CLOSE GARRETT A. MORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF WILLIAM H. RYDER MATH & SCIENCE SPECIALTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WALTER Q. GRESHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND OLIVER S. WESTCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That effective June 30, 2013, the Chicago Board of Education close Garrett A. Morgan Elementary School (School ID 610072) ("Morgan"), located at 8407 South Kerfoot Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, for space utilization reasons, reassign returning Morgan students to William H. Ryder Math & Science Specialty Elementary School (School ID 610153) ("Ryder"), located at 8716 South Wallace Street, Chicago, Illinois, and that the attendance areas of Ryder, Walter Q. Gresham Elementary School (School ID 609955) ("Gresham"), located at 8524 South Green Street, Chicago, Illinois, and Oliver S. Westcott Elementary School (School ID 610300) ("Westcott"), located at 409 West 80th Street, Chicago, Illinois, be adjusted to include the Morgan 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 address where students with diverse learning needs would be assigned nor did it 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 Morgan effective June 30, 2013, reassign Morgan's returning students to Ryder, and assign Morgan's attendance area to Ryder, Gresham, and Westcott.

Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of William H. Ryder Math & Science Specialty Elementary School
(School ID 610153)
8716 South Wallace Street, Chicago, Illinois

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

Begginning at 83rd and Halsted St
East to the Belt RR
Southeast to 87th St
East to Holland Rd
Southeast to the C&WI RR
West to the Belt RR
South to 91st St
West to Halsted St
North to the Belt RR
Southwest to the CRI&P RR
Northeast to the starting point

Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of Walter Q. Gresham Elementary School (School ID 609955)
8524 South Green Street, Chicago, Illinois
Effective June 30, 2013, for grades Kindergarten through eighth;

Beginning at Racine Ave and 85th St
East to Aberdeen St
North to 82nd St
East to Carpenter St
North to 81st St
East to Morgan St
North to 80th St
East to Halsted St
South to Vincennes Ave
Southwest to Summit Ave
Southwest to 87th St
West to Racine Ave
North to the starting point

Adjust Attendance Area Boundary of Oliver S. Westcott Elementary School (School ID 610300)
409 West 80th Street, Chicago, Illinois
Effective June 30, 2013, for grades Kindergarten through eighth;

Begginning at Halsted St and 78th St
East to Wallace St
North to 76th St
East to Eggleston Ave
South to 77th St
East to Vincennes Ave
Southwest to 79th St
East to State St
South to 87th St
West to the Dan Ryan Expy
South to 91st St
West to Holland Rd
Northwest to 87th St
East to the Belt RR
Northwest to 83rd St
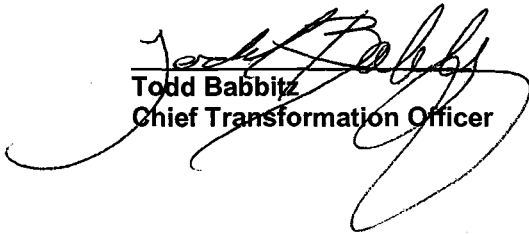West to Halsted St

North to the starting point

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

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.
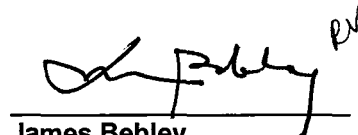
Approved for Consideration: **Respectfully Submitted:**

Todd Babbitz
Chief Transformation Officer

Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

James Bebley
General Counsel