

## **A Resolution to be Adopted by the City of Chicago**

WHEREAS, School closings, consolidations, phase-outs, and turnarounds have a profound impact on entire communities, and

WHEREAS, Community members have an acute knowledge of where the resources and dangers are in the neighborhoods where their children attend school and can provide valuable insight into the potential issues that may result from these decisions, specifically regarding safe passage, and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools has made these decisions without sufficient amounts of input from the affected communities, and

WHEREAS, the decisions made by CPS are often based on outdated or inaccurate data that does not fully consider recent improvements, and

WHEREAS, Many of the schools that are slated for reconstitution or closing have experienced years of significant academic and capital disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools needs to examine its own policies regarding the distribution of resources for academic and capital needs before making drastic decisions such as replacing the school's staff or closing the school altogether, and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools has demonstrated they do not have a comprehensive long-term plan by not fully considering development and the consequential need for accessible neighborhood schools; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing the need for greater community involvement and the inequalities that have resulted from CPS's facility planning, Illinois House Bill 363 calls for "Establishing an equitable and effective school facility development process" via the creation of the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force, which will release its findings in March 2010; and

WHEREAS, Through school reconstitutions, many good teachers and principals who had positive relationships with their students are being forced to seek employment in a difficult economy and job market; and

WHEREAS, Studies and reports have shown the negative academic and safety-related impact of student mobility, some of which have made national headlines; and

WHEREAS, Due to the lack of transparency and community involvement, there is a growing distrust regarding CPS's decisions; and

WHEREAS, Many of the new schools that have been created or schools that have been reconstituted are not performing better or are performing worse than the schools that were closed; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we the members of the City Council of Chicago gathered here this tenth day of February, 2010, A.D. do hereby requite that a moratorium of at least one year be place on current and future school closings, consolidations, turnaround, and phase outs until a comprehensive strategy of transparency, community involvement, and public accountability can be developed, which will include the recommendations from the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force.

Alderman Pat Dowell, 3rd Ward

Alderman Freddrenna Lyle, 6th Ward