

**September 26, 2024 Board Meeting Written Comments**  
**Received between Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Dear Members of the CPS Board of Education,</p> <p>As a parent of a Chicago charter school, I am deeply concerned about the exclusion of charter schools from the Board’s resolution regarding a moratorium on school closures. Charter schools serve a higher percentage of students of color and low-income families, often in neighborhoods that have faced years of underinvestment.</p> <p>I felt hopeful when charter schools—which are public district schools—were included in the district’s strategic plan last week because our schools are often treated differently. But the reason CPS has invested in charters is because families’ needs weren’t being met by their neighborhood schools. Over 55,000 Chicago families choose charters for their children — by not including charters in the moratorium, the district isn’t fulfilling its commitment to invest in all school options. In fact, a recent Stand for Children poll revealed that 30% of residents would leave Chicago if limited to their neighborhood school. While neighborhood schools deserve attention, so do charters and other options so many families take advantage of in Chicago.</p> <p>The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment, but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kathy Boon, parent at CICS Irving Park</p>
2	<p>We, the Principals and Assistant Principals from across the City of Chicago continue to emphasize the importance of stability within our district. Every school administrator knows that significant changes during a critical time of the school year can be detrimental to the students, staff, families, and the communities we serve. Senior leadership has changed over 7 times in the last 10 years. We cannot provide a stable district if these changes continue to happen. That is why we ask you to carefully consider the potential impact another change will have on school leaders. We continue to advocate for no leadership change by allowing our current leadership to continue to lead our district to higher levels. As CEO Pedro enters his 4th year he has a proven track record for district success.</p>
3	<p>COVID-19 and the lasting symptoms of Long COVID are having a massive and preventable negative impact on students and their communities. To mitigate these effects, CPS must use all the tools available to reduce the spread of COVID and other airborne diseases. The most effective tools in our arsenal are high-quality respirator masks like N95s and KN95s, increased ventilation in school buildings from HVAC systems and open windows, and air filters. Returning virtual options for learning, and holding school lunches outside when possible will also help reduce transmission.</p> <p>Improving ventilation and air filtration in classrooms removes airborne pathogens like COVID, Flu, and RSV, reduces allergies, helps with asthma, and reduces the amount of exhaled CO2 in the air, leading to improved cognition. A study in Finland showed that, on its own, air purifier use at daycare centers reduced kids sick days by 30%. According to a report from the CDC, "COVID-19 incidence was 37% lower in schools that required</p>

teachers and staff members to use masks". A study in the New England Journal of Medicine notes that "mean student and staff absences due to Covid-19 during weeks when masking was optional were 50% higher than absences during previous weeks, when masking was required".

According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, over 70% of COVID cases originate with children, and this rate goes down when schools are not in session, demonstrating the importance of controlling the spread of COVID within schools. CDC data shows that we are currently in the highest surge in COVID infection rates of any back-to-school session of all time.

A study in the "Pediatrics" medical journal estimates that 5.8 million children are currently suffering from symptoms of Long COVID, which can impact every single system in the body. Some common symptoms include fatigue, difficulty concentrating, cough, diarrhea, immune system damage, blood vessel damage that can lead to clotting, and skin lesions. After a COVID infection, children are over 70% more likely to develop type 1 or 2 diabetes, and on average develop a new mental health condition within 33 days. Each successive COVID infection increases the risk of developing Long COVID, so it is never too late to start reducing the risk of infection.

Returning the mask mandate in schools, making sure each classroom has adequate ventilation and air purifiers, returning virtual learning options, having lunches outside when possible, and encouraging students to stay home when sick will overall reduce infection rates, reduce absenteeism, improve student cognitive abilities and learning outcomes, and make for safer communities.

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[JALISA MCKISSICK], parent at [CICS LONGWOOD]

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5 No estoy de acuerdo de los cierres de las escuelas autónomas ya que en lo particular eh tenido experiencia extraordinaria, tengo un hijo que esta cursando el último año en la universidad y gracias ah las escuelas chárter mi hijo obtuvo una educación excelente y

	<p>sus grados siempre fueron muy altos hasta la fecha no es justo que nuestros hijos se pierdan de esas oportunidades únicas no al cierre de las escuelas autónomas.</p>
6	<p>Dear Members of the CPS Board of Education,</p> <p>As a parent of a Chicago charter school, I am deeply concerned about the exclusion of charter schools from the Board's resolution regarding a moratorium on school closures. Charter schools serve a higher percentage of students of color and low-income families, often in neighborhoods that have faced years of underinvestment.</p> <p>I felt hopeful when charter schools—which are public district schools—were included in the district's strategic plan last week because our schools are often treated differently. But the reason CPS has invested in charters is because families' needs weren't being met by their neighborhood schools. Over 55,000 Chicago families choose charters for their children — by not including charters in the moratorium, the district isn't fulfilling its commitment to invest in all school options. In fact, a recent Stand for Children poll revealed that 30% of residents would leave Chicago if limited to their neighborhood school. While neighborhood schools deserve attention, so do charters and other options so many families take advantage of in Chicago.</p> <p>The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment, but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.</p> <p>Sincerely, Giana D. Sanchez, parent at CICS IRVING PARK</p>
7	<p>More needs to be done to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools. COVID-19 can lead to a debilitating disease known as Long Covid, which in some individuals is permanent. There is no cure for Long Covid. It is estimated that about 6 million children in the US have Long Covid. These numbers will only increase as there is a risk of getting Long Covid with each re-infection of COVID-19. More needs to be done to protect students from becoming disabled from COVID-19. Schools need air filters and air sanitation as well as a return to masks being required.</p>
8	<p>I'm writing to you as a delegate of the CTU and guest teacher. This year, our new absent management system appears to be malfunctioning and not matching substitute teachers with jobs. We have seen this time and time again; yet sub services asserts that the system is functional and it is the users who are committing errors. We know this to be untrue as we have compiled data from multiple users. Please remedy this problem before we lose even more hardworking guest teachers to the economic loss of not finding work. We have additional concerns over other areas of our employment such as being used as TATs and payroll not processing our sick days, so please participate in dialogue with us via our union as morale is low at this time from these outstanding issues. Thank you.</p>
9	<p>I think Cics longwood should be closed down the school is horrible not to mention the staff are dating each other and the kids know about it than they grow our kids book bags outside and also the coach tried to fight my son and wen I went to the school he tried to fight me Dean white than reached out to me but no action was taken against the coach even though he also had basketball players coming up to my son harassing and bullying him no one has done anything and honestly a lot of them have they job because they know some one a lot of them are no certified for the positions they have aw yea and another gun shooting at the school <b>CLOSE THEM DOWN!!!!!!</b></p>
10	<p>Como madre de familia todas las escuelas deberían de estar incluidas para recibir los mismos los mismos beneficios ya que estamos hablando de niños no tendría porque</p>

haber restricción para que sean igualitario entonces no están pensando que a los que perjudican en a niños que están listos para aprender

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Sincerely,

Ashley Ferrer, parent at Chicago International Charter School (CICS- Bucktown)

12 Dear Members of the City of Chicago Board of Education,

My name is Paola Bonilla and I am the proud mother of three graduating students from Horizon Science Academy Southwest Charter School and one current 7th grade student. I am writing to express my admiration for Horizon-Southwest. As a pillar of academic excellence, our school has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student success, innovative teaching methods, and a nurturing environment. Our school has truly built an outstanding community where both parents and students are actively involved and performing amazing academically.

With opportunities like the Parent Teacher Organization and Bilingual Advisory Committee we, as parents, have a strong voice and presence in the school's decision-making and activities, ensuring that our children have the best possible learning experience.

On an academic level, I've personally witnessed my children excel beyond expectations. The support they receive from the teachers and staff, combined with the collaborative environment that encourages parent participation, has made all the difference in their success. Our school is a model of what a thriving educational community should look like, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Apart from the academic strengths that Horizon-Southwest offers, they have a great mentorship program that focuses on character development, community service, personal physical activities, and cultural exposure. This program is called Concept Youth

Scholars Program (CYSP). Through CYSP my children have had the opportunity to travel internationally. CYSP provides opportunities that many of our students will cherish for the rest of their lives.

