

August 14, 2013



CPS Schools, Public Libraries Will Learn To Share Facilities Under New Library-Within-A-School Model

Posted: 08/09/2013 6:20 pm EDT | Updated: 08/09/2013 6:23 pm EDT

[A new shared space model](#) could be the wave of the future for two of Chicago's most cash-strapped institutions: Its public schools and its public libraries.

On Thursday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Public Schools CEO Barbara Byrd Bennett attended the South Side opening of the new Back of the Yards High School, the city's first public library-within-a-public-school model. While trumpeting the school's new wall-to-wall International Baccalaureate program, Emanuel said:

"Here in the Back of the Yards, we're embarking on not only a first, but on what will become copied and mimicked all across the city: putting neighborhood libraries in our schools because they serve the same community. They serve the same purpose." According to City Hall, [the facility is "designed as a community campus" and will have separate entrances for the public and for the students.](#) The high school will also house spaces for the Chicago Park District.

The library will be open six days a week and staffed by city librarians and a teacher-librarian from CPS.

[The mayor made it clear that CPS and the CPL would be pooling resources from now on, the Sun-Times reports.](#) Emanuel made no mention of whether the shared space model would mean closing any existing facilities, but CPL Library Commissioner Brian Bannon said, "It's not about decreasing library service and reducing. We're not looking at closing libraries. It's about reducing storefront and leased space."

[The Back of the Yards community library was destroyed in a flood in 2011](#) as Progress Illinois notes, and the cost to acquire land and rebuild a new facility would be roughly \$15 million.

The \$91.5 million state-of-the-art high and library facility comes at a time when both CPS and CPL are [reeling from deep budget cuts](#). As the Sun-Times notes, the city built 59 new libraries during the 22 years under former Mayor Richard Daley while Emanuel chopped so much of the library budget that in 2012, [longtime Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey resigned in protest](#).

At Thursday's ribbon-cutting, Byrd Bennett said Back of the Yards' new facility was ["the most incredible school that I have seen in probably my entire career."](#) according to WBEZ.

Filed by Kim Bellware |

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DMommie
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21 9

It is embarrassing that a city as wealthy as Chicago is not funding their public school and library system. I bet they have funds for prisons. The sad state of the once great America. American greed.

Reply Fave Share 9 Aug 8:47 PM Flag

In reply to: **DMommie**



garystartswithg

1,369 Fans · el sueño de la razon produce republicans

14 5

i used to work in libraries and a big part of the problem in libraries and schools are the administrators that hold the purse strings and make a healthy six figures while cutting budgets. you never met greedier nastier people in your life.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 6:11 AM Flag

In reply to: **garystartswithg**



Dani09

SUPER USER · 3,314 Fans · I ♥ Obamacare

7 1

Did you work in public libraries? Because the "purse strings" there are overseen by Trustees, who are elected volunteers and draw no salary.

Public school and library budgets are approved by public ballot, not by the administrators.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 7:11 AM Flag



22 COMMENTS BY 12 PEOPLE

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DailySchaden

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20 5

Yes, let's mix those who go to public libraries with the high school population. What could possibly go wrong?

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 1:17 AM Flag

In reply to: **DailySchaden**



dtag

42 Fans

15 4

The "scary people" these kids walk past everyday may be in the library with them, put a stop to it. Maybe some things could go right? Americans have to break free from the fear of one another if the country is ever going to get better.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 5:24 AM Flag

In reply to: **dtag**



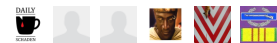
DailySchaden

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5 1

Schools are weapon-free zones. Public libraries are routinely used by criminals. This isn't about irrational "fear", this is about completely rational caution. I, like you, believe that people should coexist, but when the law-abiding citizens in the school/library are banned from carrying self-defense weapons, Chicago is the #1 gun city in the United States, and Libraries are well-known resources for criminals because of the computer access, I think we can agree that it's only a matter of time before somebody brings a fight into one of these Libraries.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 5:34 AM Flag



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notnobody

9 Fans · Somebody

9

As a student who reads, that seems pretty convenient. I wish I could go to the public library every morning to check out books- it has a lot better selection than my school does.

