

CLOSE AUSTIN COMMUNITY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Austin Community Academy High School ("Austin"), Unit 1220, located at 231 North Pine Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60644, effective August 28, 2007.

DESCRIPTION:

In June 2004, the Board of Education approved attendance area boundary changes for Austin that resulted in no new freshmen classes at the school as of September 2004, to enable planning for the future educational focus of the school. A public hearing was convened on June 12, 2004, following proper notice, to receive public comment on the proposed change in Austin's attendance area boundaries. A hearing moderator received comments and supporting documents at the hearing and prepared a report for the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"). After receipt of the report, the CEO recommended the change in Austin's attendance area boundaries.

In May 2005 and May 2006, the Department of New Schools Development and Office of New Schools, respectively, issued Requests for Proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 initiative, including requests for proposals to operate at Austin. Proposals and supplemental application materials to operate either charter, contract or performance schools were submitted to the Board on August 9, 2005, July 6, 2006, and September 5, 2006. The proposals were evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in the Board's *Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools*, 05-1026-PO2 ("Renaissance Policy"), and recommendations were submitted to the CEO.

As the result of that process, in November 2005, the Board of Education approved the establishment of the Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy as a contract school in accordance with the Renaissance Policy and alternative school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. In November 2006, the Board of Education approved the establishment of the Austin Polytechnical Academy as a performance school in accordance with the Renaissance Policy and small school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. Public hearings on the opening of the Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy and Austin Polytechnical Academy were held at the Austin campus on November 10, 2005, and November 6, 2006, respectively, in accordance with the Renaissance Policy.

As a result of the changes in Austin's attendance area boundaries, approximately 280 students were enrolled at Austin for the 2006-2007 school year, all of whom were scheduled to graduate in June 2007. Any students that did not graduate were enrolled in summer school and/or assigned to a new high school for Fall 2007. Austin is ready to complete the conversion and phase out process by closing effective August 28, 2007. Upon the closing of Austin, the two new Austin campus schools will continue to operate as planned.

Pursuant to the Board of Education's *Policy on the Closing of Schools*, 04-0225-PO2 ("Closing Policy"), it was determined that that the proposed closing of Austin 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 Closing Policy, a public hearing on the proposed closing of Austin was convened on July 6, 2007, following proper notice, to receive public comment. An independent hearing officer received comments and/or supporting documents at the hearing. The hearing officer has prepared a report including findings regarding the proposal to close Austin.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Closing Policy, the CEO of the Chicago Public Schools 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 Austin in accordance with Section III of the Closing Policy ("School Closings Due to a Need for a Change in Educational Focus"), effective August 28, 2007.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of Austin will be dissolved effective August 28, 2007, as a result of the closing of Austin.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:


Tenured teachers assigned to Austin 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:



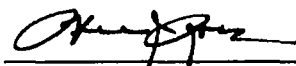
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

