



Press alert
GEM press conference

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Date: February 22, 2010

Pressure growing for moratorium on school closings, other R2010 interventions
Large turnout expected for City Council Education Committee hearing on moratorium resolution

Who/What: The Grass Roots Education Movement (GEM) and parents, teachers, students, and LSC members from schools affected by 2010 school closures and other CPS interventions will share the concerns that are bringing them to speak before the City Council Education Committee in support of the resolution.

Where: 2nd floor, City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle (elevator lobby)

When: Monday, February 22, 2010, 12 noon (one hour prior to 1 pm committee hearing)

Why: For six years, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has closed and otherwise intervened in dozens of schools under its Renaissance 2010 program. Research is showing that R2010 has not led to better schools, but it has displaced students, disrupted communities, increased violence, and caused thousands of veteran teachers to lose their jobs.

Among other information, GEM will present a summary of eight compelling research studies showing the failures of R2010.

Chicagoans have been calling for a stop to this failed, harmful experiment. On Monday, the City Council Education Committee, chaired by Ald. Latasha Thomas, will hear testimony on this issue. If the City Council approves this resolution, even more pressure will come to bear on the Board of Education as it meets Wednesday to decide on this years' round of school closings,

Copy of the Moratorium Resolution sponsored by Aids. Pat Dowell and Freddrenna Lyle here:

http://pureparents.org/data/files/Moratorium%20Resolution_2.11.10.pdf

The Grassroots Education Movement (GEM) is committed to democratic principles in the governance, pedagogy, and culture of our public schools. We support quality public neighborhood schools with smaller class sizes, equitable funding, union protections, local school councils, and neighborhood enrollment that protects children from exclusion and push out. We support a moratorium on charters, turnarounds, consolidations, phase outs, school closings and any other form of school privatization.

GEM promotes a bottom-up, participatory and highly democratic process to engage schools and communities in school improvement.