



# THE FEDERATION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRESS REPORT

Issue 1, Fall 2007

## Community Schools Gain Momentum in DC

As the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, goes up for reauthorization this session of Congress, the door has been opened to look at other educational models that enrich educational attainment and improve test scores. Community schools are one such model.

Senators Nelson and Durbin and Representative Hoyer's Full Service Community School Act is a promising federal-level initiative, that if passed, would provide \$200 million per year for community schools. According to the bill's sponsors:

"The Full-Service Community Schools Act (H.R. 2323/S. 1391) authorizes funding for full-service community schools, which are public elementary or secondary schools that coordinate multiple federal, state and/or local educational and social service programs with community-based organizations and public/private partnerships. The purpose of these schools is to improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to children and families."

The Federation has initiated a post card campaign in support of the bill as well as a sign-on letter of support to key Congressional delegates. The Federation will work with its members to educate federal policymakers about the importance of community schools so as to influence the passage of the Full-Service Community Schools Act and other pending federal activities.

## Federation Partners with Lt. Governor & Downstate Colleagues to Seek Funding

Last legislative session, the State House General Assembly passed the Community School Service Education Act, public act 94-0904. The act - which supports the components of a community school, such as a resources coordinator, community engagement, and out-of-school time programming to support children's learning - was passed nearly unanimously, but without any funding. During this current legislative session, the Federation for Community Schools along with our friends from central and downstate Illinois are collaborating with the Lt. Governor's office to try to secure a funding line in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) budget.

Representative Flider inserted a budget line of \$200,000 in the ISBE budget before the House's non-growth budget. In support of the funding line, the Federation contacted state representatives' offices encouraging their support of the ISBE budget line as well as letting the representatives know that they have a community school, or several schools, in their districts. Many legislators were unaware of the community schools in their districts.

This is a legislative advocacy opportunity for the Federation and community schools to work together during this fall. Federation members must educate policy makers about the importance of community schools in order to secure stable funding and beneficial policies. The Federation looks forward to working with its partners to host legislative visits in community schools. If you or your school would like to be the first, please contact the Federation at [havilah@ilcommunitieschools.org](mailto:havilah@ilcommunitieschools.org).

The Federation for Community Schools works collaboratively with its members to:

### **Advocate for Community Schools**

- Bring on statewide allies
- Implement a strategic advocacy plan focused on maintaining and expanding community schools throughout Illinois

### **Promote Community Schools**

- Develop comprehensive marketing campaign
- Increase awareness of the success of community schools
- Engage policy makers, media, and the general public in this dialogue

### **Provide Professional Development**

- Support the establishment of new community schools
- Provide technical assistance during program implementation
- Create PD activities for school-based coordinators, principals, and nonprofit partners

### **Ensure High Quality**

- Develop comprehensive evaluation strategies
- Conduct research to identify developmental benchmarks
- Serve as repository of best practices for community schools

## Message from the Executive Director



Dear Community School Friends,

Welcome to the first Federation for Community School newsletter. It is a great honor for me, a long time low-income advocate and school board member, to be a part of this absolutely vital educational model of school and community partnership. Community schools offer the opportunity and promise to engage students so they can succeed in school and life. I look forward to working with you to accomplish this!

If you truly believe in the power of collaboration between community and schools in order to enrich the lives of students and their families, then you must join the Federation for Community Schools because that is precisely what we believe and what we will work tirelessly to do. We will provide you with information on emerging issues, best practices in the field, opportunities to network peer-to-peer, and access to experts on professional development and communication. In return, we ask for your participation and involvement in making long term, systemic changes that will make community schools lasting and life altering.

*No longer will  
policymakers be  
able to pit us against  
each other*

By working together with one unified voice, instead of many separate voices, we will be able to accomplish great things on behalf of students, their families, their communities and schools. No longer will policymakers be able to pit us against each other. Instead, we will speak with one powerful voice from every region and corner of the state, forcing policy makers to listen to us and make good policy choices in support of community schools.

