I. Introduction

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is committed to ensuring that every student, in every community, has access to high quality schools in order to graduate college and career ready. This means we must put our students’ needs first, make difficult decisions, and act now to ensure our communities have better educational opportunities. CPS proposed school actions (including closures, consolidations, reassignment boundary changes, phase-outs, and co-locations), along with significant investments to improve our schools in the communities with the greatest need for better opportunities.

In order to ensure a quality education for students in the Near West Side community, we proposed this school action and the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (“Board”) approved to phase-out Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory High School (Crane). Current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will continue to attend Crane for the 2012-2013 school year. This action will reassign the boundary of Crane for incoming ninth grade students to Wells Community Academy High School (Wells), John Marshall Metropolitan High School (Marshall), Manley Career Academy High School (Manley), and David G. Farragut Career Academy High (Farragut). The transition plan outlined below summarizes the action, identifies the academic, social, emotional, and safety supports that will be provided to impacted students, and explains the process that was provided for commenting on the action.

Since this action was proposed in December of 2011, CPS has received feedback from parents, schools and community members and considered that feedback in the revision of this transition plan.

II. Summary of Approved Action

Crane is a neighborhood attendance area high school located at 2245 W. Jackson Boulevard within the Near West Side community and the West Side High School Network of CPS. Crane HS and Achievement Academy currently serve 638 students 9th through 12th grades.

CPS has approved the phase-out of Crane based on the school’s chronic academic failure and the need for higher quality educational options for students in the Near West Side community. The phase-out meets the academic criteria of the Chief Executive Officer’s Guidelines for School Actions: Crane has received the lowest performance level (Level 3) on the CPS Performance Policy (Board Report 10-0728-PO4) for at least two consecutive years, had a 5-year cohort graduation rate below its geographic network average in 2010-11, and scored below the 25th percentile on the trend and growth component of the Performance Policy in 2010-11. More specifically, Crane has achieved the lowest performance rating, Level 3, every year since the Level 3 rating was introduced four years ago. The school’s 5-year cohort graduation rate is 29.7%, and its trend and growth scores are in the 3rd percentile of all schools subject to the CPS Performance Policy.

As a result of the approved phase-out, Crane’s attendance area boundary will be changed to decrease its grade offerings by one grade per year until the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will continue to be assigned to Crane for the 2012-2013 school year.

Incoming ninth grade students residing in the current Crane attendance area will be assigned to Wells, located...
at 936 North Ashland Avenue, Marshall, located at 3250 West Adams Street, Manley, located at 2935 West Polk Street, or Farragut, located at 2345 South Christina Avenue. This means that either Wells, Marshall, Manley, or Farragut, depending on the student’s home address, will be the new neighborhood school for incoming ninth grade students living in the Crane boundary for the 2012-2013 school year. Please see Appendix B for a map further explaining the proposed boundary reassignment.

Students currently enrolled in the Crane Achievement Academy who complete the two-year program at the end of the 2011-2012 school year will matriculate into Crane High School. Students enrolled in the Crane Achievement Academy who have not completed the two-year program at the end of the 2011-2012 school year will also remain at Crane High School. Elementary students who qualify for an achievement academy placement who would normally attend Crane Achievement Academy for the Fall of 2012 will be assigned according to board policy.

III. Safety and Security

CPS has consulted with its Office of Safety and Security (OSS) regarding potential safety and security issues related to the phase-out of Crane and is prepared to address any safety and security challenges that arise in this community. OSS will partner with local community groups, elected officials, other sister agencies, and the Chicago Police Department, specifically with the Commander of the Twelfth Police District, to ease the transition of students to a changed school environment.

CPS will continue to provide safe passage supports to ensure the safety of all students and staff traveling to school. Safe passage workers wear identifiable vests and stand on designated street corners to monitor students’ safety during their travel to school in the morning and home in the afternoon. OSS will also continue to follow Crane’s current dismissal plan and foster Crane’s partnership with the CTA to assist students as they travel to and from school. OSS will conduct a security audit of the Crane facility before the start of the 2012-2013 school year to ensure that the facility promotes a calm learning environment for all returning students. OSS is committed to maintaining a secure climate at Crane and supporting the current security team through this transition.

IV. Supports for Students and Schools

CPS is committed to ensuring that all students impacted by the phase-out of Crane have additional supports that will improve their educational opportunities.

**Academic Needs of Students**

To ensure students are given access to high quality instruction throughout the phase-out, CPS will invest in an additional instructional leader to support Crane’s school staff in meeting students’ needs. The instructional leader will make certain academic programs are addressing the needs of Crane students, and teachers are prepared to effectively deliver quality instruction that is translating to student achievement. CPS will also invest in additional instructional supports, with an increased focus on continued alignment of coursework to the College Readiness Standards as well as Common Core State Standards to ensure a rigorous instructional program.

CPS is in the process of working with Crane leadership to conduct a comprehensive review of student performance data, student transcripts, and course sequence options to the educational program is providing
the individualized support each student needs. CPS will invest in targeted ACT preparation programs, and a comprehensive reading program to promote students’ development and accelerate academic growth. A thorough review of credit recovery options is ongoing to maximize students’ opportunity to meet graduation requirements. CPS will offer Crane students online, summer school and evening credit recovery options to allow Crane students to make up high school credits. CPS will also invest in a counselor to Crane students’ successfully complete high school and to engage students in thoughtful consideration of post-secondary opportunities.

Although these schools are not the subjects of a school action, CPS will also work with the schools (Manley, Marshall, Farragut, and Wells) that will receive students as a result of school boundary changes to ensure these schools have the necessary supports in place to give new incoming students access to a high-quality education. CPS will work with these schools to make certain they have the capacity to collect and thoughtfully review current data on student performance. CPS will identify staffing support for school administration and teachers, including an additional instructor as needed.