I strongly encourage the Board to continue supporting Horizon-Southwest in its mission to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our Gage Park community. Thank you for supporting such an amazing institution.

Kindly,  
Paola Bonilla

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13 As parents we have the right to choose where our children go to school. Where we feel they are safe and everyone knows them. In CICS BUCKTOWN my children are happy and we want charter schools to be an option for us parents if we feel that they are the best fit for us. We like the smaller schools and classes. They have more time to help our children because of the size of the class. Public schools have a lot of positive things but are not a one size fits all, and private schools are not an option for all of us. So we need to insure that charter schools are here and are protected . As a parent of two kids going to a charter school I feel that they are getting the attention and time needed for them to understand the subject they are studying. I went to a large public school and I would have loved to have smaller classes where individual help was provided if needed. My classes were so large and over crowded that answering all questions even after class was not possible for the teacher. Charter schools provide the experience of a public school but with the attention of a prive school. It is the best of both worlds. We need to insure that they will be around for a long time for parents like me who want to choose what is best for our family. By taking them away and not protecting them you force us to send are kids to over crowded classrooms where they feel not seen. Where teachers are over worked and even have to provide out of pocket material for their classes and making the teachers stressed to the point were many quit . Keep all options protected, extend contracts so parents don't have to worry. Don't push us to pick something we don't like and might even rather homeschool. By having charter schools around , public schools can also lower their numbers to provide a better community for their students and teachers. I hope you understand the importance as parents to have a choice, to be able to find the best of both worlds if that is what we want . Thank you

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14 I spoke at the Board Meeting on September 26, 2024 as a proud parent of two CPS students, and member of the all-volunteer group called CPS Parents for Buses. I have a proposal for you as Board members.

Your strategic plan indicates a strong commitment to equitable access to quality public education. I know you all agree that a key component of equitable access to education is access to free and safe student transportation.

Students with disabilities in need of transportation, English language learners in need of transportation, students from low income families in need of transportation, gifted learners in need of transportation. These are not mutually exclusive groups. They all seek to be seen, heard and treated with respect.

So I would like to propose some metrics that you could use to track CPS' performance when it comes to providing equitable access to education.

1. Number of school transfers by CPS students due to unavailable or ineffective student transportation. Currently CPS does NOT collect this data point.

2. Tardiness and absenteeism of students who qualify for busing vs. other students.
3. Level of pollution around the schools during pickup and drop off. This is a student health and safety issue. Currently, pick-ups and drop-offs at CPS schools across the city nightmarish with the large number of vehicles around the schools. Another metric that could be tracked, would be the number of vehicular incidents reported at schools that involve students.
4. Diversity levels (especially black and brown representation) at selective enrollment schools.

The Student Transportation department at CPS has failed our students. Hold them accountable. Do not let them defer to next year, and the year after. Promises of action do not drive results, and do not serve our children. If you track any if not all of the metrics listed above, you will drive real action, and hold CPS accountable for their inaction in the effort towards equity.

- 15 I sent an email to Talent, Payroll, and Sub Services on 9/6 and have yet to receive a response. So I am here to let the Board know there are a long lists of issues CPS guest teachers are facing.
1. Guest Teachers were promised pay for the Fall sub training in the pay period it was completed. Yet we received an email saying there was a 1-2 pay period delay in receiving that stipend. I learned 9/6 that Sub SECAs were paid for their Fall training. So why were they paid but guest teachers were not?
  2. Some guest teachers (cadres) worked in the 8/11-8/24 pay period had no paychecks or tiny paychecks for 9/6. For most it was not due to missed swipes or school clerk errors. It was due to continual Payroll errors which started last year and affect the lowest paid employees. Other guest teachers are missing pay for some days or amounts of \$300, \$600, etc.  
We suffered from delayed pay last year during the Winter and Spring Breaks as well. Delays have never stopped and lead to losing housing and not having food on the table. They lead to making late utility payments with late fees. As you know Illinois statues are in place that require payment for all work within 13 days of completion.
  3. Extremely long waiting times are experienced by guest teachers when they call Sub Services or Payroll at all times of the day. 1-2 hour wait times or even being disconnected after that period of time. Guest teachers have also experienced 1-2 week delays in getting email responses to their questions or concerns.
  4. As Speaker 3 in public comments stated 9/26, many schools are pressuring guest teachers to cover a one teacher who is in parental leave or vacant positions long term for more than 20 days at day to day rates of \$125-193 a day with no benefits, or a school based or core cadre for \$216-275 a day with few benefits. These guest teachers are being pressured to make lesson plans, grade papers, use all the school apps, and contact parents. Principals in the district are doing this. I am sure you will agree that using guest teachers to fill parental leaves and vacant positions at these rates and with no or few benefits is unacceptable. If the Board wants guest teachers to fill in to covered unfilled positions and cover parental leave, you must insure that we are paid and given benefits regular teachers have. Why are you not paying us TAT rates when these are actually TAT duties.? Please review guest teacher job descriptions. They do not state that we do the duties of full time teachers . Also review the policies stated in the CPS Guest Teacher Handbook. What is on paper must be applied and enforced.  
I know that the principal association president stated that principals should be able to make decisions affecting their buildings. However, if they are violating CPS Board policies, there must be action taken. If the Board is turning a blind eye to the use of

guest teachers in these inappropriate ways, that must stop. You know you have been forced to pay settlements due to grievances of misuse of guest teachers that led to back pay. I received one of those settlements. Wouldn't it be better to pay us correctly to begin with, rather than 1-3 years of grievance hearings and arbitration? It would save the Board unnecessary time and money.

5. Other significant issues affecting guest teachers are a pay freeze this school year at last year pay rates. The Board decision to eliminate the 5 day cadre positions for parental leaves. The reduction in the number of Core Cadres per network. These decisions are exacerbating staffing shortages in the district. Many who have guest taught for CPS for 1, 6, 10+ years are leaving because these decisions have seriously affected their finances. Current rates of pay for guest teachers do not help.

These issues suggest to us that our work in CPS is not valued and we are not respected CPS employees. The Board should meet with CPS guest teachers, discuss our concerns, come up with solutions.

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16 Dear Members of the CPS Board of Education,

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I felt hopeful when charter schools—which are public district schools—were included in the district's strategic plan last week because our schools are often treated differently. But the reason CPS has invested in charters is because families' needs weren't being met by their neighborhood schools. Over 55,000 Chicago families choose charters for their children — by not including charters in the moratorium, the district isn't fulfilling its commitment to invest in all school options. In fact, a recent Stand for Children poll revealed that 30% of residents would leave Chicago if limited to their neighborhood school. While neighborhood schools deserve attention, so do charters and other options so many families take advantage of in Chicago.

The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment, but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system.

I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.

Sincerely,

Lashawnda Harris, at Art N Motion, Distinctive

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17 My 2 kids are going to gifted program, Transport issue is getting big effort on our lives, we both are working and I don't know driving. we are facing lot of issues.

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	<p>school. While neighborhood schools deserve attention, so do charters and other options so many families take advantage of in Chicago.</p> <p>The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment, but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.</p> <p>Sincerely, Leticia Enriquez , parent at CICS Irving Park</p>
19	<p>California recently banned all 6 artificial food dyes (red 40, blue 1 &amp; 2, yellow 5 &amp; 6, green 3) from being served in their public schools (assembly bill 2316). I would like to see the same thing happen here in Chicago. Artificial dyes are proven to be carcinogenic, endocrine disrupting and they cause behavioral issues. Thanks.</p>
20	<p>I would like to add to my comments I made when I spoke that of not already done CPS transporting workers who are substitutes be able sub for half day of school of last dropoff has need.</p>
21	<p>Dear Members of the CPS Board of Education,</p> <p>As a parent of a Chicago charter school, I am deeply concerned about the exclusion of charter schools from the Board's resolution regarding a moratorium on school closures.</p> <p>The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system.</p> <p>I transferred my child this year to a Charter school in my South Shore neighborhood due to unmet transportation needs at the award-winning CPS district-run high school 11.8 miles away (M-F, daily 23.6+ miles RT). I felt hopeful but completely unaware of how disproportionate the treatment of charter schools is in impacting my students' learning experience.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.</p> <p>Sincerely, C Palacio, Parent Arts in Motion Creative High School</p>
22	<p>I would like the Board to take a formal vote on allowing each registered member of the public to have 3 minutes time to speak during the public BOE meetings.</p>
23	<p>My name is Dr. Chris Murphy, Chief Strategic Growth Officer for Concept Schools, and our teams and I partner with the Office of Innovation and Innovation within Chicago Public Schools to support the learning of 1,300 students at the award-winning Chicago Math and Science Academy and Horizon Science Academy Southwest campuses.</p> <p>Our students make up a tiny portion of the 55,000 K-12 students attending charter public schools across CPS neighborhoods, yet like most charter students, they regularly outperform their peers that attend traditional neighborhood public schools. CMSA and HSA serve a higher percentage of students of color and from low-income families than the district, and we demand our voices are included in district policy decisions.</p>

Last week we heard from board members that charter schools were very much a part of the district and the recently launched 5-year strategic plan. For the briefest of moments, we truly felt part of the CPS family. That our voices were not only heard, but they mattered. Yet today, we see within the CPS board meeting packet there is a resolution to exclude charters from a moratorium on school closures.

