

**CLOSE MOSE VINES PREPARATORY ACADEMY, EXCEL-ORR ACADEMY, APPLIED ARTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY, AND ORR CAMPUS UNIT NO. 1830,
EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR
AND
OPEN A NEW ORR ACADEMY AS AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL WITH A
CHANGED EDUCATIONAL FOCUS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education ("Board"):

1. close Mose Vines Preparatory Academy (Unit Number 7530) ("Mose Vines"), EXCEL-Orr Academy (Unit Number 7290) ("EXCEL"), Applied Arts, Sciences and Technology Academy (Unit Number 7300) ("AASTA") and Orr Campus Unit No. 1830 (sometimes collectively referred to as the "Orr Campus High Schools") at the end of the 2007-2008 school year; and,
2. open a new Orr Academy as an alternative school with a changed educational focus -- namely as a teacher training center and professional development school with a new instructional program -- effective July 1, 2008.

DESCRIPTION:

Authority

Pursuant to Section III of the Board's policy on the Closing of Schools (Board Report # 07-0523-PO2), and following an opportunity for public hearing, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may recommend to the Board that a school close and that a new school open with a change in educational focus, which will result in the layoff of all staff and the termination of any principals' contracts.

Public Notice, Public Hearings, the Hearing Officer's Recommendation

On January 24, 2008, the CEO gave written notice of his proposal to turn around the Orr Campus High Schools by closing the Orr Campus High Schools in accordance with the Board's Policy on the Closing of Schools, and opening a new Orr Academy with a change in educational focus, to:

- (a) the parents of students enrolled at the Orr Campus High Schools;
- (b) the principal(s) of the Orr Campus High Schools;
- (c) the assistant principal(s) of the Orr Campus High Schools;
- (d) the teachers and staff members of the Orr Campus High Schools;
- (e) the Local School Council members of the Mose Vines Academy Appointed Local School Council;
- (f) the employees assigned to Orr Campus Unit No. 1830.

Beginning January 28, 2008, the CEO's designee caused to be published a notice of public hearing on his proposal to close the Orr Campus High Schools and open a new Orr Academy, as an alternative school, with a change in educational focus, which public hearing was scheduled for February 7, 2008, at 3:00 pm. at 125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor, Board Chambers, Chicago, Illinois.

On February 7, 2008, the CEO, through his appointed Hearing Officer, Fredrick H. Bates, Esq., convened a public hearing to receive public comment on his proposal to close the Orr Campus High Schools. Oral and written comment was received from those members of the public who wished to comment, and the record of the public hearing was left open until Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., to receive any additional comments that members of the public wished to submit in writing to the hearing officer.

On February 13, 2008, the CEO, through the Office of New Schools, convened a second public hearing to receive public comment on his proposal that the Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL) be selected by the Board to manage the new Orr Academy.

On February 14, 2008, Hearing Officer Bates issued a report and recommendation to the CEO with respect to his proposal to close the Orr Campus High Schools and open a new Orr Academy with a change in educational focus, in which Hearing Officer Bates recommended that the CEO proceed to make his proposal to the Board.

On February 27, 2008, members of the public were afforded an opportunity to provide public comment to members of the Board at the Board's regular February 27, 2008 meeting, which was being held pursuant to a published notice.

CEO's Recommendation

After reviewing the Hearing Officer's Report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board approve the closure of the Orr Campus High Schools effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year and open the new Orr Academy, as an alternative school with a changed educational focus, effective July 1, 2008. The basis for that recommendation is as follows:

On December 19, 2007, the CEO published proposed criteria to turn around schools through reconstitution and other means, which have seen persistent academic failure. The CEO is proposing to turn around, through reconstitutions and other legal means, clusters of elementary and related high schools, so that graduating elementary school students are academically prepared for high school, and will receive a rigorous education in high school. The Orr Campus High Schools were selected for turn around through closure and the opening of a new alternative school with a change in educational focus for the following reasons: (A) their history of persistent academic failure; (B) they meet the final turn-around criteria adopted by the CEO; (C) they are part of a cluster of schools proposed for turn around, including the Julia Ward Howe Elementary School and Morton Career Academy, whose graduates may attend the proposed new Orr Academy; and, (D) closure of the Orr Campus High Schools and opening a new Orr Academy with a changed educational focus is in the best interests of the present students as detailed below.

I. Close the Orr Campus High Schools based on a history of academic failure and the resulting need to change educational focus.

A. The Orr Campus High Schools have a history of academic failure that has been resistant to change. The predecessor of the Orr Campus High Schools, Rezin C. Orr High School, was the subject of several remedial actions by the CEO and the Board over the last ten years, including a reconstitution in 1997, an intervention in 2000, and the closure of Orr High School and the creation of the present three high schools between 2002 and 2004. Despite these remedial actions, the Orr Campus High Schools' history of academic failure has continued.

B. Mose Vines School Meets the Turn-Around Criteria.

1. **Mose Vines' students do not show up for school:** Mose Vines' students missed an average of 38 days of school in the 2006-2007 school year and, between 2005 and 2007, Mose Vines' students missed an average of 36 days of school per school year.
2. **Mose Vines' students do not stay in school:** Nineteen percent (19%) of Mose Vines' students dropped out of school in the 2006-2007 school year. Between 2005 and 2007, an average of 14% of Mose Vines' students dropped out of school.
3. **Mose Vines' students do not succeed:**
 - Nine percent (9%) of Mose Vines' students met or exceeded state standards on the

Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) Composite in the 2006-2007 school year.

