



# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

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## **CPS Releases School Action Proposals to Meet Community Needs**

**CHICAGO** – In accordance with an annual, state-mandated process, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) today released its school action proposals for the 2015-2016 school year, which include co-locations and consolidations to expand access to a high quality education for all students.

After hearing from community members, CPS is proposing the following school actions, which could be voted on by the Chicago Board of Education in February 2016:

- Consolidation of Austin Polytechnical Academy, Austin Business and Entrepreneurship, and VOISE Academy, and Boundary Change of Frederick A. Douglass Academy
- Consolidation of Mary Mapes Dodge Renaissance Elementary Academy and Morton School of Excellence
- Co-location of John Spry Community School with Maria Saucedo Elementary Scholastic Academy and Telpochcalli Elementary School
- Co-location of KIPP Elementary School with Orr Academy High School
- Closure of Moses Montefiore Special Elementary School Due to Zero Student Enrollment
- Closure of Marine Military Math and Science Academy Due to Zero Student Enrollment

“During the past few months, we have engaged LSCs, parents and principals throughout the city about how to best modify schools so that they align with the needs of families and communities,” CPS CEO Forrest Claypool said. “Community input has played an important role in informing these proposed actions, and we believe these modifications will allow us to better use our limited resources to meet students’ needs.”

The school action proposals announced today align with the District’s final 2015-2016 school actions guidelines, which can be found at [www.cps.edu/guidelines](http://www.cps.edu/guidelines). CPS released draft school action guidelines on Oct. 1, and collected feedback until Oct. 22. Revised draft guidelines were issued on Nov. 3, and an additional round of public feedback was collected to inform the final guidelines, which were released on Nov. 27.

### **Austin Consolidation**

CPS is proposing the consolidation of schools at the Austin campus (located at 231 N. Pine Ave.) following a proposal by the Austin Community Action Council (Austin CAC), which led an extensive community engagement process. The Austin CAC represents a cross-section of the community, including parents, students, teachers, community members, and Network leadership, and it reviewed data, conducted focus groups and held public meetings to develop recommendations that would lead to a high quality option for the high school

students in their community. Recognizing the need for only one neighborhood high school, the CAC voted to recommend combining the three Austin Campus High Schools into one attendance area high school.

If approved by the Board of Education, Austin Polytechnical Academy and Austin Business & Entrepreneurship will be consolidated into VOISE Academy. Additionally, the high school attendance area boundary associated with Frederick A. Douglass High School will be reassigned to VOISE, and VOISE will be the new neighborhood high school for students living in the Douglass boundary.

In addition to meeting the community’s recommendation for a single attendance area high school at the Austin campus, the proposed consolidation will allow students at Austin Polytechnical and Austin Business & Entrepreneurship to enroll at a higher performing school by transferring to VOISE. Current Douglass students would not be affected by the proposed action.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1***  
 Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016  
 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
 Austin Campus  
 231 N. Pine Ave.

***Community Meeting 2***  
 Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016  
 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
 Austin Campus  
 231 N. Pine Ave.

***Public Hearing***  
 Monday, Jan. 25, 2016  
 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
 CPS Central Office  
 42 W. Madison St.

**Dodge/Morton Consolidation**

Following formal requests from the school communities, CPS is recommending the consolidation of Mary Mapes Dodge Renaissance Elementary Academy into the Morton School of Excellence, which are both currently located at 431 N. Troy St. Due to low enrollment at Dodge, it has been a challenge for the school to provide a well-rounded educational experience for its students. Morton and Dodge already share resources – including enrichment, counseling and non-core education services and tools – and school communities concluded that a consolidation of the two schools would allow the District to better allocate resources to students.

If approved by the Board of Education, students who currently attend Dodge will be transferred to Morton, which is in the same facility and is a higher performing school. The schools already share resources, and by consolidating the two programs in their current facility, they will maximize resources and help ensure all students in the facility receive a well-rounded curriculum.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1***  
 Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016  
 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
 Westinghouse High School  
 2935 W. Polk St.

***Community Meeting 2***  
 Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016  
 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
 Westinghouse High School  
 2935 W. Polk St.

***Public Hearing***  
 Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016  
 7:30 - 9:30 PM  
 CPS Central Office  
 42 W. Madison St.

**Spry/Saucedo Co-Location**

In order to build on recent success and more efficiently use limited resources, CPS is proposing the co-location of the high school grades of John Spry Community School with Maria Saucedo Elementary Scholastic Academy and Telpochcalli Elementary School in the facility at 2850 W. 24th Blvd. Spry’s High School campus

is currently located in a leased facility near Saucedo, and co-locating the school with Saucedo and Telpochcalli will allow Spry to end its lease and move into a nearby school building that has available capacity.

If this proposal is approved, Spry’s 9th grade will be located at 2850 W. 24th Blvd. beginning next school year (2016-17). The following school year (2017-18), Spry’s 9th and 10th grades will be located at the 2850 W. 24th Blvd. facility. By the 2018-19 school year, all of Spry High School’s grades (9th -11th) will be located at the 2850 W. 24th Blvd. facility. This proposal will not affect the enrollment status of the students at Spry, Saucedo, or Telpochcalli, the employment status of staff members at the schools, or the powers of the schools’ Local School Councils.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1***

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016  
5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Saucedo Elementary Academy  
2850 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Blvd.

***Community Meeting 2***

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016  
5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Saucedo Elementary Academy  
2850 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Blvd.

***Public Hearing***

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
CPS Central Office  
42 W. Madison St.

**Orr/KIPP Co-Location**

In an effort to promote successful school environments and maximize the District’s resources, CPS is proposing to co-locate a new KIPP Charter school with Orr Academy High School in the facility located at 730 N. Pulaski Rd. The current Orr facility at 730 N. Pulaski is underutilized, and the facility can support the academic programming of both schools while being within the facility’s enrollment efficiency range. This proposal will not impact the employment status of administrators and staff members or the powers of the Orr Local School Council.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1***

Thursday, January 14, 2016  
5:30-7:30pm  
Al Raby High School  
3545 W. Fulton Blvd.

***Community Meeting 2***

Wednesday, January 20, 2016  
5:30-7:30pm  
Al Raby High School  
3545 W. Fulton Blvd.

***Public Hearing***

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
5:00-7:00pm  
CPS Central Office  
42 W. Madison St.

**Closure of Montefiore**

Because no students are enrolled at Moses Montefiore Special Elementary School, CPS is recommending the closure of the school. Montefiore only receives students through referral and does not serve any specific neighborhood, and there have not been any enrolled students at the school this year. Maintaining a school with no students diverts resources from other schools.

If this proposal is approved, the Local School Council of Montefiore will be dissolved at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1******Community Meeting 2******Public Hearing***

**Chicago Public Schools - Press Release**

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016  
5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Phoenix Military HS  
145 S. Campbell Ave

Monday, Jan. 11, 2016  
5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Phoenix Military HS  
145 S. Campbell Ave

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016  
8:30 - 9:30 PM  
CPS Central Office  
42 W. Madison St.

**Closure of Marine**

Because no students are enrolled at Marine Math and Science Academy, CPS is proposing the closure of the school. Marine is an open enrollment school that does not serve any specific neighborhood, and there have been zero enrolled students at the school this year and last year. Maintaining a school with no students diverts resources from other schools.

Before the Board’s vote, the following community meetings and public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide feedback for consideration:

***Community Meeting 1***  
Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016  
5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Phoenix Military HS  
145 S. Campbell Ave

***Community Meeting 2***  
Monday, Jan. 11, 2016  
5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Phoenix Military HS  
145 S. Campbell Ave

***Public Hearing***  
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016  
8:30 - 9:30 PM  
CPS Central Office  
42 W. Madison St.

CPS will ask the Board of Education to vote on the proposed school actions as early as the February 2016 meeting, following the community input period that occurs prior to voting on the actions. After each hearing, a hearing officer will issue a written summary of the testimony to CPS for consideration.

Community members interested in speaking at the community meetings or hearings must sign up to speak on the day of each meeting or hearing at its designated location.