This unjust course correction of turning your backs on hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans is unacceptable.

The mission of CPS is to provide a high-quality public education to all children in every neighborhood. All children includes charter students.

Do your duty, and stand by your mission. Ensure the school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to includes charters.

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Sincerely,  
Kenyatta Williams, MBA parent at CICS Lloyd Bond

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25 Both of my children have been admitted to the gifted program, and with both of us working, managing their daily transportation has become quite challenging, even with carpooling. Our main concern is their safety.

Last year, we managed somehow, but this year, office pressures have increased as well. When we reached out to CPS transport, they mentioned a shortage of drivers, but private transport vendors like Compass are available, albeit at costs that are unaffordable for many parents. It remains unclear where the misunderstanding regarding the driver shortage.

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Sincerely,

Maria Martinez parent at CICS IRVING PARK

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27 I am a Chicago resident of 20+ years and, more importantly, the parent of a Chicago Public Schools student. I am also a past LSC member and a CPS volunteer coach. We love our city and our schools but are DEEPLY troubled by the chaos that is currently plaguing our city's educational system. The influence and power the Chicago Teacher's Union throws around and hold they appear to have on our mayor is untenable, and it seems like only the Board of Education is in a position to stop the nonsense right now.

My husband and I urge you support Pedro Martinez and not bend to the obstructive force that is the CTU. CPS and the 300,000 students and their families that attend CPA schools need stability, and Chicago taxpayers need fiscal responsibility. Our kids should not be put in the middle of someone else's political beef, rhetoric and posturing for headlines and sound-bytes.

Rational and sensible minds must prevail - now and always. What kind of example do we set for them if the adults in the room cannot rise above and be better. Please. We are better than this.

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28 Hello, I am a concerned adult with many young family members who attend Chicago Public Schools for their education. Because of that I am aghast by the inaction taken by CPS to protect children and educators from COVID. The CDC has misled the public with its minimization of this illness, and it is our children who are suffering from this decision the most. Currently Long COVID, a chronic condition that occurs after SARS-CoV-2 infection, impacts 5.8 million children in the United States. Long COVID include symptoms and conditions that can impact any organ system. It is a common opinion that a child should never be burdened with devastating illness, but somehow we have normalized children becoming ill with COVID over and over despite our knowledge of how disabling a COVID infection can be.

It is my hope that CPS will acknowledge the science and reputable studies done on COVID and it's negative lifelong effects on children, and will do something to protect them from further harm. I would most want to see a return of masking in all CPS buildings for all students and staff that are capable of doing so. In addition to this all classrooms should have working air purifiers that are required to be turned on during the school day. These are efficient and cost effective actions that will have CPS seeing a

	<p>drop in COVID infections among students. Students and staff will have better attendance rates, and students will have healthier lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
29	<p>Hello Chicago Board of Education, where do I start? I am a Substitute teacher and it's has been a financial struggle without knowing that I will not have a monthly incentive pay. I am an Illinois resident and United States citizen. I assist, support and teach our children. Substitute are thrown into the fire without any benefits. Now, Sub Services can't receive our phone calls for support (Literally, 40 mins wait). Three Sub Service employees to the entire district, who made that unrealistic decision? We need a hourly raise, monthly incentives and real benefits that show that CPS appreciate our hard work. Thank you and have a wonderful weekend. Sincerely, Substitute in demand.</p>
30	<p>This is in regard to Board Agenda Item 24-0926-PR3 under the Chief Procurement Officer to Authorize a New Agreement with Cintas Corporation No. 2 for the Purchase of Custodial Consumables/Supplies. For a number of reasons, it is not in the interests of the Chicago Public Schools, its staff, its students, and the residents of the City of Chicago.</p> <p>Aztec Supply has been a janitorial and supply vendor for CPS for over 33 years. Our record with CPS as well as with its sister agencies, is outstanding. We have tried in good faith for the last year and a half to partner with Cintas and become one of its subcontractors. However, all they have done is stall and mislead us. Aztec has made numerous attempts to meet with and provide product lists and items to Cintas only to be thwarted or ignored. Despite having submitted to CPS its intentions to subcontract with other vendors, last week, we were under the impression that Aztec was still going to be considered to be part of the CPS contract package--clearly it was not the case. And now, Cintas is telling various CPS employees untruths including that Aztec was not responsive and did not supply a certain type of product, thus attempting to tarnish the reputation that Aztec Supply has built over the decades. In fact, Aztec has maintained records indicating the numerous times that it tried to contact Cintas and respond to their inquiries. More correctly, it was Cintas that was non-responsive as weeks and months went by and Cintas did not respond to Aztec. This is one of the most important contractual relationships for our student-body and staff, so it does not make sense to trust it to a company that behaves in this unprofessional manner regarding this contract.</p> <p>A contract of this size should reflect the makeup of students of the District. This contract does not do that. The MBEs are neither Hispanic nor African American. The only African American company on this contract is being utilized as a WBE and is from Tennessee. In fact, the only "local" company on this contract is from Wheeling. There are plenty of local vendors willing and able to be subcontractors to Cintas.</p> <p>It is in the best interests of the Chicago Public Schools not to award the contract in its current form.</p>
31	<p>Hello, I'm a Cadre Substitute Teacher and I would like to comment on the Religious Holidays. I live a Christian Life. Other Teachers recently received three days. I'm hoping you would honor the fact I need my days for Religious, Sick, and Personal Time.</p>

Can someone make that correction. I attend my church for many gatherings, events, Bible, and Prayer. Thank you in advance, Georgine A Bates  
gabates@cps.edu

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32 Bring Masks back to schools!

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33 Please don't close any schools down these kids need they education just like us when we were kids it's not fair for our kids not to have a real education it doesn't make sense that they trying to take everything away from us we have to come together as a black community to do better for our future.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

8/28/24 (updated 8/30/24)

Dear Chicago Board of Education Members,

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for everyone. We are all dedicated to ensuring that our students, families, and staff are supported and prepared for a successful year of learning and growth. However, this year feels different for many of us. The ongoing contract negotiations with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and news reports of a potential leadership change involving CEO Pedro Martinez have created an atmosphere of uncertainty. While our primary focus remains on our school communities, we feel it is important to share our concerns as principals and assistant principals as the school year begins.

We, the Principals and Assistant Principals from across the City of Chicago write to emphasize the importance of stability within an institution. Every school administrator knows that significant changes at the beginning of the school year can be detrimental to the students, staff, and families we serve. That is why we ask you to carefully consider the potential impact that a change in leadership could have on the Chicago Public Schools community.

We understand the political dynamics at play—the Board of Education hires the CEO, and the Mayor appoints the Board members. It is also widely recognized that there is a connection between Mayor Johnson and the Chicago Teachers Union. Nevertheless, decisions about CPS leadership should not be driven by political affiliations or interests. We urge the Board to focus on the long-term success of the district and the needs of all stakeholders by acknowledging the impact the current CPS leadership team has had on our district.

