

April 16, 2009

Mr. Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools
sent by facsimile 773-553-1501

Dear Mr. Huberman:

First of all, congratulation on your appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools. You have taken on a daunting task, one that we all hope and pray will be successful for the sake of our children. PURE would like to work with you in a positive way to help you succeed.

We are getting off on a good footing with your letter dated yesterday. Thank you so much for your help in providing PURE with the report we first requested in January, 2009.

We're pleased that you intend to post this kind of information on the CPS web site at some time in the future. That should make our four-month journey to get this report no longer necessary. We're also glad you are asking for a report on last year to be included with this year's report.

In general, we are disappointed with this report. The school closing policy requires a report on "the impact school closings have on CPS students," but this report is not about students. It is clearly labeled as a report of "whole schools."

We believe that the point of this report is to monitor any harm that might come to individual students or groups of students as a result of school closings. Here are some examples of information we think should be included:

- How many students dropped out instead of going to their receiving school?
- Did any students lose academic ground as a result of their transition to a different school?
- Did any students experience bullying or other acts of violence, or report feeling less safe in their receiving school?
- Did students in the receiving schools experience problems?
- Where is the demographic data on the affected students?

We would appreciate an opportunity to work with you on additional criteria to review. We're sure you agree that our children's safety, well-being and educational success requires the most careful attention. This report must provide better information before we can feel confident that Renaissance 2010 is not harming students.

Thank you for your attention.

Best wishes,

Julie Woestehoff
Executive Director

Parents United for Responsible Education

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