

Oscar Mayer Board Presentation

Wednesday, May 22, 2019



Overview

- Background
- OIG Findings and Recommendations
- Community Engagement Process
- Proposal
- Proposed Timeline



Oscar Mayer - Background

- On April 17, 2018, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a performance review of Oscar Mayer Magnet Elementary School's Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) admissions process and issued Board Report Number: 08-0326-EX5.
- Based on the performance review, the report makes several key findings and recommendations regarding Mayer's school-type and admissions process.



OIG Findings - Magnet School

1. The 2007 CPS application for a federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant indicated that Mayer would be a citywide magnet school.
2. Despite the MSAP grant application, Board report 08-0326-EX5 converted Mayer into a magnet school with an attendance boundary instead of a citywide magnet school.
3. At the request of former Board President Rufus Williams, additional language was added to Board Report 08-0326-EX5, for CPS to conduct and file an annual demographics assessment of Mayer with the Board Secretary annually before September 1st.
4. In the 10 years since the magnet school conversion with an attendance boundary, no annual demographics assessment has ever been filled with the Board Secretary.
5. In the 10 years since Mayer has been converted into a magnet school with an attendance boundary, its racial and socioeconomic composition has become much less diverse. Mayer's student population has shifted from predominantly African-American to a predominantly white student population from the highest socioeconomic tier.



OIG Findings - Preschool

1. As a magnet school with an attendance area, Mayer is the only elementary school to give attendance-area children priority in receiving two years of free, full-day Montessori Pre-K.
2. Mayer draws from the most affluent attendance area in the city.
3. The Pre-K program at Mayer provides families with free Montessori education equivalent to a \$30,000 per student tuition based program in the private sector, and costs taxpayers more than \$700,000 per year.
4. Despite this investment, some Oscar Mayer Pre-K students later leave CPS for private schooling and/or relocating to suburban districts.
5. Because of the high demand from attendance area students, students residing outside of Mayer's attendance boundary have very little chance of being offered a seat in the Montessori Pre-K program at Mayer.



OIG Recommendations

Preschool:

- CPS should discontinue funding a free, two-year Pre-K program at Oscar Mayer that uses an admissions process skewed to favor the children in Mayer's attendance area, the most affluent in CPS.

Magnet School:

- CPS, the School Board and the Mayer community should consider other options, including converting Mayer to a citywide Pre-K to 8 magnet.



Community Engagement Process

- Mayer Elementary School LSC established a 36 member working group consisting of parents, teachers and school community.
- CPS engaged the working group in two Community Meetings with over 80 attendees and two working group sessions each with over 30 attendees each.
- The Mayer Working Group and community met a total of 10 times (3 community forums and 7 working group meetings).



Proposal - Magnet School

Magnet School:

- To address diversity concerns, the current building utilization will be evaluated to identify if additional space exists to offer K-8 classroom seats to out-of-boundary students in Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 beginning fall 2019.



Proposal - Preschool

SY2019-20

PK4: Current 3-year-old students at Mayer will be grandfathered into PK program for SY19-20. Program will be free and only accessible to current Mayer 3-year-olds.

PK3: Mayer will add tuition-based program for 3-year-olds for SY19-20.

SY2020-21

PK4: To maintain 4-year-old preschool program for SY20-21, the program will be tuition-based.

PK3: Tuition-based program for 3-year-olds will no longer be offered.

SY2021-22

PK4: The City of Chicago's goal is to have universal pre-k4 available in Lincoln Park by SY21-22. This is the earliest available time universal pre-k4 can be made available. If this is achieved, 4-year-olds will have access to a free, full-day program at Mayer.

Until universal Pre-k4 can be achieved, the 4-year-old preschool program will remain tuition-based.



Questions?