As the existing Crane is phased out, a new health sciences high school will open at 2245 W. Jackson Boulevard in the fall of 2013 with ninth graders. The CEO and his designees have committed to working with the Crane Coalition to formulate the Crane Transformational Task Force to develop this new high school.

**Social Emotional Needs of Students**

CPS is committed to ensuring that all students impacted by the phase-out of Crane experience a positive learning climate for the remainder of their high school career. CPS’ Department of Youth Development and Positive Behavior Supports case managers will work directly with school and network administration to determine what supports should be implemented and/or remain at Crane to address students’ social, emotional and behavioral needs.

CPS will work with leadership and staff at Crane to address concerns regarding the phase-out of their school and emphasize the need to maintain a stable, positive and supportive learning environment for students. As needed, the Department of Youth Development and Positive Behavior Supports will consult with the leadership and staff at Crane to ensure school climate systems are in place that support learning for all students throughout the school.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities at Crane will continue to receive instructional support both in the general education classroom and in small group or individual settings, in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

All instructional, clinical and related services will continue to be provided in accordance with their IEPs. All specialized services, including nursing, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, psychology, assistive technology support, and special education instruction will continue to be provided in the manner stated on each student’s current IEP for the remainder of the school year and as each student transitions to the receiving schools. The additional academic supports outlined above will also be made available for all students including students with disabilities. IEPs will be revised as necessary to address any additional support needed throughout and beyond the transition.
The administration at Crane will work with the Office of Special Education and Supports to do a full analysis of IEPs for all students proper teaching, clinical and related service are allocated to meet the needs of all students. Furthermore, staff will be equipped to meet with parents to answer any questions or concerns regarding the transition.

The Crane facility is accessible to the public and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Schools designated as “accessible” all have a basic level of access, but the accessibility of individual floor levels, rooms and features may vary. For more information about a particular school, contact the CPS Director of ADA Policy at (773) 553-2158.

**Students in Temporary Living Situations**
The CPS Office of Students in Temporary Living Situations (OSTLS) will continue the supports currently provided to students in temporary living situations (STLS), which include but are not limited to immediate enrollment, STLS transportation, and hardship transportation as appropriate, at Crane.

**English Language Learners**
According to the Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE), currently Crane does not have any English language learners (ELLs) enrolled. Future ELL students will receive state mandated transitional bilingual program services which include, depending on the number of ELL students enrolled, certified Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and/or support from OLCE.

**Transportation**
No additional transportation will be offered as a result of this action. Provisions for specific student populations (i.e. student with disabilities, students in temporary living situations and NCLB qualifying students), as determined by the CPS transportation policy, will continue to apply.

**City of Chicago Resources**
Chicago Departments and sister agencies that work with CPS students and families will work together in partnership to support the transition.

V. **Informational Briefings Regarding Choice of Schools**
Current Crane students’ home school assignments will not be impacted by the phase-out of Crane. Students and families had the opportunity to pursue additional enrollment options. CPS provided informational briefings regarding enrollment options on the dates below during the times specified. At these informational briefings, parents and guardians were given relevant information to assist them in making informed choices on the enrollment of their children.

**For current 9-11th grade students**
January 18, 2012 from 5-7 p.m. January 21, 2012 from 12-2 p.m.
Malcolm X College West Englewood Library
1900 W. Van Buren St. 1745 West 63rd Street

CPS staff was also available to provide detailed information to students and parents on the student reassignment and boundary changes associated with proposed school actions immediately prior to the first
community meeting, which took place on January 6, 2012 from 5-6pm at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren St.

VI. Public Comment

Community Meetings and Public Hearings:
Two community meetings and one formal public hearing were held regarding this action. Public comment was accepted during each meeting and hearing. CPS considered community feedback and adjusted this transition plan accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Meeting 1</th>
<th>Community Meeting 2</th>
<th>Public Hearing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6, 2012 from 6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>January 20, 2012 from 6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>January 24, 2012 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malcolm X College</td>
<td>Malcolm X College</td>
<td>Board Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900 W. Van Buren St.</td>
<td>1900 W. Van Buren St.</td>
<td>125 S. Clark St., 5th floor</td>
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Further Questions and Concerns:
Please call the Chicago Public Schools Quality Schools Hotline at (773) 553-5020 with any additional questions or concerns concerning the phase-out of Crane.
Appendix A: Performance Data

CPS has a policy to hold all schools accountable called the Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy. Its purpose is to effectively and fairly measure school performance. Based on the percentage of current statistics and growth points earned, schools are awarded one of three ratings:

- **Level 1** (Excellent Standing): High schools receiving at least 66.7% of available points.
- **Level 2** (Good Standing): High schools receiving between 44% and 66.6% of available points.
- **Level 3** (Probation): High schools receiving less than 44% of available points.

For more information please visit: [http://cps.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/PerformancePolicy_FAQ.pdf](http://cps.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/PerformancePolicy_FAQ.pdf)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY11 Performance Data for Schools Subject to Action:</th>
<th>School: Crane HS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Policy Level</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Policy Points</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Current Status Points</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Trend and Growth Points</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend and Growth Percentile Rank</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Graduation %</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETWORK Graduation %</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: Boundary Changes and Proposed Student Reassignment

If the Board of Education approves the phase-out of Crane, all current Crane students in 9th to 11th grade will return to Crane. For future students, the current attendance area boundaries of Crane, Wells, Marshall, Manley and Farragut will be modified according to the proposed boundaries for 2012-13 described in the map here.