearing and kept the record open after the meeting to receive additional written comments or documentation. A transcript of the hearing and summaries of the community meetings have been provided to the Board. The hearing officer summarized comments and written documentation received and reported that the CEO's proposal did not meet the requirements of the law because the draft transition plan did not adequately address the safety impact of an increased commute on the students. The hearing officer exceeded the scope of her authority by failing to apply the law and Guidelines as promulgated. The law requires that the CEO include a draft transition plan with the notice of a proposal for a school action, which the CEO has done. The law states that the CEO prepares and implements a transition plan after the Board approves a school action. The CEO has considered the hearing officer's report regarding the impact of the longer commute and the feedback received through the public engagement process and has updated the draft transition plan accordingly. After receiving the hearing officer's report, the CEO has decided to recommend that the Board close Buckingham effective June 30, 2013, and reassign Buckingham's returning students to Montefiore.

**LSC IMPLICATIONS:** Buckingham's Local School Council will be dissolved effective June 30, 2013, upon the closing of Buckingham.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications associated with this school action will be addressed during the development of the fiscal year 2014 budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY13 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** The employment status of all faculty and staff members currently assigned to the schools affected by this authorization will be determined pursuant to Board policies and any collective bargaining agreements.

**Approved for Consideration:**



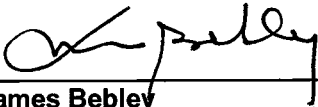
Todd Babbitz  
Chief Transformation Officer

**Respectfully Submitted:**



Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

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James Bebley  
General Counsel