

CLOSE BIG PICTURE HIGH SCHOOL METRO**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of Big Picture High School Metro ("Big Picture-Metro"), Unit 7730, located at 2710 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616, effective June 30, 2010.

DESCRIPTION:

From inception in 2003, Big Picture Metro had a history of poor cost effectiveness within the Chicago Public School District. At various points during the history of the school, the per pupil cost significantly exceeded that of other small schools under the Board's Small/Alternative Schools Policy.

In May 2006, the District asked Big Picture Metro and the "Big Picture Company" to re-evaluate the program and develop a plan for better cost-effectiveness. The resulting proposals were insufficient and Big Picture Metro stopped accepting incoming freshmen beginning in September 2006. At the close of the 2008-2009 academic year, there were no students remaining in membership at Big Picture Metro.

PUBLIC HEARING:

In accordance with the Board's Policy on the Closing of Schools, 07-0523-PO2, hereinafter referred to as the "Closing Policy", a public hearing on the proposed closing of Big Picture Metro was convened July 29, 2009, 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 Big Picture Metro.

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 reasons stated in the Closing Policy. After receiving the hearing officer's report, the CEO has determined to recommend that the Board close Big Picture Metro in accordance with Section I. A. of the Closing Policy (due to cost ineffectiveness) effective June 30, 2010.

LSC IMPLICATIONS:

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Advisory Local School Council of Big Picture High School Metro will be dissolved effective June 30, 2010, as a result of the closing of Big Picture High School Metro.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

The employment status of all faculty and staff members currently assigned to Big Picture Metro has been determined pursuant to CPS staffing formulas, Board policies and any applicable bargaining agreements.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:




Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel 