

CLOSE SOUTH SHORE CAREER ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of South Shore Career Academy High School, Unit 1550 ("South Shore"), located at 7529 South Constance Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60649, effective August 28, 2007.

DESCRIPTION:

In March 2002, South Shore submitted a request to convert to small schools in response to a CPS Small Schools Request for Proposals and thereafter submitted a written conversion proposal. The proposal was preliminarily accepted in April 2002 and, on June 7, 2002, a public hearing was conducted on the proposed conversion of South Shore. On January 24, 2007, the Board of Education approved "The Small Schools Conversion Plan to Convert South Shore High School into Four Small Schools" ("South Shore Conversion Plan") pursuant to Board Report 07-0124-EX5.

Since the conversion process began in 2002, four new schools have opened on the South Shore campus:

1. The School of the Arts opened in September 2002;
2. The School of Entrepreneurship opened in September 2002;
3. The School of Leadership opened in September 2003; and
4. The School of Technology opened in September 2003.

In September 2003, South Shore stopped accepting incoming freshman. This continued for two years, until June 2005. At that time, all remaining South Shore students graduated or transferred to one of the new small schools on the South Shore campus. Currently, the four new South Shore small schools are sharing the South Shore facility. South Shore is ready to complete the conversion and phase out process by closing effective August 28, 2007. Upon the closing of South Shore, the four small schools will continue to operate as planned in the South Shore Conversion Plan.

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 South Shore would have no significant impact on the racial composition and stability of the affected schools.

PUBLIC HEARING:

In accordance with the Closing Policy, a public hearing on the proposed closing of South Shore 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 South Shore.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Closing Policy, the Chief Executive Officer ("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 South Shore 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. Upon the closing of South Shore, the South Shore unit number, 1550, may remain open for administrative purposes related to the operations of the four small schools located on the South Shore campus.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

The Local School Council of South Shore was dissolved effective June 2005 when all remaining students transferred to the small schools on the South Shore campus.


PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

Upon the graduation or transfer of all remaining students in June 2005, tenured teachers assigned to South Shore become reassigned teachers pursuant to the Board's policy, "Reassignment and Layoff of Regularly Certified and Appointed Tenured Teachers," 04-0623-PO5. Other personnel were reassigned or laid off in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

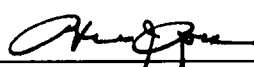
Approved:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel