

# FAILED OF ADOPTION

13-0522-EX27

May 22, 2013

## **CLOSE MAHALIA JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF FORT DEARBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PAUL CUFFE MATH-SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That effective June 30, 2013, the Chicago Board of Education close Mahalia Jackson Elementary School (School ID 610369) ("Jackson, M."), located at 917 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois, for space utilization reasons, reassign returning Jackson, M. students to Fort Dearborn Elementary School (School ID 609924) ("Fort Dearborn"), located at 9025 South Throop Street, Chicago, Illinois, and that the attendance areas of Fort Dearborn and Paul Cuffe Math-Science Technology Academy Elementary School (School ID 610003) ("Cuffe"), located at 8324 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, be adjusted to include the Jackson, M. 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 8, 2013, and April 12, 2013, at Harper High School, located at 6520 South Wood Street, Chicago, Illinois, and a public hearing was convened on April 22, 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 concerns with respect to this proposal. The hearing officer exceeded the scope of his authority by failing to apply the law and Guidelines as promulgated. The law requires that the CEO include a draft transition plan identifying supports for affected students 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 and the feedback received throughout the public engagement process and has updated the draft transition plan accordingly.

Further, pursuant to the Board of Education's Policy on the Review and Establishment of School Attendance Boundaries, 05-0622-PO1, an additional public hearing was held to discuss the attendance area boundary change. The meeting was held on May 15, 2013, at Simeon High School, located at 8147 South Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

After receiving the hearing officer's report and holding the boundary change hearing, the CEO has decided to recommend that the Board close Jackson, M. effective June 30, 2013, reassign Jackson, M.'s returning students to Fort Dearborn, and assign Jackson, M.'s attendance area to Fort Dearborn and Cuffe.

### **Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of Fort Dearborn Elementary School (School ID 609924)**

9025 South Throop Street, Chicago, Illinois  
*Effective June 30, 2013, for grades Kindergarten through eighth;*

Beginning at Ashland Ave and 87th St

East to the CRI&P RR (at Vincennes Ave)  
Southwest to 95th St  
West to May St  
North to 94th St  
West to Loomis St  
South to 95th St  
West to Ashland Ave  
North to 93rd Pl  
West to Beverly Ave  
Northwest to 91st St and the Penn RR  
Northeast to Ashland Ave  
North to the starting point

**Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of Paul Cuffe Math-Science Technology Academy  
Elementary School  
(School ID 610003)**

8324 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois  
*Effective June 30, 2013, for grades Kindergarten through eighth;*

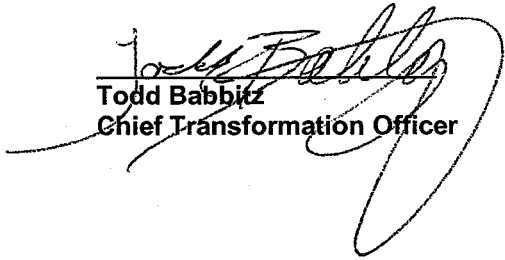
Beginning at Ashland Ave and 83rd St  
East to Bishop St  
North to 82nd St  
East to Aberdeen St  
South to 85th St  
West to Racine Ave  
South to 87th St  
West to Ashland Ave  
North to the starting point

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

**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:



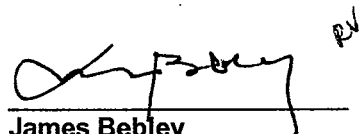
Todd Babbitz  
Chief Transformation Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



James Bebley  
General Counsel