

**CLOSE JOHN CALHOUN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREA OF WILLA CATHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That effective June 30, 2013, the Chicago Board of Education close John Calhoun North Elementary School (School ID 610243) ("Calhoun"), located at 2833 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, for space utilization reasons, reassign returning Calhoun students to Willa Cather Elementary School (School ID 610251) ("Cather"), located at 2908 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, and that the attendance area of Cather be adjusted to include the Calhoun attendance area.

DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to the Illinois School Code Sections 34-200 through 34-232, the Chief Executive Officer's Guidelines for School Actions ("Guidelines"), and the Board of Education's Policy on the Review and Establishment of School Attendance Boundaries, 05-0622-PO1, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Chicago Public Schools may recommend the closing of schools and the adjustment of school attendance boundaries.

Pursuant to legal requirements, two community meetings were convened on April 9, 2013, and April 13, 2013, at Raby High School, located at 3545 West Fulton Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, and a public hearing was convened on April 16, 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 and Guidelines because the CEO did not consider neighborhood development plans. The hearing officer exceeded the scope of her authority by reading the Guidelines to require the CEO to consider neighborhood development plans and in her conclusion that if neighborhood development plans had been considered, Calhoun would not have met the criteria for closure. Instead, the Guidelines lists neighborhood development plans as an item the CEO "may" consider, at her discretion and not doing so does not restrain the CEO's proposal. Further, there is no indication that Calhoun would fail to meet the closure criteria by virtue of any capacity considerations attendant to neighborhood development plans. After receiving the hearing officer's report, the CEO has decided to recommend that the Board close Calhoun effective June 30, 2013, reassign Calhoun's returning students to Cather, and assign Calhoun's attendance area to Cather.

**Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of Willa Cather Elementary School
(School ID 610086)**

2908 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

Effective June 30, 2013, for grades Kindergarten through eighth;

Beginning at Kedzie Ave and Lake St
East to Sacramento Blvd
North to the C&NW RR (at Kinzie Ave)
East and south along RR to Lake St
East to Western Ave
South to the Eisenhower Expy
West to Kedzie Ave
North to Fifth Ave
Northeast to Albany Ave
North to Madison St
West to Kedzie Ave

North to the starting point

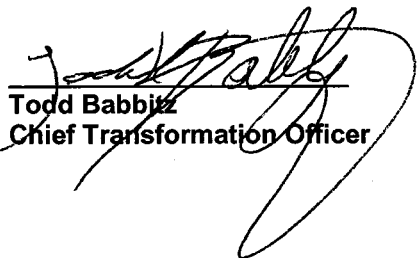
LSC IMPLICATIONS: Calhoun's Local School Council will be dissolved effective June 30, 2013, upon the closing of Calhoun.

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:

Respectfully Submitted:




Todd Babbiz
Chief Transformation Officer



Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



James Bebley
General Counsel