

PURE NEWS Update on LSC case *12/08*

Over the past few years, CPS has set policies and taken actions that have changed the governance structure at dozens of CPS schools from empowered, elected local school councils to toothless advisory groups appointed by the Board of Education. PURE and others have filed a lawsuit challenging these policies and action as violations of the Illinois School Code.

The original motion was filed on February 7, 2008 in Cook County Circuit Court. On April 11, 2008, the case was dismissed by Judge Sophia Hall. The judge's ruling was based on a close interpretation of a paragraph in the school code allowing limited exemptions to the LSC law for certain schools under certain circumstances. This exemption could include small schools and alternative schools. At issue are the exact circumstances under which the law allows schools to opt out of having LSCs.

Judge Hall allowed us to refile. With sharpened arguments and added plaintiffs, we have been able to demonstrate how widely CPS has applied their interpretation of the law in order to get rid of LSCs. CPS has once again filed a motion to dismiss the case.

***Final arguments on these motions will be heard on
Monday, December 22, 2008, at 10:30 am
in Room 2301, Daley Center.***

Please join us!

It makes a difference if there are people in the courtroom to support the LSC cause.

If the Court denies CPS's motion, the case will proceed to discovery. If the Court grants the motion, we anticipate filing an immediate appeal.

CPS's continuing attack on LSCs

CPS has repeatedly changed its policies on local school governance, each time making it more difficult for a school to have an LSC. The most recent policy, adopted in 2007, now rules out an LSC in any Renaissance 2010 school.

Perhaps in retaliation for their participation in this lawsuit, CPS has already "closed" Mose Vines and disbanded the LSC which was the original plaintiff in this case. CPS is now preparing to "close" the four small schools at South Shore high school once a planned new facility is opened. Two of the South Shore LSCs are also plaintiffs in the case.

Parents United for Responsible Education

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