

**ADJUST THE ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES AND CHANGE THE GRADE STRUCTURES OF
DE LA CRUZ AND WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the attendance areas and grade structures of Juana I. De La Cruz Elementary School (unit 7330, school ID 610306), located at 2317 West 23rd Place, and John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School (unit 6450, school ID 610228), located at 1900 West 23rd Street, be adjusted and changed.

DESCRIPTION:

Currently, Whittier serves kindergarten through sixth grade and De La Cruz serves seventh and eighth grade for students residing within each school's attendance area boundaries. Effective July 1, 2008, Whittier will increase its grade offering to serve grades kindergarten through seventh while De La Cruz will decrease its grade structure to serve eighth grade only. Effective July 1, 2009, Whittier will increase its grade offering to serve grades kindergarten through eighth. This recommendation does not preclude either school from continuing to offer pre-kindergarten during the 2008-09 school year.

Pursuant to the Board of Education's Policy on the Review and Establishment of School Attendance Boundaries, 05-0622-PO1, and Policy on the Consolidation of Schools, 05-1221-PO1, and following a public hearing, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may recommend to the Board the consolidation of schools and/or the revision of school attendance boundaries for any of the reasons for such action stated in the Policies.

Pursuant to the Policies, a public hearing was convened on Thursday, February 14, 2008, following the issuance of proper notice to receive public comment on the CEO's proposal to consolidate the De La Cruz and William F. Finkl elementary schools and to adjust the attendance area boundaries of De La Cruz and Finkl elementary schools due to the underutilization of those schools. An independent hearing officer received comments and supporting documents at the hearing and kept the record open after the hearing to receive additional written comments or documentation. Transcripts of the public hearing have been provided to the Board. The hearing officer has prepared and submitted a report regarding the CEO's proposal in which the hearing officer recommends the consolidation of De La Cruz and Finkl elementary schools and the adjustment of De La Cruz's and Finkl's attendance area boundaries. After receiving the hearing officer's report, the CEO has determined to recommend that the Board approve changes to the attendance area boundaries and grade structures of the Whittier and De La Cruz elementary schools at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Change the Grade Structure of John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School

***Grades kindergarten through seventh; effective July 1, 2008
(eighth grade attends De La Cruz);***

Beginning at Hoyne Ave and 19th St
East to Wolcott Ave
South to 21st St
East to Paulina St
South to Blue Island Ave
Northeast to Ashland Ave
South to the Chicago River
Southwest to Damen Ave
North to Cullerton St
West to Hoyne St

North to the starting point

Grades kindergarten through eighth; effective July 1, 2009;

Beginning at Hoyne Ave and 19th St
East to Wolcott Ave
South to 21st St
East to Paulina St
South to Blue Island Ave
Northeast to Ashland Ave
South to the Chicago River
Southwest to Damen Ave
North to Cullerton St
West to Hoyne St
North to the starting point

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: None

FINANCIAL: None

LSC IMPLICATIONS: None

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: The employment status of all faculty and staff members currently assigned to De La Cruz School will be determined pursuant to CPS staffing formulas, Board policies and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Approved for Consideration:



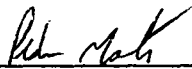
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



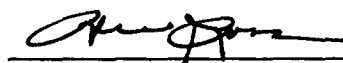
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved As to Legal Form:



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel