

**CLOSE JUANA I. DE LA CRUZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DUE TO COMPLETED PHASE-OUT****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the closing of De La Cruz Elementary School ("De La Cruz"), Unit 7330, school ID 6130306, located at 2317 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Place, Chicago, Illinois 60608, effective August 26, 2009.

**DESCRIPTION:**

In February 2008, the Board of Education approved attendance area boundary and grade structure changes for De La Cruz that resulted in a gradual phase-out beginning in September 2008 when the school ceased enrolling new students.

De La Cruz offered eighth grade and a pre-kindergarten program only in the 2008-2009 school year. Of the 36 students enrolled in the eighth grade, 31 graduated in June 2009. The remaining 5 students were enrolled in summer school at Berito Juarez Community Academy High School. There were 40 students enrolled in the pre-kindergarten program. All 40 were notified of other pre-kindergarten and kindergarten options as appropriate based on each student's age and home address.

**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 De La Cruz was convened July 13, 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 De La Cruz.

**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 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 De La Cruz in accordance with Section I.A. of the Closing Policy (due to under utilization) effective August 26, 2009.

**LSC IMPLICATIONS:**

Pursuant to the Closing Policy, the Local School Council of De La Cruz will be dissolved effective August 26, 2009, as a result of the closing of De La Cruz.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

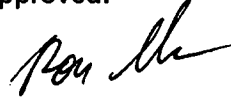
The employment status of all faculty and staff members currently assigned to De La Cruz School has been determined pursuant to CPS staffing formulas, Board policies and any applicable bargaining agreements.

Approved for Consideration:



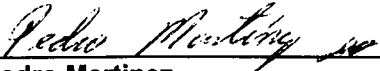
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
**Chief Education Officer**

Approved:



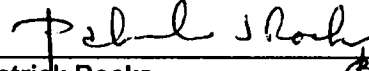
**Ron Huberman**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Within Appropriation:



**Pedro Martinez**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

Approved as to Legal Form: *RM*



**Patrick Rocks**  
**General Counsel**