No leadership structure will ever satisfy everyone completely. Just as teachers may raise concerns with principals, and principals may raise issues with Network Chiefs, disagreements are a natural part of the organizational process. That said, it is important to recognize the inclusive and collaborative culture that CEO Martinez and Chief Education Officer Bogdana Chkoumbova have cultivated. This shift has been acknowledged by both seasoned leaders and those new to the role. Principals across the district have developed a professional rapport and a trusting relationship with the current CPS leadership which has allowed us to work collaboratively to create the best schools for all students in Chicago.

Under the current leadership, the district has prioritized several key initiatives, including early literacy, career and technical education (CTE) programming, a needs-based budgeting process that provided a transparent way on how schools are funded and why,

enhanced school safety, and improved student outcomes through a high-quality curriculum. These initiatives demonstrate a commitment to collaboration between district leaders and administrators to better support teachers, staff, and students.

Leadership transitions inevitably bring change. However, this letter is not driven by fear of change, but rather by the belief that such a change is unnecessary at this time. We strongly urge the Board of Education to allow CEO Martinez to continue leading the district as he has for the past two plus years. We need to maintain the momentum behind the initiatives already underway that have been successful due to the support CEO Martinez has gained by listening to and trusting school leaders to give guidance on what is best for schools.

While we are represented by the Chicago Principals and Administrators Association (CPAA), this letter is written independently of CPAA due to ongoing negotiations between CPAA and CPS. Our intent is to ensure that the voices of school leaders, who are deeply invested in the success of our students and schools, are heard.

We trust that the Chicago Board of Education will make decisions that are in the best interest of all CPS stakeholders. This includes the school leaders who are charged with fostering the academic and social-emotional growth of our students. We respectfully ask that you allow CEO Martinez to continue his leadership and the important work that is positively impacting our district.

Sincerely,

Tara Shelton	Principal	South Loop School
Jeremy Feiwell	Principal	Cardenas Elementary
Raul Magdaleno	Principal	Kelly College Prep
Jeff Finelli	Principal	Edison Park Elementary
Adrian S. Dobbins	Principal	Eugene Field Elementary
Otis Dunson	Principal	George B. Armstrong
Amit Thaker	Assistant Principal	George B. Armstrong
Cory Overstreet	Principal	Kellogg
Ernest D. Williams	Principal	Ellington Elementary
Marla Elitzer	Principal	Ruiz Elementary

Abigail George	Principal	McCormick Elementary
Althea Hammond	Principal	Plamondon STEM ES
Cindy Castaneda	Assistant Principal	Cardenas Elementary
Wayne Bevis	Principal	Virtual Academy
Lillian Lazu	Principal	Little Village Elementary
Alberto Juárez	Principal	Gary Elementary
Katherine Cheng	Principal	Armour Elementary
Lourdes Esmeralda Zapata	Assistant Principal	Armour Elementary
Maureen Delgado	Principal	Clinton School
Eileen Considine	Principal	Columbia Explorers
Barton Dassinger	Principal	Chávez ES
Lisa Epstein	Principal	Lee Elementary
Lauren Albani	Principal	LaSalle II Magnet School
Kelly Whitters	Assistant Principal	LaSalle II Magnet School
Catherine Reidy	Principal	Mt. Greenwood
Joan Garey-Rogers	Assistant Principal	Mt. Greenwood
Patricia Barrera Brekke	Principal	Back of the Yards College Prep HS
Nicole Mulcrone	Assistant Principal	Lee Elementary
Angelica Altamirano	Principal	Hubbard HS
Marisela Ramirez	Assistant Principal	Cardenas Elementary
Mitchell Zoelzer	Assistant Principal	Haugan Elementary
Mary Kay Richardson	Principal	Thomas Early Childhood
Lourdes Jimenez	Principal	Salazar Bilingual Center
Konstantinos Patsiopoulos	Principal	Holden Elementary
Charlette Broxton	Principal	Frazier International Magnet

Ekaterini Panagakis	Principal	Wacker Elementary
Alba Morales	Assistant Principal	Kelly College Prep
Mary Rose Varveris	Assistant Principal	South Loop Elementary
Lorianne Zaimi	Principal	Peirce
Wendy Oleksy	Principal	Ginsburg Elementary
Michael Biela	Principal	Rickover Naval Academy
Katie Welsh	Principal	Mitchell Elementary School
LaWanda Bishop	Principal	Kipling Elementary
Chor Ng	Assistant Principal	Clinton Elementary School
Dawn Caetta	Principal	Kinzie Elementary
Stephen Laslo	Assistant Principal	Clinton Elementary School
Latoya Lyons	Principal	WBrown STEM
Vauncia Allen	Principal	Dvorak School
Ronald Berdell	Assistant Principal	McNair School
John Fitzpatrick	Principal	Locke School
Donald R. Morris	AIC	Jane Addams
Casey Fuess	Assistant Principal	Virtual Academy
Ku-San Thomas	Principal	Ray Graham
Anamaria Orbe	Principal	Hammond Elementary
Charles Malek	Assistant Principal	Phoenix STEM Military Academy
Manuel Adrianzen	Principal	Alfred Nobel Dual Language School
Clariza Dominicci	Principal	Marvin Camras
Ishshah Phillips	Assistant Principal	Hubbard High School
Evelia Diaz	Principal	Eli Whitney Elementary

Erika Padilla	Assistant Principal	Lyon Elementary School
Claudia Guerrero	Principal	Schubert Elementary
Edward Collins	Principal	Burbank Elementary
Marcie A Byrd	Principal	
Raquel Davis	Principal	Mount Vernon
Mary Carmen Moreno	Assistant Principal	Back of the Yards College Prep HS
Barbara Manjarrez	Assistant Principal	Back of the Yards College Prep HS
Samuel Lee	Assistant Principal	Peirce Elementary School
Daysi Mojica	Assistant Principal	Alfred Nobel Dual Language School
Suzanne Luzzi	Principal	Jungman STEM Magnet
Jennifer Narbert	Assistant Principal	Rickover Naval Academy
Candace J. Anderson-Matchem	Assistant Principal	Virtual Academy
Taiesha Ford	Assistant Principal	
Yadira Bernadac	Principal	Pilsen Community Academy
Cecilia Bartel	Assistant Principal	Falconer Elementary
Heather Yutzy	Principal	Haugan Elementary
Griselda Esparza	Assistant Principal	Kelly College Prep
Natasha Anders	Assistant Principal	South Loop School
Julie Trejo	Assistant Principal	Northwest
Giselle Sanchez Santiago	Assistant Principal	Velma Thomas ECC
Pam De La Cruz	Principal	Hanson Park Elementary
Niambi Riggins-Thomas	Principal	DePriest Elementary

Sabrina Walker	Assistant Principal	Back of the Yards College Preparatory High School
Julio Alvarez	Assistant Principal	Jungman Elementary
William Hook	Principal	Chicago Agriculture
Philip Iem	Principal	Ortiz de Dominguez ES
Maureen Komperda	Assistant Principal	Locke Elementary
Michelle Quinton Garcia	Assistant Principal	Lloyd ES
Eileen Scanlan Peterson	Principal	Cassell
Mandi Durkin	Principal	Belding Elementary
Erica Pacheco	Assistant Principal	Bridge Elementary School
Melissa Resh	Principal	Wildwood IB
Zachary Korth	Principal	Morton Elementary
Robert Guercio Jr	Principal	Bridge Elementary School
Celeste Rodriguez	Assistant Principal	Portage Park Elementary
Camille Unger	Principal	Edgebrook Elementary School
Sean Kennedy	Assistant Principal	Sauganash
Terrie Rayburn	Assistant Principal	Casals School of Excellence
Maureen Wood	Principal	Portage Park Elementary
Joyce Pae	Principal	Chicago Academy Elementary
Dainel Micallef	Assistant Principal	Oriole Park Elementary
Yalil Nieves	Principal	Mary Gage Peterson
Andrea Gordon	Assistant Principal	Edgebrook Elementary School
Kathleen Hurley	Assistant Principal	Mary Gage Peterson