Today is the day to begin this partnership with us. We will be respectful partners with you as we begin to develop this unified voice for community schools in Illinois. To join, visit our website, [www.ilcommunityschools.org](http://www.ilcommunityschools.org). We look forward to working with each one of you.

*Suzanne Armato*

### Atlantic Philanthropies in Chicago

Local Initiative Supports Community, LISC, is coordinating the planning process of the Atlantic Philanthropies' Integrated Services in Extended Day School (ISES) grant. Five Chicago Public Schools, partnering with a community agency, were selected to submit grants to support this type of extended day and integration of services that focuses on quality out-of-school time programming, increased parent engagement, school-based health services, and accessible public benefits. The partnerships include: Ames Middle School/Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Marquette Elementary School/Southwest Organizing Project, Perspectives Charter (Calumet)/Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Orozco Elementary School/The Resurrection Project, and Reavis Elementary School/Quad City Development Corporation.

In support of these five schools and the overall project, the Federation will provide a comprehensive advocacy strategy to promote the principles of the project and emerging policies that are identified by these schools. The Federation will partner with issue-specific statewide advocates as well as build capacity at each of the schools for grassroots advocacy. This is an exciting opportunity for the city, the schools and their partners, and the Federation. A funding decision is expected in December.

### ~ SAVE THE DATE ~

#### The Federation's Inaugural Stakeholder Member Meeting

October 12, 2007

9:30 – 11:30

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the first monthly Federation Stakeholder Meeting. These meetings will provide valuable information on advocacy, best practices, emerging research and resources. In addition, the Stakeholders meeting will provide an invaluable opportunity to network with others doing community schools work.

Join us on October 12<sup>th</sup>, at UIC's Student Center East (750 S. Halsted, Room 302) to learn more about the Federation, community schools and the impact we will have by working together.

Visit the Federation's website,

[www.ilcommunityschools.org](http://www.ilcommunityschools.org)

for information about this and other events.

## It Takes a Village – or a Few Staff Members

You may be wondering who is running things over at the Federation headquarters, anyway? It seems only right to spend some time in the Federation's inaugural newsletter to introduce you to the new staff.

**Suzanne Armato** is the executive director of the Federation. Sue comes to the Federation with over ten years experience in creating and establishing engaged and powerful collaborations in Illinois and the Midwestern states. She was the first executive director of Work, Welfare and Families, an Illinois coalition that works to expand policies that support low income families, and then having identified the need for a regional advocacy effort to work on low-income Federal policies requiring Congressional reauthorization established Midwest Partners. Sue is a school member of her daughters' school district and longtime PTO officer. She holds a BA in Economics and a MA in Social Service Administration (SSA) from the University of Chicago.

**Melissa Trumbull** joins the Federation as its associate director. Melissa brings a wealth of community schools expertise, having worked for the past two years at Youth Guidance as the director of community school programs at South Loop School. Melissa joined Youth Guidance in 2002, working at Crane Tech Prep in various capacities, including case manager and prevention specialist. Melissa also has experience in marketing, messaging and working with the media from her work at Accenture. Melissa holds a BA in Psychology from Dartmouth College and a MA in Education, Human Services and Counseling from DePaul University.

**Havilah Darnieder** will transition from her role as program associate for the Chicago Campaign to Expand Community Schools to program associate for the Federation when the Campaign closes its doors at the end of September. Havilah got her start at the Campaign in 2004 when she was hired as the administrative assistant. Prior to that, Havilah worked as an intern at the Carol Robertson Center for Learning and the Steans Family Foundation. Havilah holds a BA in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### Federation Board Members

**Suzanne Doornbos Kerbow**, Polk Bros. Foundation, *President*

**Beverly Meek**, JPMorgan Chase Bank, *Vice President*

**Elizabeth Swanson**, Chicago Public Schools, *Treasurer*

**Sarah Duncan**, University of Chicago, SSA, *Secretary*

**Les Inch**, Children's Home + Aid Society of IL

**Colleen Jones**, Metropolitan Family Services

**Peggy Mueller**, Chicago Community Trust

**Idida Perez**, West Town Leadership United

**Stanley Weinberger**, Dykema Gossett, PLLC

**Roxanne Ward**, Ariel Capital Management, LLC

## A Place to Call their Own

The new office suite for the Federation for Community Schools is in the old Maxwell Street district, just down the street from the original Hull House settlement -- where some believe the community school model was born. Federation members are always welcome to stop by the Federation offices (plenty of metered parking is available).