As for being scared of creepy people, high school contains teenagers, not little kids. We've seen creepy people and can (mostly) handle ourselves.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 7:59 AM Flag



Nomics

11 Fans

5 1

Brick and mortar schools are anachronisms.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 12:42 AM Flag

In reply to: [Nomics](#)



KenInd

1,438 Fans · We too shall get through this.....

Brick and mortar retail stores are an anachronism.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 3:08 AM Flag

In reply to: [Nomics](#)



daughterusmc

144 Fans

3

Saying that is an anachronism.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 6:41 AM Flag



6 COMMENTS BY 6 PEOPLE

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LiteSleeper

671 Fans

2 2

I don't know. It sounds like a pedophile magnet.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 12:11 AM Flag

In reply to: [LiteSleeper](#)



tbrad

329 Fans

2

um....are you suggesting that we isolate kids from the general public as a form of protection? Shut down malls, parks and all public spaces? Let's just imprison them for their own safety....

its a high school, these kids are going to grow up. Pedos will do what they do regardless and its usually those who are already close to the kids on an ongoing basis. Not a random passerby.

I thought the pedophile magnet was the priesthood.....?

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 7:34 AM Flag

In reply to: [LiteSleeper](#)



MTY INDACHI

86 Fans

nobody said anything about the catholic church mixing with the public school system

Reply Fave Share 12 Aug 9:55 AM Flag



jd jenkins

9 Fans

1 3

A school is not the building, rather it is the occupants.

Reply Fave Share 9 Aug 11:19 PM Flag

In reply to: [jd jenkins](#)



acumenguuy

127 Fans

It could be carried by an Arican swallow

Thanks Jd.

Wow some one who gets it right.

Reply Fave Share 11 Aug 11:08 PM Flag



Anne Abel

0 Fans

3 1

How do they remain "separate" when the kids are IN the library with the "public"?

Reply Fave Share 9 Aug 6:14 PM Flag

In reply to: [Anne Abel](#)



KenInd

1,438 Fans

We too shall get through this....

2 2

The won't. Felons and sex offenders will be right there.

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 3:09 AM Flag

In reply to: [KenInd](#)



tbrad

329 Fans

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uh.....they are already teaching the kids and running local gov't.

The kids are fine. Its Chicago, a lot of the kids are packing heat anyway.

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4 COMMENTS BY 4 PEOPLE

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Jack Hamilton01

8 Fans

1 2

Please, cps is just a waste of time and money. The students I see have no respect for anything. They will ruin the libraries. Maybe Rahm shouldn't take trips to Israel on the tax payers expense, maybe Daley, shouldn't have cops getting his dry cleaning, to save money.

Reply Fave Share 9 Aug 7:22 PM Flag

In reply to: [Jack Hamilton01](#)



eceres

372 Fans

The problem with urban schools is usually, as you point out, more the kids they're serving than it is the schools themselves. But as a society, we need to offer those kids the opportunity of an education. It's not "a waste of time and money" even though we'd like many more kids to take that opportunity, because SOME of them do take advantage of it, and we've all got a responsibility to offer it to them.

Reply Fave Share 11 Aug 12:27 PM Flag



corwin
223 Fans

1 1

They should build a morgue on site

Reply Fave Share 9 Aug 7:35 PM Flag

In reply to: [corwin](#)



El Chingaso
266 Fans · Fighting for mental superiority...

On "each" site. Such facilities will surely be needed in Chicago...

Reply Fave Share 10 Aug 3:02 AM Flag



No Dogma Freedom
704 Fans

1

SJSU did this back the 1990's

It does work to a degree. You are pulling money and that allows for the system to flow. It does slow students down if they have to get around the kids, teenagers and less fortunate ----it makes the student work harder, but they can isolate floors to get around that.

It makes it a community seen and I liked that, all the people there seeing the other and the young ones.

But when you see a Stanford College Library or UCSC one, you understand, how wonderful such a place can be and how wonderful our system was once upon a time

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