



Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

November 30, 2011

School Community of
Best Practice High School
2040 W. Adams St.
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Re: Proposed Closure of Best Practice High School

Dear School Community:

As Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), nothing is more important to me than making sure students are getting access to a high quality education. My team, like all of you, is dedicated to ensuring that every child in every community can be successful in the classroom and graduate ready for college and career – which is why I am writing to you today.

There are too many schools in Chicago failing our children, and achievement gaps for African American and Latino students remain in the high double-digits. As adults, we all have a responsibility to make sure that we are putting the academic needs of our children before all else. To do so requires some very difficult but necessary choices to boost the academic achievement of our kids.

Please take a few moments to carefully review the draft transition plan on this proposed closing that is included with this notice. In this draft transition plan you can learn more about why this school has been chosen to be closed.

The Guidelines

I released Guidelines for School Actions (guidelines) that helped focus our attention on the district's lowest performing schools and the communities most in need of better performing school options. The guidelines can be accessed online at www.cps.edu/qualityschools. I considered the criteria outlined below when recommending actions, such as reassignment boundary changes, phase-outs, co-locations, school closures, and school consolidations:

1. If a school received the lowest performance level (Level 3) on the CPS School Performance, Remediation, and Probation Policy (Board Report 10-0728-P04) for two consecutive years and was not excluded from consideration based on the minimum performance criteria listed in the guidelines; or
2. If a school is in the process of phasing out based on previous action by the Board; or
3. If two elementary schools within 0.5 miles of each other individually offer less than Kindergarten through eighth grades and can be reconfigured to a single Kindergarten through eighth grade school; or
4. To co-locate a Board approved new or existing school.

The proposal outlined below is one of the tools we hope to use to provide students with better, higher quality school options in their communities.

Our Proposal

Our proposal is to close Best Practice High School (Best Practice), located at 2040 W. Adams St., at the end of the current school year. This proposal meets criteria outlined above because the CPS Board of Education approved the phase-out of Best Practice in 2009 (Board Report 09-0225-EX34).

There are no students currently enrolled in Best Practice High School or any staff members assigned to the school.

Public Comment On The Proposal

Two community meetings and one public hearing have been scheduled to receive public comment on the proposal.

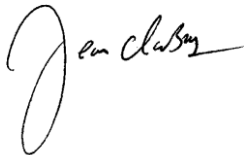
COMMUNITY MEETING #1	COMMUNITY MEETING #2	PUBLIC HEARING
Friday, January 06, 2012 Cregier/Noble St.-Bulls H.S. 2040 W. Adams St. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Friday, January 20, 2012 Cregier/Noble St.-Bulls H.S. 2040 W. Adams St. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Wednesday, January 25, 2012 125 S. Clark Street, Room 1550 Chicago, Illinois 60603 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

I invite you to share your feedback on this proposal at the community meetings and public hearing. You may also provide alternate proposals or other suggestions. If you wish to comment at the community meetings or hearing, you must sign up to speak on the day of, at the designated location, beginning one hour before the designated start time and ending one hour after the start of the meeting or hearing. You will have two minutes to speak, unless the hearing officer or meeting organizer provides an extension. The hearing will conclude at the stated end time or following the comments of the last person who has signed up to speak, whichever occurs first.

After the community meetings and public hearing, I will review a written report from the hearing officer. At that time, I may recommend that the Board consider and approve the closure of Best Practice at its meeting on February 22, 2012.

I can assure you that we will not close any school without careful consideration for what is best for our students, and that my team and I will work to make any transition as smooth as possible. If you have questions or concerns, please call the CPS Quality Schools Hotline at 773-553-5020.

Sincerely,



Jean-Claude Brizard

CC: David Vitale, Board President
Noemi Donoso, Chief Education Officer