Lindsi Lara	Principal	Hitch Elementary
Ryan Coors	Principal	Norwood Park
Marianne Patten	Principal	Onahan Elementary
Khalid Oluewu	Principal	Webster Elementary
Sarah DeJulio	Assistant Principal	Onahan Elementary
Angela Rogers	Assistant Principal	Johnson STEAM Elementary
Jimmy A. Lugo	Principal	Stowe Elementary
Chris Gamble	Principal	Solomon Elementary
Kat Henry	Assistant Principal	Solomon Elementary
Stephanie Bester	Principal	Garvy School
Georgia Davos-Vetas	Principal	Bateman Elementary
Kerrin Quezada	Principal	Moos Elementary
Yolanda Ayala-Santana	Assistant Principal	Moos Elementary
Nikita Horn	Principal	Howe
Consuelo Gaines	Assistant Principal	L Ward STEM E S
Sandra Carlson	AIC	Prussing Elementary
Amber Whitfield	Assistant Principal	Edison Park Elementary
Jennifer Madden	Principal	Scammon Elementary
Jacqueline Grimaldo	Assistant Principal	Scammon Elementary
Claudia Lopez	Principal	Fairfield Academy
Dr. Marlena Little	Principal	King Academy of Social Justice
Karla Garcia	Assistant Principal	Washington Smyser Elementary
Rosa Hernandez	Assistant Principal	Kinzie Elementary
Okab Hassan	Principal	Peck Elementary
Regina Latimer-Lake	Principal	Earle STEM Elementary

Lashan Rockett	Assistant Principal	Cuffe STEM Academy
Janel Armstrong	Assistant Principal	Earle STEM Elementary
Katherine Gallagher	Principal	Christopher
Edwin Loch	Principal	Reinberg
Kimberly Davis	Assistant Principal	Reinberg
Krissandra Taylor-Walker	Assistant Principal	Webster
Michael Pacourek	Principal	Shields Elementary
Dr. David J Young	Principal	Bouchet International
Adriana Arias	Principal	Nightingale Elementary
Brennen Humphrey	Principal	Coonley Elementary Schools
Brenda Pantoja	Assistant Principal	Hedges Elementary
Marquita Jones	Assistant Principal	Phoenix STEM Military Academy
Kelly Thigpen	Principal	Burnside Scholastic Academy
Rodolfo Rojas	Principal	Everett STEM
Sara Haas	Principal	Brighton Park Elementary
Debra Polak	Assistant Principal	Evergreen Academy MS
Thanh Nguyen	Assistant Principal	Hayt Elementary
Claudia Munoz	Assistant Principal	Ginsburg Elementary
Dr. Kamilah Hampton	Principal	Daley Academy
Marvis B. Jackson-Ivy	Principal	Henderson Academy
Clarisa Bravo-Ruiz	Assistant Principal	Sawyer Elementary School
La Shawndra Pointer	Assistant Principal	Chicago High School for Sciences
Kate Ramos	Assistant Principal	Edgebrook Elementary School

Gerardo Arriaga	Principal	Monarcas Academy
Mary Ann Reynolds	Principal	Patrick Henry Elementary School
Jami Tillis	Assistant Principal	Jordan Community School
Jennifer Clayton	Principal	Kershaw Magnet an IB World School
Clyde King Jr.	Principal	Arthur Ashe ES
Jennifer Wynne	AP	Stone ES
Ferdinand Wipachit	Principal	Phoenix STEM Military
Arthurine Beaugard	Principal	Countee Cullen
Shelley Lugo	Principal	Greene School
Rosalyn E. Lewis	Assistant Principal	Bouchet International School
Margaret Alhasoon	Principal	Swift Elementary School
Michael Krzysztofiak	Assistant Principal	Hubbard High School
Stacy Gray	Principal	McDade Classical Elementary School
Towanna Butler	Assistant Principal	Chicago High School Agricultural Sciences
Michelle Ludford	Principal	Beaubien Elementary
Dr. Gerardo Trujillo	Principal	Louis Pasteur School
Christine Hurley	Principal	Grissom ES
Bill Yeh	Principal	Goudy Technology Academy
Tabitha White	Principal	O’Keeffe ES
Chris Twomey	Principal	Stephen K. Hayt Elementary
Myrna Villafuerte	Assistant Principal	Greene School

Nicholas Guerrero	Principal	Ravenswood ES
Charnette Marshall	Principal	Higgins
Victoria Perry	Assistant Principal	Higgins ES
Shannon Puckett	Assistant Principal	
Monique Whittington-Hampton	Assistant Principal	Evers School
Robert Staszczak	Assistant Principal	Cleveland
Brittany Tidwell-Bailey	Assistant Principal	Wendell Smith ES
Victor Williamson	Assistant Principal	R Brown Comm. Aca.
Victor Iturralde	Principal	Solorio Academy HS
Katherine Patton Mizak	Assistant Principal	Solorio Academy HS
Erin Walker	Principal	Infinity High School
Helen Kantzioris	Assistant Principal	Gallistel Language Acad.
Trista Harper	Principal	Hancock College Prep
Terry Batey	Assistant Principal	Prosser Career Academy
Raul Bermejo	Principal	Richard Edwards
Efren Toledo	Principal	OA Thorp Scholastic Academy
Verneisha Gair	Assistant Principal	Jones College Prep
Eboni Dixon	Assistant Principal	Jones College Prep
Natalie Rodriguez	Principal	Kilmer Elementary School
Katie Magnuson	Principal	Skinner North
Elvia Rincon	Assistant Principal	Pasteur
Alexander Zalar	Assistant Principal	Eliza Chappell Elementary School
Julie N Lyons	Assistant Principal	Benito Juarez Community Academy
Sandra Shimon	Principal	Prosser Career Academy

Leslie Weems-Hannah	Assistant Principal	Clay Elementary
Alexander Kmicikewycz	Assistant Principal	Curie High School
Homero Penuelas	Principal	Curie High School
Tenesha Hatter	Principal	Schmid ES
Cesar Balcazar	Assistant Principal	Solorio Academy HS
Cha'Ron Bradley	Assistant Principal	Schmid ES
Tamarah Ellis	Principal	Simeon
Onome Omovie	Assistant Principal	Carver Military Academy
Sarah Roche	Assistant Principal	Mayer
Sarah Trevino-Terronez	Principal	Funston
Giovani Toledo	Assistant Principal	Funston
Richard McMillan	Principal	Dunbar High School
Winnie Stevenson	Assistant Principal	Reilly Elementary School
July Cyrwus	Principal	Lorca Elementary School
Nicholas Cartagena	Assistant Principal	Lorca Elementary School
Dashe Rowland	Principal	LaSalle Language Academy
Michael Orosa	Assistant Principal	LaSalle Language Academy
Diana Gomez Rodriguez	Principal	Nixon Elementary
Rachel Mota	Principal	Mozart School
Joyce Sumter-Anderson	Assistant Principal	Burnside Scholastic Academy
Craig Lichtenberg	Assistant Principal	Nixon Elementary
Kristin Blathras	Principal	Hamilton
Gabriel Parra	Principal	Von Linne
Kimbreaana Taylor-Goode	Principal	Langston Hughes

Daniel De Los Reyes	Principal	Darwin Elementary
Aida Flores	Assistant Principal	Darwin Elementary
Bryan Quinlan	Principal	Dr. Fisher Early Learning Center
Kyle Schulte	Principal	Logan Square Elementary
Nancy Quintana	Principal	Finkl Academy
Vanessa Gonzalez	Assistant Principal	Curie High School
Jose Alvarado	Assistant Principal	Shields Elementary School
Tim Riff	Principal	Oriole Park
Marcelo Costilla	Principal	Reilly Elementary
Claudia Avila	Assistant Principal	Avondale-Logandale School
Jasmine Vasquez	Assistant Principal	Curie Metro High School
Juan Carlos Ocon	Principal	Benito Juarez Community Academy
Devon Morales	Principal	Clemente HS
Cecilia Mendoza	Assistant Principal	Brighton Park Elementary
Jesus Guerrero	Assistant Principal	Finkl Academy
Katherine Michau	Assistant Principal	Kilmer Elementary
Gavin Lamb	Assistant Principal	Mitchell Elementary
Elizabeth Martino	Assistant Principal	Decatur Classical
W. Terrell Burgess	Principal	George Westinghouse College Prep HS
Matthew Fasana	Assistant Principal	Wildwood ES
Marisol Negron	Principal	Decatur Classical
Paulette T. Williams	Principal	Johnnie Colemon Academy

