

CLOSE JOAN F. ARAI MIDDLE SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Joan F. Arai Middle School ("Arai") unit number 4590, located at 900 West Wilson Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60640, at the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

DESCRIPTION:

Arai had been a middle school serving grades 6-8 and received its incoming students from four feeder elementary schools Stewart, Stockton, McCutcheon and Brennemann schools, each of which had offered K-5 grade levels. Due to low utilization of both Arai and the four Arai feeder schools, it was determined that the Arai feeder schools should grow to provide full K-8 grade levels and Arai Middle School should be phased out and its building repurposed. Therefore, at the start of the 2004-05 school year, Arai stopped accepting incoming sixth graders (Board Report 04-0526-EX14), and at the start of the 2005-06 school year, Arai stopped accepting incoming 7th graders (Board Report 05-0323-EX4). Similarly, the four elementary feeder schools grew to serve 6th graders in fall 2004, 7th graders in fall 2005 and will serve 8th graders in fall 2006.

In September 2004, CPS issued the Renaissance 2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) to receive new school proposals for the Arai campus and other facilities. Through the RFP process and with local input from the Arai Transitional Advisory Council, the UPLIFT Community School proposal was selected for the Arai campus and a public hearing on this proposal was held on January 20, 2005. The Board subsequently approved the opening of UPLIFT Community School at their January 2005 Board meeting (Board Report 05-0126-EX15). The school opened on the Arai campus in September 2005 and is currently serving 6th through 9th graders, and will ultimately serve grades 6 through 12, adding a 10th, 11th and 12th grades over the next three school years.

Currently, UPLIFT Community School is sharing the Arai facility with Arai Middle School and its remaining 8th graders for the 2005-2006 school year. Arai is ready to complete the school's phase out by closing at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Upon the closing of Arai, the UPLIFT Community School will continue to operate and add grade levels as planned.

A racial impact analysis was conducted and determined that the proposed closing of Arai would have no significant impact on the racial composition and stability of the affected schools.

PUBLIC HEARING:

In accordance with the Board of Education's Policy on the Closing of Schools, 04-0225-PO02 ("Closing Policy"), a public hearing on the proposed closing of Arai was convened on February 11, 2006, following proper notice to receive public comment. An independent hearing officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer received comments and supporting documents at the hearing. The hearing officer has prepared and submitted a report of the proceedings to the Chief Executive Officer. A copy of the Hearing Officer's Report is available for review.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Closing Policy, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may, following a public hearing, recommend to the Board the closing of schools for any of the reasons stated in the Closing Policy. After receiving the Hearing Officer's Report, the CEO has determined to recommend that the Board complete the phase out process and close Arai in accordance with Section I.C of the Closing Policy (for alternative use of school facilities), at the end of the 2005-06 school year for non-academic reasons.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of Arai will be dissolved effective the end of the 2005-2006 school year as the result of the closing of Arai.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

Tenured teachers assigned to Arai shall become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Other personnel shall be laid off in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



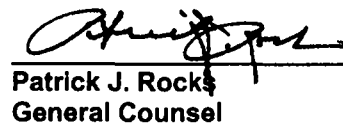
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel