

**February 12, 2025, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, February 10th and Thursday, February 13th Submitted
via Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Thank you to the CPS Board for taking action on this critical issue and to the board members who attended the recent Acero Board meeting. Your presence and engagement demonstrate a commitment to the students, families, and educators affected by these ongoing challenges.</p> <p>However, we need more. It is imperative that CPS demand Acero reach an agreement without further delay. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated—our students and communities deserve stability, and the time for action is now. Every day without a resolution creates uncertainty that directly impacts the quality of education and support available to those we serve.</p> <p>Additionally, it is deeply concerning that current CPS CEO has not followed through on the Board’s mandate regarding this agreement. Leadership requires accountability, and failure to act on a directive undermines the trust of educators, families, and the broader CPS community. We need decisive action to ensure this agreement is finalized without further excuses or delays.</p> <p>We urge you to hold leadership accountable and prioritize resolving this issue now. The students, families, and educators of ACERO are counting on you.</p>
2	<p>We,(the Acero community parents & students) ask for updates on the progress to keep our Schools open. Er ask for noticeable progress not just to hear the hear the same response over and over again. We demand a clear plan for our near future. We ask the board to please work on our behalf to make a final plan</p>
3	<p>We need an mou now. Thousands of parents. children, teachers and school staff are being put in a very difficult and uncertain situation. We need clarity so we can all focus on education and learning, and not worrying about whether or not our schools will be open or if we have a job.</p>
4	<p>Soy madre de un estudiante de Bartolone de las casas , me enorgullece ser parte de esa gran familia , mi hijo tiene 2 IEP y me siento muy bendecida por la atención y el gran apollo que él ha recibido. Hemos avanzado mucho juntos gracias a todos ellos Mi hijo acude contento y motivado a su escuela por que cada persona que allí labora lo hace sentir un niño querido y seguro , son un STAFF excelente . Pedimos de la manera más respetuosa encuentran la manera de dejar nuestras escuelas abiertas . La salud emocional de nuestros niños es muy importante . Gracias</p>
5	<p>Dear CPS Leadership,</p> <p>It is imperative that you hold CEO Pedro Martinez and Mr. Carmona accountable for the failure to swiftly address and resolve the issue regarding Acero Charter Schools' closure. Their inaction and apparent delay in carrying out the Board’s directive are causing unnecessary disruption to students, families, and staff. By allowing this critical matter to remain unresolved, they are not only neglecting their responsibilities but also undermining the trust the community has placed in them to act decisively in the best interest of the children and educational institutions they serve. Their inaction has made it evident that they are more concerned with avoiding the inconvenience of fulfilling the Board's directive than taking immediate steps toward a resolution.</p> <p>This lack of urgency and accountability is unacceptable, especially when students’ futures and the stability of the schools are at risk. The Board’s directive was clear, and it is past time for CEO Martinez and Mr. Carmona to stop stalling and take action. The failure to do so is not only a disservice to the students who rely on these schools but also</p>

a blatant disregard for the commitments made to the community. We urge you to intervene immediately, ensure these leaders meet their responsibilities, and hold them accountable for ensuring that Acero's closure is handled swiftly and responsibly. The longer they delay, the greater the harm done to all involved.

6 I am a parent Sandra Cisneros my name is Gabriela Hernandez I have two girls one in second grade and other third grade I want are school to be open they have taught my daughter so many things they have got a good education they feel safe at there school. I want acero to sign the agreement so we could sleep better my daughters ask me mommy and I going to go same school next year it breaks my heart to see there faces I just want answer and thank you for your time

ATTACHMENTS

I'm tired. I am the STEM teacher at Acero Charter Schools- Rufino Tamayo and I am so tired. I am tired because it is February in Chicago. I am tired because I took an energetic group of 4th graders on a field trip yesterday. But mostly, I'm tired of the uncertainty of not knowing what is happening with my school community. It has been 126 days since I received a text message that my school was closing. 126 days of uncertainty and not knowing. 126 days of not being able to answer my students' questions.

I am tired of saying good-bye to amazing members of our Tamayo school community- students and staff members that have had to make the tough decision to leave. It is emotionally exhausting to see my students crying as they say good-bye to the classmates they have been in the same class with for 5, 6, 7 years. We keep telling families and each other that you have to do what is best for yourself and your family, but it is difficult. It is difficult to see a thriving school community being torn apart piece by piece. It is difficult to see "the dream team" being systematically taken apart.

