

August 25, 2021 Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, August 23rd and Thursday, August 26th
Submitted via Written Comments Form

1

The recent news that CPD will be keeping officers in the schools that have voted them out is a slap in the face to the process CPS just underwent with the Whole School Safety planning process, and undermines the legitimacy of Local School Councils - one of the only democratic processes we have in Chicago schools. What message does it send to students, that they can organize & vote & win change, but CPD will still insist on doing what it wants? That lesson, a model of fascism, has no place in our schools. CPD is acting like it runs CPS, and this board cannot allow it.

2

Re: School Resource Officers

In a report from WBEZ, (https://www.wbez.org/stories/chicago-police-to-continue-sending-two-officers-to-schools-that-voted-to-have-just-one/ef3a89c3-434b-490d-b226-e7357d2b6915?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Web-Share) --Chicago Public Schools says the Police Department has decided to temporarily send the two officers to the schools, citing safety issues. It's unclear when they'll leave.

I am having a difficult time understanding what CPS is doing on this matter. First, this matter is undermining LSCs and all the work done re-evaluating what school safety is. Beyond just undermining a democratic institution that the mayor, board, and district have championed -- you are also lambasting the work of students, community members, parents, organizers, and activists. This is also counter to all the messaging around respecting the process that schools went through that were extensive, vulnerable, and emotional.

I am extremely hurt over this action that CPD gets to make this decision that CPD can overrule our schools, our citizens, and democratic spaces like the LSC. This is not how it works and this is not how this process should trend toward.

I am asking the board of education to step in and rectify this matter and also demanding CPS make use of the money they currently have to continue to support our students and district with the resources needed that are alternatives to policing and compliance by fear. This is yet another example of overreach and strong-arming that we see routinely that are the lived experiences of our youth in the city. I am asking the board to please defend the efforts of communities and listen to the voices of young people asking to be seen beyond the lens of compliance and policing.

3

As the school year begins, students and families are recovering from the impacts of the pandemic and attempting to succeed. The Good Student, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, seeks to support students and schools through a research-backed confidential questionnaire. This survey gauges and provides immediate feedback and resources to students on the key indicators and predictors of well-being and school and life success. It also aims to improve GPA, standardized test scores, degree completion rates, school safety, and college success. (<https://www.thegoodstudent.org>)

4

Good morning City of Chicago Board of Education members. Thank you for considering my comment today. I am a parent of 2 CPS students: entering 5th and 1st grade. Last year was unprecedented. This year we are returning our children to school fearful and trusting you to keep them safe from an airborne disease. I pray we all make it thru this year in one piece and safe. I ask that this board keep safety at the forefront for this academic year. Please consider safe quarantine practices for all staff and children REGARDLESS of vaccination status, consider making students/staff provide their vaccination status. Please reconsider quarantining staff who are exposed as many college campuses and hospitals do until they test negative for covid before expecting them to return to teach unvaccinated students. Please consider mandating students to test weekly; and not just because they are in sports but bc its the right thing to do for us all, especially our most vulnerable unvaccinated students. Further consider ending simultaneous teaching. It was not ideal and if it weren't for teachers setting aside additional time to do one on one with my child who needed that extra 5-10 min my child would have hated to learn to read. Simultaneous teaching in person and remote is horrible for students and teachers. We are returning to enjoy and love learning again. We'd rather have 5-10 min of quality instruction than 60 min of simultaneous ear piercing echo and sad faces at a computer bc they feel left out (this is how remote went for my K child). Please don't do that to a child already possibly quarantined, that is not in their best interest neither for their mental health or learning experiences. They light up with individual instruction from their teacher. Please Allow their teacher to do this with them, give them some freedom and flexibility. Simultaneous teaching does not do that, all we saw were stressed and anxious teachers trying desperately to save face. Ty for your time.

5

The school isn't giving me time to have my children get there forms fill they have asthma and that's not right I want them in school but not in person .

6

I am here commenting about the aligations of the reopening of schools, and the "safety guidelines" that have been recently shared out to the public. And of my opinion, I highly disagree with the reopening of schools and the rejection of the option of staying home with online classes. The least I can say is that children of grades 8 and down should have the option of staying in their homes and learning virtually if they do not feel comfortable or safe inside of the school. It came to my knowledge that it seems that the people of the board are making their own decisions for the children instead of the parents of the children. And with speaking of the "safety guidelines" for the reopening of the school year, the 3 feet obligation is not okay with me. If there is going to be returning of schools the least we can mandate is the usual protocol of the Coronavirus rules, is to stay 6 feet apart. Having 3 feet is not safe, masks can only cover so much of the germs. And of being so close to the other kids the germs can pass by so quickly, more than we can imagine. So please, Consider my request of having the opportunity for a decision of having online learning. And to at least make the safety term of having 6 feet apart like how it usually is. Thank you.

ATTACHMENTS

The Good Student's Student Success Survey (S3)

Resolving problems in
student well-being, mental health,
academic achievement, and
school safety.



Introduction to The Good Student

- The Good Student is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Administers a survey that assesses students on the key indicators and predictors of student well-being and mental health, academic achievement, and life success
- Provides effective resources and interventions that strengthen the above factors and aims to improve:
 - GPA
 - Standardized test scores
 - Degree completion rates
 - School safety

Problems Faced By Students and Schools

- Increased rates of student mental illness throughout the pandemic
- Economic and social hardships from COVID on family well-being
- Mental health care workers and school counselors are unable to meet the number of demands of students and families
- Changes in learning platforms have hindered normal progress and academic achievement
- Existing interventions are costly and have shown limited effectiveness
- Current approaches to school safety are often post-trauma oriented and not preventative

Solution: Student Success Survey (S3)

- Ten minute confidential questionnaire addressing, among others, topics including:
 - Psychological Health
 - Parent Relationships
 - Academic Engagement
- Available online and in multiple languages
- Based on extensive research in education and psychology
- Currently being used in United States, China, and Japan
- Taken at the start of each school term

Survey Scope and Impact

- Increased student psychological health and well-being
- Increased family functioning
- More resilience to life challenges and unexpected events, such as Covid
- Cost-effective approach to student support
- Immediate access to useful resources for students
- Increased campus safety from violence rooted in mental health lack of social belonging
- Higher GPA, student retention, and standardized test scores

Partner With Us!

- Request a free workshop to learn about The Good Student and access the student success survey.
- Administer the survey and access data to inform your school's approach to student support.
- Gain access to additional resources to support your students.

Example of Survey Feedback

Psychological Health

Your result: 18

Score Chart:

Over 32 are likely to be well

23-31 are likely to have a mild mental distress

16-22 are likely to have moderate mental distress

15 and under are likely to have a severe mental distress

Mental health challenges are more common than most people know:

- Up to 20% of students are depressed
- About 75% of mental health illnesses start by the age of 24
- Stress among students continues to increase

If you scored under 32, you could benefit from the resources shared below. You may find that later on, this may become a relevant topic for you. Having this information at hand can be useful.

Mental health issues are in part hereditary and can also be exacerbated or instigated by experiences. Having family members with disorders increases the chances of you becoming mentally ill.

If you believe you are struggling with mental health issues, you could benefit from free counseling at your school or in your community. It's a good idea to seek help as soon as possible. If you marked yes to having a life crisis, it is vital to seek help now. Below, you'll find some resources to help get you started.

Resources for Mental Health

- Confidential Hotline: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or info@nami.org
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-TALK (8255) or <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
- Anxiety and Depression Association of America: [here](#)
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance: [here](#)
- Adolescent Mental Health Resources: [here](#)
- Mental Health America: www.nmha.org
- Very Well Minded: [here](#)
- Six Things You Can Say to Someone Who is Depressed: [here](#)
- What to Say to Someone Who's Depressed: [here](#)

Meet Our Team

LaShonda Johnson – Board of Directors

Shonda has over 12 years of experience working directly with youth in educational programs and school settings, providing several students with individual and group counseling. She is a first-generation college student and received her master's in counseling psychology from Mount St. Mary's College and earned a Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Counseling.

Marilyn Saucedo – Board of Directors

Marilyn has 17 years of experience as a high school teacher. She also has 17 years as a school site and district administrator working with district and school administrators, teachers, students, and parents to build capacity for learning through collaborative partnerships. She holds a doctorate in education from Brandman University and a member of the Elevated Achievement Group, which leads educators to create environments of educational ownership so to support academic achievement.

Ronald Vincent – Board of Directors

Ron is a retired high school teacher and successful instructor for Advancement Via Individual Determination, a nonprofit that influences lives by helping schools transition to a more equitable, student-centered approach. Ron has served as Teacher Representative in the California Teachers' Association Representative Assembly. He has authored several books including "Shake", a novel about a college student's journey to success. Ron holds graduate degrees from Texas A&M and the University of Notre Dame.

Joseph Dorri - Founder and President

Joe is an educator, researcher, and nonprofit professional. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Southern California and master's degree in education. He has presented his research at the Western Psychological Association's Convention. Joe was recognized by the California State Legislature for his academic excellence, leadership, and service and was awarded the Most Promising Future Educator Award as well as the Ed Walsh Service Award for service to the community and college.

Contact Information

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President & Founder

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"The Good Student provides an outstanding resource for young people... and needs to be made widely available to teens through high schools, social media, and other venues they frequent."

—Edmund Bourne, *Author of The Anxiety & Phobia Workbook* (helping over one million readers)

The Good Student™

10:48



< Inbox

2 Messages



Re: Virtual registration

Hello Mrs. Miramontes,

Your children can not start virtual until they get accepted into the Virtual Academy. **Please send the kids to school on Monday, if they don't come to school the first day the system automatically will take them off from Azuela.**

Once they come the first day, you will be able to wait for your Dr.'s appointment.

Thank you,

Ms. Carmen Macias | **Attendance Coordinator**
Mariano Azuela E. School



New Message