



Board of Education | City of Chicago

August 13, 2025 Agenda Review Committee Follow-Ups

Agenda Review Committee (ARC) follow-ups are shared publicly so that members of the public can view responses to issues that directly impact the CPS community in advance of the Board's consideration at regular Board meetings. Follow-ups are unanswered questions asked by Board Members during a public meeting. See the August 2025 ARC follow-ups and responses below.

Item Description	Follow-Up Question	District Response	Responding Department
Item 1: Schutt Sports	How much of this spending is related to increase in participation versus cost of items? Is the vendor charging an additional amount?	No, the vendor is not charging an additional amount. The increase is due to student participation. To recondition a helmet is \$66.68; CPS pays \$35.69 which is the large volume discount. For new helmets, the cost is \$465; CPS' discounted price is \$275.78. The cost for shoulder pad replacement is \$250; CPS' discounted price is \$146.	Office of College and Career Success
Item 1: Schutt Sports	Is it every single year and every single football team? Is there a possibility that there are faults you cannot see in helmets—how many years do helmets get used?	Football helmets and shoulder pads must be reconditioned every year if worn and every other year if not worn. Both have a 10 year life expectancy. There is however no need to recondition a helmet that has not been worn. Helmets are discarded after 10 years. CPS' agreement with Schutt includes the replacement of discarded helmets.	Office of College and Career Success
Item 2: Safe Passage	Can a breakdown for these vendors and dollar amounts for each vendor be provided?	Safety and Security is unable to do a projected spend by the vendor for SY26 due to potential shifts in routes moving from one vendor to another. This is why the funding is pooled for all vendors, instead of outlining a provided spend amount per vendor up front.	Office of Safety and Security

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Item 2: Safe Passage	How many of the Safe Passage workers were cut? Can a map that shows where the cuts took place be provided?	<p>100 positions were adjusted; however, no schools lost their Safe Passage Program, and in fact, some schools received an increase in Safe Passage workers due to changes in the community. CPS has also adjusted hours to help provide coverage to as many locations as possible during peak hours.</p> <p>Multiple data points were used to determine changes including violent crime data on routes during hours when Safe Passage is on post, student residence data, on-site assessments, principal feedback, vacant posts, and alignment with crossing guard coverage.</p> <p>SP Schools by ERSB District SY26- -- This graph displays the change in the number of Safe Passage workers per district from last school year to this school year.</p>	Office of Safety and Security
Item 11: Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC	How much are we saving for the third party over the past 5 years? Can I have more information on the other companies that applied to be a vendor so we can make sure we are getting the best price and can negotiate?	<p>Going back to January 2021, CPS' natural gas procurement strategy has resulted in \$6.2 million dollars less in supply costs when compared to Peoples Gas monthly pricing. This represents a net cost savings of 10% over the past 54 months (January 2021 – June 2025) versus Peoples Gas supply charges. In months where Peoples Gas supply prices were cheaper than CPS' natural gas supply, the average cost difference was \$240,000. In months where CPS' natural gas supply prices were cheaper than Peoples Gas, the average cost difference was \$450,000.</p> <p>The two respondents to CPS' 2023 Natural Gas Supply RFP were Constellation NewEnergy and Mansfield Power & Gas. Cost efficiency is less dependent on the supplier and more dependent on when and how much CPS chooses to procure. Natural gas is a commodity and as such its price is market-dependent. The price of natural gas is very volatile; it fluctuates constantly during market hours according to perceived risk, including anticipated weather or geopolitical events as well as the fundamentals of supply and demand.</p> <p>There are two price components to a natural gas supply agreement: Basis and Fixed Commodity.</p>	Department of Facilities

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Item 11: Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC	<i>Question Continued</i> How much are we saving for the third party over the past 5 years? Can I have more information on the other companies that applied to be a vendor so we can make sure we are getting the best price and can negotiate?	<i>Response Continued</i> All suppliers provide quotes benchmarked to the current market price for both of these components. Getting multiple supplier futures quotes for a 12 month period may see a variance, or premium, of \$0.05-\$0.20 per dekatherm (Dth) above the current market price. Supplier pricing offered to an end-user is contingent upon multiple factors: the perceived risk or creditworthiness of the end-user, the supplier's cost-of-capital, the supplier's risk exposure based upon its current short and long holdings of futures contracts, and the supplier's profit margin. No supplier will contract with an end-user for less than 12 months. Within that 12-month context, CPS is free to hedge (fix a future price) for any percentage of any month or contiguous months. CPS received only two supply offers because of its size, billing complexity, and time to net payment . The City of Chicago shared a similar experience with their RFP. Market volatility over a period of time outweighs supplier price differences for any singular purchase. For example, the price for December 2025 natural gas has fluctuated from a low of \$3.76 in November 2024 up to a high of \$5.76 in March 2025. While it is crucial that CPS contract with a creditworthy entity who can post large sums of credit on our behalf, securing the most competitive rate is less about the individual vendor and more about the ability to react to market price opportunities.	Department of Facilities
Item 16: Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) for FY2026	The levy is 144m larger than it was the prior year. What was the amount the prior year?	The levy for last year has not been finalized, but CPS requested approximately \$3.851 billion. The proposed FY26 levy request is approximately \$4.003 billion. The difference is approximately \$152 million or a 3.9% increase (there was a typo in the 1 page recap that was noted in the verbal discussion). CPS' tax levies are limited by the PTELL (the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law – a tax cap calculation done by the County), and the limiting rate for next year is 2.9% (which is based on the rate of inflation). The percentage amount is slightly higher to allow CPS to capture new property growth.	Department of Finance