Our school community is already living in uncertainty. Our students and families are living in the uncertainty of increased racism and fear. They are living in fear of being targeted when they walk down the street. For years, Tamayo school has been a safe, consistent place for students and families. They need that feeling of safety and consistency now more than ever.

The Resolution before Winter Break gave us hope. This Board did something historic by stepping in to save our schools. But that hope is fading because we still do not have answers. Hold Acero and other charter operators accountable to the school district that funds and oversees them.

We need your help. We need answers and concrete details. We need to tell our students and families that our schools are NOT closing. Do not remain silent, tell us you will reinforce your support for the resolution today. Tell Carmona and Martinez to get it done. Tell Acero to get it done. Our school community deserves better.



ROBERT PINCHAM <robertpincham@gmail.com>

LSC Closed Principal Evaluation Special Call Meeting Minutes

Dr. Carmen L. C. Palmer <cpphd94@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 23, 2025 at 1:36 AM

To: ROBERT PINCHAM <robertpincham@gmail.com>

Cc: Kai Jones <kljones5@cps.edu>, Michael Brunson <mebrunson@gmail.com>, Shauna Davis <smdavis@cps.edu>, Carolyn Leonard <c-leonard@sbcglobal.net>, Alonzo Anderson <alonzoma7@yahoo.com>, Brian Przybylski <BPrzybylski@cps.edu>, Myron <mlhester@cps.edu>

Dear Harlan High School LSC Chair Pincham,

Thank you and the Harlan High School Principal Evaluation Committee for your service. The Harlan High School Parent Teacher Student Association (HHS PTSA) is the advocacy arm of the school community as represented by National PTA, Illinois PTA, and the Chicago Region IL PTA. In that partnership building with the school community in order to advocate for "every.child one.voice" is our primary purpose, the HHS PTSA is pleased that the HHS LSC values our input regarding the Principal Evaluation. Please advise as to how you would like that input submitted.

The HHS PTSA wants to support our students by:

- 1) increasing parent and community engagement in our school;
- 2) helping to assure that our school has a fully seated LSC with its six (6) parent representatives seats filled and its three (3) student representatives seats filled;
- 3) helping to assure that our school has an active and productive Parent Advisory Council (PAC) that can utilize its Title I Funds;
- 4) advocating for the right of our LSC to be able to select its Principal and not be denied its right to Principal Selection because CPS hired principal candidates that were not able to provide effective instructional leadership and/or CPS so underfunded programs and services that the principal, faculty, and staff didn't have what they needed to meet the needs of their students. Either way, the LSC being denied its rights as a scapegoat for the actions of CPS is the issue. Principal Selection Rights need to be returned to the HHS LSC. In the absence of that right, children are being hurt academically.

The principal of Harlan High School that would partner with the school community, including the parents, HHS LSC, PTSA, PPLC, PPC, CBOs; Alumni Association, faculty & staff, and student leaders would be the principal that could return HHS to the outstanding school it had been in the past and could be now. Unlike many CPS schools, Harlan has ALL of these supports, but none are being allowed to help and/or support our children. It makes supporters and taxpayers feel as though there is a deliberate intent to assure the failure of Harlan HS.

CPS ignoring the many HHS LSC documented ongoing incidents and illegal practices that undermine every effort to support our children and to bring services and supplies to support their learning and their high school experience enables further academic harm to the children of Harlan H.S. How is it that CPS does not assume responsibility for administrators that they approve for the pool from which the LSCs select. **LSCs should NOT be held accountable nor penalized for the performance of CPS approved administrative candidates from which LSCs can only select.** If CPS approved an administrator that demonstrates that he/she needs more CPS support and instructional leadership training, the LSC should not be denied its rights to select its school's principal. **CPS should provide the principal the support and/or remediation needed.**

THE HARLAN HIGH SCHOOL PTSA ADVOCATES FOR RETURNING THE RIGHTS OF PRINCIPAL SELECTION TO THE HHS LSC.

The HHS PTSA truly promotes and advocates for partnership building among the school community on behalf of the children. Following policy is also very important as a practice to the HHS PTSA. And lastly, in that We The People fund our public schools, it is important that our voices are heard in exchange for our dollars and for entrusting our children to the schools. Thank you for the opportunity to make our voice heard. If there was any other input from the HHS PTSA that was desired by the HHS LSC, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Thank you again for your service. We look forward to our children having the academic and educational experience that they deserve. The return of the Principal Selection right to our HHS LSC would be the first step to making that a reality.

Yours in education and education equity,

Dr. Carmen L. C. Palmer

Harlan High School Parent Teacher Student Association

HHS PTSA President

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