Faren D'Abell	Principal	Horace Greeley Elementary
Kevin Coppage	Principal	Corliss Early College STEM HS
Yvette Torres	Assistant Principal	Greeley Elementary
Shirley Roberson	Principal	Carnegie Elementary School
Leonetta Sanders	Principal	Williams Prep School of Medicine
Jesus Antonio Laurel	Assistant Principal	Curie High School
Dr. Tiffanie N McLeary	Assistant Principal	Augustus H Burley Elementary
Harrison A. Baker Jr.	Principal	Murray Language Academy
Jennifer N Crall	Principal	Augustus H Burley Elementary
Turan C Crockett	Principal	Wendell Smith ES
Trinidad Lopez	Assistant Principal	Logan Square Elementary
Nader Elmasri	Principal	Goethe Elementary
Brian Kelly	Principal	King College Prep
Eric Fay	Principal	Lincoln Elementary
Greta Mitchell	Assistant Principal	King College Prep
Nelly Robles	Principal	Sawyer Elementary
Therese Plunkett	Asst. Principal	Lincoln Elementary
Juan Cardona	Assistant Principal	Lowell ES
LoWanda C. Bell	Principal	Woodlawn Community ES
Brad Rossi	Principal	Wells High School
Donieshia Johnson	Assistant Principal	Clemente HS

Sonja Spiller	Assistant Principal	Langston Hughes ES
Maria G. Gamboa	Principal	Multicultural Arts HS
Javier Arriola-Lopez	Principal	Rachel Carson Elementary
Rosalinda Avila-Vega	Assistant Principal	Multicultural Arts HS
Emily Feltes	Principal	North-Grand High School
Ashley Reyes	Principal	Bell Elementary
Rosa M. Jimenez	Assistant Principal	Solorio Academy H.S.
Karen M. Carpenter	Principal	Orr Academy HS
Alberta Colesio	Assistant Principal	Edwards Elementary
Jaime Jaramillo Jr	Assistant Principal	Edwards Elementary
Rafael Jimenez	Principal	Sadlowski Elementary
Marie Garza	Principal	Albany Park Multicultural Academy
Hanna Kapica	Assistant Principal	Prussing
Martha Haro	Assistant Principal	Bell Elementary
Sheila Coleman	Assistant Principal	King College Prep
Sarah Garr	Assistant Principal	Ogden HS
Sharee Onyezia	Assistant Principal	Wells High School
Erin Neidt	Assistant Principal	Ogden ES and HS
LaShonda Hicks-Curry	Assistant Principal	Aldridge Elementary
Joshua Dresser	Assistant Principal	Lane Tech High School
Rochelle Bryant	Assistant Principal	Marshall High School
Barbara Brodsky	Assistant Principal	Garvy Elementary School
Carrie Cole	Principal	Minnie Miñoso Academy
Terri Kelly	Assistant Principal	Drummond Montessori
Amy Klimowski	Principal	Jonathan Burr Elementary

Mollie Hart	Assistant Principal	Lane Tech
Erin Kamradt	Principal	Healy Elementary
Lorraine Nunez	Assistant Principal	James Otis Elementary
Ann McNally	Principal	Stock School
Jessica Spangler	Assistant Principal	Stock School
Tyrese Graham	Principal	Uplift High School
Sarah Hanly	Assistant Principal	Lane Tech
Catherine Amy Moy Davis	Principal	John C. Haines School
Lupe Perez	Principal	James Ward School
Yanina Nevarez	Assistant Principal	Grissom ES
Tonya Hammaker	Principal	Tubman ES
Jessie Carrasco	Principal	Lozano
Dr. Chris Neely	Assistant Principal	Bouchet International School ES
Latasha Carter	Resident Principal	
Nikole Lewis Dickens	Assistant Principal	William H Brown
Erica Kittle	Principal	Drummond
Bosede Bada	Principal	Suder Montessori Magnet School
Paul J. Karafiol	Principal	Lake View High School
Joyce Orellana	Assistant Principal	
Dawn Iles-Gomez	Principal	Nathan Hale School
Katherine Engelhardt	Principal	Grimes School
Robert Gomez	Assistant Principal	Richardson Middle School
Patrina Singleton	Principal	Brennemann Elementary
Megan Kehr	Principal	Sor Juana Elementary

Candice Cafarelli	Assistant Principal	Sor Juana Elementary
Jason Roberts	Assistant Principal	Lake View High School
Daisy Lopez	Assistant Principal	Luther Burbank Elementary
Marian Strok	Principal	Evergreen Academy MS
Matthew Moline	Principal	Mark Twain Elementary
Ken Cuellar	Principal	Dr. Jorge Prieto Math and Science Academy
Patrycja Mach	Assistant Principal	Hitch Elementary
Sarah McNamara	Assistant Principal	Graham Elementary
Carolina Paredes	Assistant Principal	Ravenswood Elementary
Arman Cortes	Assistant Principal	Belding Elementary
Danielle Porch	Principal	Daisy Bates Academy
Ana Rodriguez	Assistant Principal	Salazar
Jennifer Sutton	Principal	Von Steuben High School
Katie Hallberg	Assistant Principal	Von Steuben High School
Frances Barnett Evins	Assistant Principal	Hirsch High School
Deivi Aguilar	Principal	Graham ES
Denise Scott	Assistant Principal	Grimes ES
Matthew Jones-McCann	Assistant Principal	McPherson IB World School
Megan Clendening	Principal	Newberry Academy
Amy O'Connor	Principal	Vick ECE Centers
Katie Shanovich	Assistant Principal	
Charlene Reynolds	Principal	
Lauren Wilkie	Assistant Principal	Suder Montessori Magnet

Latisha Dillard	Assistant Principal	Marsh Elementary
Carla Frangella	Principal	Dawes School
Meredith Bawden	Principal	Galileo Scholastic Academy
Dana Galati	Principal	Catalpa
Charessa Maiden-McNeal	Assistant Principal	Chicago Military Academy
Karon Purkett	Principal	Horace Mann Elementary
Alison Hildebrandt	Assistant Principal	Lane Tech
Natasha Jones	Principal	Lawndale Community Academy
Elva Bahena	Principal	Talcott Fine Arts and Museum Academy
Eduardo Yáñez	Principal	Alessandro Volta Elementary School
Dr. Rosette Edinburg	Principal	Hyde Park Academy
Diana Racasi	Principal	Pulaski International School of Chicago
Rachel Mann	Principal	James Otis Elementary School
Virag Nanavati	Principal	Farragut Career Academy
Kayla McCabe	Assistant Principal	Burr Elementary
Kelly Barth	Assistant Principal	
Juanita Adeoye	Assistant Principal	Sadlowski
Victoria Tomko	Assistant Principal	Gray Elementary
Damir Ara	Assistant Principal	Lane Tech College Prep
Peter Rutkowski	Principal	Waters Elementary School
Tinishi Davis	Principal	Manierre Elementary
Kathy Carter	Principal	Park Manor ES

Elpidio Pintor	Assistant Principal	Mark Twain Elementary
Michelle Nash	Principal	Ebinger School
Claudinetta Swartz	Assistant Principal	Galileo Scholastic Academy
Shante Ivory	Assistant Principal	
Carmen Medina	Principal	Hedges
Laura Jack	Assistant Principal	Vick
Sergio Ramirez	Principal	G.Washington
Francisco Oliva Gonzalez	Principal	Nathan S. Davis Dual Language School
Kimberly Simon	Assistant Principal	Miles Davis Academy
Takeshi James	Principal	Avalon Park
Jacqueline Medina	Principal	Talman
Maricela Sanchez	Assistant Principal	Talman
Edna Melgar	Assistant Principal	Little Village Elementary
Anjanette Lipsett	Assistant Principal	Mount Vernon Elementary
Jeanine Rogers	Assistant Principal	Sherman School of Excellence
Stephanie Jones	Assistant Principal	Arthur A. Libby
Amy McKee Hamilton	Assistant Principal	Christopher
Sheila Barlow	Principal	Powell Elementary
Kaita Haynes	Assistant Principal	Curtis Elementary
Joseph Rosen	Assistant Principal	Chavez
Romel Coleman	Assistant Principal	Fulton Elementary
Paula E. Rice-Irvin	Assistant Principal	McDade Classical
Marla Broy	Principal	Revere
Rosa Rodriguez	Assistant Principal	Chavez

