



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2010

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Statement by Marilyn Stewart, President of the Chicago Teachers Union, on the Board of Education's School Closing Vote

CTU President Marilyn Stewart released the following statement Wednesday afternoon in reaction to the vote taken today on school closings for 2010.

"I'm extremely disappointed but not surprised by today's vote. I was hoping new leadership at CPS would have postponed the vote to allow the education stakeholders to come to the table and work collaboratively with the Board to improve these schools.

"CEO Ron Huberman's decision to remove schools last week and as late as yesterday tells me that he acknowledges the process for selecting schools is flawed. It leads one to question whether the district really examined the criteria in the first place.

"Mr. Huberman has indicated he will re-examine the school closing process and he wants to create a task unit to work on it. Why wait until next year to do that and not just start now? What will happen to these schools if new information in the weeks or months to come surfaces? Will these schools be removed or adjusted like seven of the fourteen on this year's list?

"We are consulting with our legal team to review all possible legal remedies available to us. I can say this fight to save public education and protect our teachers and students is far from over."

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The Chicago Teachers Union represents 32,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in the Chicago Public Schools. CTU, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers, is the third largest union in the country and the largest local union in Illinois.

For further information regarding this press release and current CTU news, please visit our website at www.ctunet.com.

RG/OTEG-743-tr