- An average of 10% of Mose Vines' students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite between 2005 and 2007 school years.

4. **Mose Vines' students do not compete:** Forty-one percent (41%) of students made expected year-to-year gains on the ACT EPAS assessment series in 2006.

C. EXCEL Meets the Turn-Around Criteria.

1. **EXCEL's students do not show up for school:** EXCEL's students missed an average of 40 days of school in the 2006-2007 school year and between 2005 and 2007, EXCEL's students missed an average of 42 days of school per school year.
2. **EXCEL's students do not stay in school:** Fourteen percent (14%) of EXCEL's students dropped out of school in the 2006-2007 school year. Between 2005 and 2007, an average of 12% of EXCEL's students dropped out of school.
3. **EXCEL'S students do not succeed:**
 - Eleven percent (11%) of EXCEL's students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite in the 2006-2007 school year;
 - An average of 13% of EXCEL's students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite between 2005 and 2007 school years.
4. **EXCEL's students do not compete:** Forty-three percent (43%) of EXCEL's students made expected year-to-year gains on the ACT EPAS assessment series in 2006.

D. AASTA Meets the Turn-Around Criteria.

1. **AASTA's students do not show up for school:** AASTA's students missed an average of 46 days of school in the 2006-2007 school year, and between 2005 and 2007 AASTA's students missed an average of 39 days of school per school year.
2. **AASTA's students do not stay in school:** Fifteen percent (15%) of AASTA's students dropped out of school in the 2006-2007 school year. Between 2005 and 2007, an average of 12% of AASTA's students dropped out of school.
3. **AASTA's students do not succeed:**
 - Ten percent (10%) of AASTA's students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite in the 2006-2007 school year;
 - An average of 9% of AASTA's students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite between 2005 and 2007 school years.
4. **AASTA's students do not compete:** Forty-two percent (42%) of AASTA's students made expected year-to-year gains on the ACT EPAS assessment series in 2006.

- II. **Open the New Orr Academy as an Alternative School with a Changed Educational Focus.** The new Orr Academy would be an alternative school, inasmuch as it would become a new teacher training center. The new Orr Academy also would have new instructional programming that will benefit its students.

- A. **A new teacher training center.** A new teacher training center would open where master and mentor teachers would mentor aspiring resident teachers. This would benefit students by providing a core of highly trained master and mentor teachers. It would also benefit students because the teacher training center would be supported by a research component to identify and implement best practices in curriculum, instruction, and student assessment at the proposed new school.
- B. **A longer school day for 9th and 10th grade students.** The new Orr Academy would have a longer school day for 9th and 10th grade students because of special physical education, art and music programs. Students at Mose Vines, AASTA and EXCEL currently have a standard high school day.
- C. **Classrooms staffed by two teachers.** Some classrooms at the new Orr Academy would have both a mentor teacher and a resident teacher in the classroom.
- D. **Small Learning Academies.** The new Orr Academy would have Small Learning Academies, which would consist of a 9th and 10th grade Foundations Academy and an 11th and 12th grade Personal Pathways Program.
 - 1. In the Foundations Academy, 9th and 10th grade students would remain with core content teachers for two years of supportive, skill-based coursework.
 - 2. In the Personal Pathways programming, students would select their Personal Pathway for the 11th and 12th grade years. Their choices would be among Liberal Arts, Technical Arts, and Career Arts pathways.
- E. **A mastery-based assessment and scheduling model.** The new Orr Academy would employ a mastery-based student assessment and scheduling model to advance or, if necessary, remediate students.
- F. **A new, unified curriculum for all students.** The new Orr Academy would use the researched-based Instructional Design System for all students, and use Kaplan English curriculum, the Meaningful Science curriculum, and Carnegie Cognitive Tutor Mathematics curriculum.

Conclusion

Closure of the Orr Campus High Schools and opening a new Orr Academy is in the best interests of the Orr Campus High School students. In conjunction with the CEO's proposal to turnaround Orr Campus high schools, the CEO has proposed to turnaround Julia Ward Howe Elementary School and Morton Career Academy, which are elementary schools whose graduates may enroll at the new Orr Academy. By turning around the Orr Campus High Schools, Howe School and Morton Career Academy, the CEO believes that the new Orr Academy's future students will be better prepared to succeed academically in high school and will receive a more rigorous education in high school. A new Orr Academy with a change in educational focus will enable the CEO to select a principal and administrative team to develop and implement a new educational focus at new Orr Academy and to hire teaching and educational support staff with credentials to implement that educational focus. No current Mose Vines, EXCEL, AASTA or prospective new Orr Academy students will be displaced from the school.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

The existing Mose Vines Alternative Local School Council will be dissolved at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. The new Orr Academy will be alternative school with an alternative local school council, which will be created in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4(b) and Board policies and practices.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

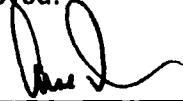
All Orr Campus High Schools' employees, including the principals, will be removed in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any.

Approved for Consideration:



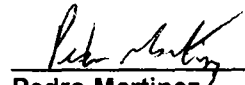
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



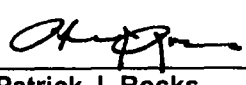
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

PR
02-26-08