Jason Major	Principal	Dever
Tamesha Carter	Principal	Libby
Natasha Buckner	Principal	George Rogers Clark ES
Tonia Turner	Assistant Principal	George Rogers Clark ES
Cherice Ramey	Assistant Principal	Avalon Park
Katrena Washington	Assistant Principal	Shoop
Carmen Jenkins	Principal	Irving School
Mike Hinton	Principal	Hoyne
Stephanie Armstead	Assistant Principal	Hoyne
Nora A. Cadenas	Principal	Seward
Pebble C. Jackson	Assistant Principal	Seward
Tamika L. Romaine	Assistant Principal	Mann
Sharrone Caridine	Principal	JN Thorp
Julie Kortz	Assistant Principal	JN Thorp
Teresa Zuniga	Assistant Principal	Jane Addams
Jennifer Rath	Principal	Canty
Sylvia Orozco-Garcia	Principal	Calmecca Academy
Elizabeth Gallo	Principal	Byrne Elementary
Melody Murphy	Assistant Principal	Byrne Elementary
Regina M. Roberts	Principal	Sherman
Armando Rodriguez	Assistant Principal	Tarkington
Katrina Cabrera	Assistant Principal	Mozart Elementary
Karen Valentine	Principal	Edison Regional Gifted Center
Terri Thomas	Principal	Medgar Evers

Nicholas Kotis	Principal	Gray Elementary
Alicia Lewis	Principal	Bright Elementary
Tonya Weatherly	Principal	Ruggles S.T.E.A.M. School
Shanee Childs-Beavers	Assistant Principal	Ruggles S.T.E.A.M. School
Shontell Smith	Principal	Warren
Christopher Robbins	Principal	John B. Drake
Stephen Fabiyi	Principal	Metcalfe
Jessica Fitzgerald	Assistant Principal	Metcalfe
Allison Dinella	Principal	Smyser Elementary
Chery Belt	Principal	M. Davis
Natasha Topps	Principal	Shoop
Meghan Fido	Assistant Principal	Alcott Elementary
Conrey Callahan	Principal	New Field Elementary
Christine Munns	Principal	Sauganash
Kristen Meyer	Assistant Principal	Alcott Elementary
Barbara Karrel	Principal	Alcott Elementary School
Minh Nguyen	Assistant Principal	Amundsen H.S.
Sherita Carter King	Principal	Simpson Academy
Kate Kloepper-James	Assistant Principal	Bateman
Chase James	Assistant Principal	Audubon
Nicole Spicer	Principal	Bronzeville Classical School
Frances Thibodeaux-Fox	Principal	Spencer Technology Academy
Ryan Glowacz	Principal	Taft High School
Patrick Levins	Assistant Principal	Taft High School

Cybill Ortiz	Assistant Principal	Amundsen High School
Elizabeth Mourtokokis	Principal	Northside Learning Center
Gary Tesinsky	Principal	Mather High School
Raven Patterson-Talley	Principal	Till Elementary School
Rashad Talley	Principal	Phillips High School
Iliana Rzodkiewicz	Principal	Disney II Magnet
Stephanie Anderson	Principal	Vaughn Occupational High School
Ryan Leonard	Principal	Chicago Academy HS
Shirley Maldonado	Assistant Principal	Disney II Magnet
Carlepha Kyser	Principal	Pirie Fine Arts
Holly Dacres	Principal	Senn High School
Steven Brewer	Assistant Principal	Senn High School
Verona Portis	Principal	New Sullivan
Kevin Russell	Assistant Principal	Senn HS
Tracy Jesse	Assistant Principal	Vaughn Occupational HS
Matthew Rosenberg	Assistant Principal	Uplift Community High School
Maricela Torres	Principal	Cooper
Teresa Chavez	Principal	Casals School of Excellence
Connie Lee	Assistant Principal	Haines
Sergio Rojas	Assistant Principal	Cooper
Demetrius Mundy II	Principal	Dixon
Faith Fields	Assistant Principal	Dixon

Judith Martin	Assistant Principal	Waters
Zarree Walker	Principal	Crown
Paul Riskus	Principal	Disney
James Cosme	Principal	Falconer
Eric Steinmiller	Principal	Lincoln Park High School
Steve Biegel	Assistant Principal	Hubbard High School
Kimberly Denton-Hatcher	Principal	Ninos Heroes

## **Political Motives Shouldn't Force Out a Commendable CPS Leader**

I have been active in Englewood's CPS schools for decades, serving on Local School Councils and engaging in classrooms whenever possible. I currently care for three CPS students—two in high school and one in elementary. Over the years, I've seen CEOs come and go—some exceptional, others even jailed or ousted. But I've never witnessed a commendable CEO being fired for such transparent political reasons.

I first met CEO Pedro Martinez when advocating for our elementary school to gain access to music and art—programs my high schoolers lacked. He listened to our concerns and remained engaged with our community. Under his leadership, I have seen changes for the better. Now, for the first time, my elementary student has an art teacher. I don't expect everything to improve overnight, but I'm happy with the progress we're seeing. Most importantly, there is a plan in place that we can hold him and CPS accountable to.

CEO Martinez has been accessible and respectful. I've had multiple conversations with him and found him to be a direct and active listener. He doesn't sugarcoat challenges or shift blame. He openly discusses how Black students aren't progressing at the same rate as their peers and emphasizes the need for parent and community involvement to provide a full education. I find him earnest and committed—an ideal leader for CPS.

CPS Board decisions should prioritize what's best for students and families. While I respect the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and their advocacy, it's inappropriate for them and the Mayor to pressure the Board to fire someone like CEO Martinez. This move appears politically motivated, not in the best interest of our children.

I'm concerned about the close relationship between the Mayor and the CTU and worry that the new school board may be too influenced. The recent claims by the CTU about CEO Martinez planning to close 100 schools don't align with any conversations I've had with him and feel like a smear campaign to garner public support for an unjustified firing.

I urge the Board to vote according to their consciences rather than succumbing to political pressure. This decision should center on students and families, rather than dismissing a good leader for no good reason.

Dear Chicago Board of Education members:

## **Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Need Immediate, Multi-layered COVID Mitigation in Response to Serious Cook County COVID Wastewater Surge & Much-Needed Long Covid Prevention**

Currently, Cook County is experiencing an increase in Covid activity. Wasterwater levels as observed by CDC recorded that the Calumet Treatment Plant Covid Wastewater Virus Level is at high levels or at [85.5%](#)  , and it's not even winter yet! Overall, the State of Illinois has [HIGH](#) Covid wastewater levels. The Walgreens Health Solutions' Respiratory Index indicates Illinois' Covid positivity is at [23.6%](#) [Schools](#) have been shown by IDPH through contact tracing as the most likely source of high transmission in Illinois. Therefore, school districts like CPS must implement the layers of protection against the spread of Covid. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, lingers in the air like smoke especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and people become infected by breathing in the viral particles from the air.

Chicago Public Schools must take Covid protections seriously, especially as Covid reinfections increase the cumulative risk of hospitalization and long-term severe health outcomes, and risk of Long Covid, a debilitating condition that can occur in either adults and children. Children are the primary driver of infections in the home that can negatively impact the health of siblings, parents, and other relatives. I ask that CPS consider the following courses of action to protect against the spread of Covid in the classroom settings:

- Encourage and ensure access to the latest version of the Covid vaccine for Winter 2024-25 Covid vaccination for staff, teachers, students, and families.
- Implement testing programs, with a minimum of opt-out weekly testing and preferably universal daily testing using high-quality rapid antigen tests like FlowFlex.
- Implement robust isolation, five-to-seven day quarantine periods, and symptom screening protocols.
- Require staff, teachers and students with Covid to stay home until having two negative rapid tests 48 hours apart. [Swabbing both throat and nose](#) yields the most effective results.
- Among those ages 2 and older, ensure access to well-fitting high-quality masks indoors, including KN95, KF94, N95, or elastomeric masks. Make sure the masks are authentic and not fake.
- Ensure high quality ventilation (open windows and/or HVAC with MERV 13 filters) and filtration (HEPA and do-it-yourself [DIY] air cleaners) to surpass the ASHRAE 2023 Standards for indoor air cleaning to reduce the risk of airborne infection.
- Permit outdoor activities and ensure adequate setting for outdoor learning whenever possible and offer hybrid options for learning.
- Allow flexibility for students and families shielding from COVID by allowing students to learn at home until transmission reduces or sufficient protections can be put in place.
- Offer students and parents substantial flexibility regarding precautions, illness, coping, medical care, hospitalization, and bereavement.

