

# Walter H. Dyett High School —Chronology (August 2015)

- 1972** Dyett opened as a middle school in the north end of leafy Washington Park in the Bronzeville Community on Chicago's Southside named after legendary band director Walter Henri Dyett. Captain Dyett inspired and trained 20,000 young musicians and performers at DuSable High School including such greats as Nat "King" Cole, Redd Foxx and Dinah Washington.
- 1999** Despite the staunch objections from parents and community residents, Dyett middle school was transformed into a high school with three months' notice with no additional resources when King College Prep, a selective enrollment school, opened and neighborhood students had to "test in" had or go elsewhere.
- 1999** -That "elsewhere" turned out to be Dyett. CPS pumps \$24 million into King College Prep.
- 2003**
- 2003** - Community/LSC works to strengthen Dyett HS, bring resources, and develop positive school culture.
- 2015**
- 2003** KOCO Education organizer joins Dyett Local School Council. Dyett students had no AP or honors classes and there were 7 books in the library.
- 2006** Dyett became 1 of 4 receiving schools when Englewood High School closed and 125 students are sent to Dyett with no extra resources. This influx of students without resources negatively impacted the school climate and destabilized the school.
- 2006** Strong Dyett local school council hires Jacqueline Lemmon as principal.
- 2008** Then-CEO Arne Duncan and then-Mayor Daley hail Dyett as a model school.
- 2008** Coalition to Revitalize Dyett High School win the support of former CPS Board President Michael Scott for School Alignment Process to connect Dyett High School with its feeder schools. Two weeks later Michael Scott passed away. CPS has not supported community driven efforts since.
- 2009** Chicago Botanic Garden and Dyett co-develop an urban garden that is still an integral part of the school, to be expanded in the "revitalized" Dyett.
- 2010**- Bronzeville parents, students, teachers, residents, and education professionals begin
- 2012** planning a six-school "village," of Dyett and five feeders. CPS is well aware.
- 2011** Dyett won ESPN's "RISE UP" Award beating out over 400 schools across the country as a small school worthy of investment. Dyett won a \$4 million gym renovation.
- 2011** CTU President Karen Lewis, Dyett Local School Council member Jitu Brown, Former KOCO Executive Director Jay Travis, Mollison Local School Council member Jeanette Taylor, met with Alderman Will Burns to request support for Dyett HS as a hub for sustainable school village. All Burns was more concerned about his political aspirations than the community driven process. He did not give his support.
- 2012** CPS Board of Ed votes to close/turnaround two Dyett feeders and phase-out Dyett by 2015, (temporarily) scuttling the *Bronze Global Achievers Village (BGAV)* plan.
- 2013** The *Coalition* forms and begins planning the revitalized Dyett, to be a neighborhood HS, open to all in the attendance boundary, grounded in global leadership/green technology. Community and supporters, led by KOCO, continue protesting CPS' actions on Dyett.
- 2014** The Coalition submits an unsolicited full proposal, based on the years of work and planning on the BGAV, to the Board of Education and demands that Dyett be reopened.
- 2014** December. CPS reverses its decision to phase out Dyett, but begins RFP process to include contract schools.
- 2014** - Coalition pushes forward, begins meeting with CPS Board members and other stakeholders and
- 2015** decision makers to build support and demand a neighborhood public school.
- 2015** April 6, 2015. Two teams, including the Coalition, submit proposals by the 5 PM deadline.
- 2015** After CPS' April 6, 2015 5 PM deadline a third team submits a late proposal for Dyett HS.
- 2015** CPS refuses to name applicants until late May after public pressure.
- 2015** June 17, 2015 Ironically CPS holds Dyett Community Forum at King HS. Community overwhelmingly supports the Coalition's proposal, 34 of 45 public speakers in favor (75+ %).

- 2015** June 17 – August 7, 2015. Coalition consistently reaches out to CPS regarding the location, time and format for August 10<sup>th</sup> Hearing.
- 2015** August 10, 2015. CPS was to hold public hearing (originally scheduled in December 2014), but August 7<sup>th</sup>, they release a press release on their website postponing it until Sept 15, with no direct notice to the Coalition.
- 2015** August 14, 2015. Coalition files complaint with the Chicago Inspector General for Misconduct and Abuse of Power in Dyett RFP process.
- 2015** August 17, 2015. Hunger strike for Dyett Global Leadership & Green Technology HS begins at Dyett.
- 2015** August 26, 2015. Board of Education was to vote on the proposals and decide which team will have be winning RFP.  
**TABLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**