### Federation for Community Schools

1253 S. Halsted, Suite 310

Chicago, IL 60607

When you stop by, you will notice the beautiful furniture throughout the offices, which was kindly donated by JPMorgan Chase. The Federation thanks JPMorgan Chase for their generous donation!

## Tell Your Story!

The Federation wants to hear from you! Every day, in community schools around the state, adults are working to change children's lives. The most powerful advocacy efforts on behalf of this work are accompanied by real-life examples of the impact that community school programs have on children, their families, their communities, and schools. Help the Federation make community school programs come alive for legislators by sharing your stories with us – visit our website at [www.ilcommunitieschools.org](http://www.ilcommunitieschools.org) and take a minute to complete a "Share Your Story" form. You will receive a copy of the completed success story for use at your school, and you will be making an invaluable contribution to the Federation's advocacy tools. Thanks for your support!

## Hats Off!

The Federation is grateful to the Chicago Community Trust for supporting the development of the Federation, while it was a project housed at the Trust. The Federation also extends its thanks to its founding funders, including the Chicago Community Trust, JPMorgan Chase, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Polk Bros. Foundation. Their support of this emerging coalition has allowed it to become a reality.

## Upcoming Events

### Chicago Coalition for Community Schools

August 23, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Monthly meeting is scheduled to discuss transition into the Federation for Community Schools and elect Program Advisory Committee. Meeting will be held at Association House – 1116 N. Kedzie.

### Community School Press Event

August 30, 10:30am – 11:00am

United Way, JP Morgan Chase, CPS, and the Federation will hold a press event at Herzl community school to promote community schools. Herzl is located at 3711 W. Douglas Blvd.

### Federation's 1st Stakeholder Member Meeting

October 12, 9:30am – 11:30am

The Federation will hold its inaugural Stakeholder Member at UIC's Student Center East located at 750 S. Halsted, Room 302.

### Lights On Afterschool!

October 18

To learn how you can host a *Lights On Afterschool* celebration at your school visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

Send information about an upcoming event to: [havilah@ilcommunityschools.org](mailto:havilah@ilcommunityschools.org)

## HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all the students from **Chavez Multicultural Academy** who performed **Watoto Wazuri** and **African Sounds** at the community schools conference *One Movement, One Voice: Building Strong Community Schools* held on June 5. Their performance definitely started the morning on the riahrt beat! Kudos to you all!

**Joan Klaus**, Vice President of Educational Initiatives at Chase, retired after 17 years on June 1, 2007. Ms. Klaus was an ardent supporter of the community schools initiative. While she was at Chase, they granted over \$2 million in support of community schools throughout Chicago. The Federation thanks Joan for her support and congratulates her on her retirement!

**Elizabeth F. Swanson** was presented with the second annual **Chicago Community Schools Leadership Award** by her colleague, friend, and last year's award recipient, Suzanne Doornbos Kerbow. Ms. Swanson was honored for her outstanding leadership to Chicago's full-service community schools movement as head of the **CPS' Office of Extended Learning Opportunities**. Ms. Swanson was instrumental in helping surpass the goal set by Mayor Daley and Arne Duncan to create over 100 CPS community schools. She helped to leverage more than \$7 million from Chicago's philanthropic community and secured a record amount of federal 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant funding for CPS' community schools. Congratulations Beth!

Making Community Schools a Reality in Illinois

Contact Us:  
Phone: 312.226.0053  
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Check out our new website!  
[www.ilcommunityschools.org](http://www.ilcommunityschools.org)

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