CDC's relaxed Covid guidance is insufficient in protecting schools from Covid outbreaks . The [People's CDC Covid Isolation Expert Sign On Letter](#) by medical, public health and scientific professionals agree that:

1. "The infectious period for COVID routinely extends beyond the recommended isolation period;
2. COVID continues to be a serious threat to health, through both acute infections and Long COVID;
3. Vaccination and antivirals for COVID are underutilized and do not provide complete protection from serious disease.
4. COVID spreads year-round, unlike influenza and RSV;
5. COVID is a systemic disease with harmful impacts (acute infections and Long COVID) that are greater than influenza and RSV; and
6. The isolation update was developed and implemented without appropriate public engagement and without input from a broad range of experts."

The consensus is that the guidance should return to **"a minimum isolation period of 7 to 10 days."**

Masking for 5 days is the minimum and 1-day isolation is insufficient. Even though Covid tests are no longer free, it is reckless and irresponsible not to at least recommend people have 2 consecutive negative tests within 48 hours before returning to school or work. At the very least, people should mask for 5 days upon infection if test results are negative. Now that we know better, we must do better.

The [Intellipure](#) air purifiers CPS purchased are subpar and are insufficient to ensure proper air filtration! Other than being loud and being turned off by teachers to conduct class, they don't effectively or efficiently circulate clean air. Better air purifiers will improve indoor air quality, which will improve attendance and test scores! A low-cost alternative is [Corsi-Rosenthal boxes](#), which can be put together as fun class projects. Their CADR (Clean Air Delivery Rate) is higher than Intellipure's.

WHO now promotes Clean Air and offers this risk calculator for airborne infection:

<https://partnersplatform.who.int/tools/aria/>. [Portable co2 monitors](#) like [Aranet4](#) can be very helpful in fighting Covid transmission in classrooms, cafeterias, gyms, locker rooms, etc. as well. Sophia Kortchmar of George Washington High School said that a science teacher there used one to prove there's too much carbon dioxide in their classrooms and lunchroom, which means that the current air filtration and circulation is insufficient and people could be breathing not only excess carbon dioxide but also be susceptible to an infectious disease like Covid. A good carbon dioxide monitor can help teachers and students make necessary adjustments to improve circulation in real time.

Moreover, stricter Covid mitigations protect CPS from liability of teachers and staff getting infected in school. A [Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in May 2024 that Covid is an "occupational disease."](#) meaning long term effects like strokes, heart attacks, kidney disease, etc. and/or disability should all qualify under workers' compensation.

This letter should be shared with administrators and other stakeholders. Schools, teachers and staff that do not follow public health guidance may be vulnerable, if their inaction leads to Covid infections and long-term harm. Many public health scientists including Michael Hoerger, Ph.D. confirms the severity of the surge is undeniable. Schools can provide a safe and effective learning environment by implementing multi-layered airborne Covid mitigation throughout the surge and beyond.

Sincerely,

Joy Bunton  
Care Not Covid Chicagoland Member

## Additional References

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### CDC Strongly Recommends Widespread Use of the Updated COVID Vaccine

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

### CDC Strongly Recommends Robust Protocols Surrounding Testing, Isolation, and Quarantine

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

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**Dear Members of the CPS Board of Education,**

As a parent of a Chicago charter school, I am deeply concerned about the exclusion of charter schools from the Board's resolution regarding a moratorium on school closures. Charter schools serve a higher percentage of students of color and low-income families, often in neighborhoods that have faced years of underinvestment.

I felt hopeful when charter schools—which are public district schools—were included in the district's strategic plan last week because our schools are often treated differently. But the reason CPS has invested in charters is because families' needs weren't being met by their neighborhood schools. Over 55,000 Chicago families choose charters for their children — by not including charters in the moratorium, the district isn't fulfilling its commitment to invest in all school options. In fact, a recent Stand for Children poll revealed that 30% of residents would leave Chicago if limited to their neighborhood school. While neighborhood schools desperately need attention, so do charters and other options so many families take advantage of in Chicago.

The school closure resolution that CEO Martinez and the Board have committed to must include charter schools. Charters are not asking for special treatment, but for equal consideration as part of Chicago's public school system. It would be egregious to put forth the funding and other efforts for Charter Schools, only to get here and leave them out of moratorium completely, what then were the points of your efforts?.

I implore you to reconsider this resolution and include charter schools in the moratorium on school closures. Our students, families, and communities deserve the same protections and considerations as those in district-run schools.

Sincerely,

A. Johnson, CICS Loomis-Longwood

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Sincerely,

Zuli Chavez, parent at CICS IRVING PARK SCHOOL



**For Immediate Release:**  
September 20, 2024

**STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:**  
**Illinois Latino Agenda Urges Focus on Students Amid CPS CEO Uncertainty**  
*\*media interviews available\**

**CHICAGO** - The following is a statement from the [Illinois Latino Agenda](#) in response to the ongoing reports that [Mayor Johnson continues on his quest to oust CPS CEO Pedro Martinez](#):

“Latino leaders are deeply concerned by the ongoing speculation and political distractions surrounding the future of CPS CEO Pedro Martinez, who has been a stabilizing force for CPS. Just this week, under his leadership, the Chicago Board of Education [unanimously approved](#) the passage of a five-year strategic plan aimed at improving the quality of education for all students and getting more kids into our neighborhood schools.

“Now, more than ever, the focus must remain on students, their educational achievements and the continued success of CPS. Under Martinez’s leadership, students’ reading scores have increased, and more high school students are graduating with college credits, providing them with a head start toward higher education.

“Mr. Martinez's leadership has delivered measurable results. Ultimately the CPS board is officially responsible for any decision to remove a leader who has demonstrated a commitment to improving educational outcomes for all CPS students.”

**###**

The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition that advocates for the representation of Latinos across all sectors and works to advance the economic, political and social prosperity of Latino communities throughout Illinois.



**For Immediate Release:**  
August 16, 2024

**STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:  
Latino Leaders Urge Mayor Johnson to Stop Any Efforts to Oust CPS CEO Pedro  
Martinez**

*\*media interviews available\**

**CHICAGO** - The following is a statement from the [Illinois Latino Agenda](#) in response to the [potential dismissal of CPS CEO Pedro Martinez](#):

“The Illinois Latino Agenda is deeply concerned by reports that Mayor Johnson is working to oust Pedro Martinez, CEO of Chicago Public Schools (CPS). As a CPS graduate and a parent of two CPS students, Martinez has a personal and deeply-rooted commitment to the success of Chicago’s diverse student body, embodying exactly what CPS educators strive to cultivate in their students.

“The reality is that Martinez’s tenure as CPS’s CEO has been positive for our students and educators, bringing stability to a school district that’s had nine Superintendents since 2009. Martinez has strategically allocated resources to ensure these schools are funded appropriately, giving students access to extracurricular activities and ensuring schools have the resources they need. His approach has been fiscally responsible while prioritizing equity and the empowerment of all students, regardless of their zip code.

“Under his leadership, CPS has navigated the challenges of the pandemic to help students recover academically, achieved top reading gains among the largest urban districts in the nation, and expanded opportunities for students through early college credit programs. Importantly, Martinez has championed the needs of CPS’s nearly 50 percent Latinx student population, ensuring increased funding for multilingual and multicultural education and growing support for English Learners.

“We strongly urge Mayor Johnson to reconsider any efforts to remove a qualified Superintendent who is bringing much-needed stability to our city’s public schools and delivering tangible, positive outcomes for students. The Illinois Latino Agenda stands in strong support of Pedro Martinez for his track record and commitment to Chicago’s students.”

**###**

The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition that advocates for the representation of Latinos across all sectors and works to advance the economic, political and social prosperity of Latino communities throughout Illinois.