



Board of Education | City of Chicago

Agenda Review Committee Written Comments

May 13, 2026

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**May 13, 2026, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between, Monday May 11th and Thursday, May 14st Submitted via
Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Harden is a disgrace and embarrassment, wasting money on a phony investigation and wasting money on it. The district is in a billion dollar deficit and wasting money like that makes no sense. Another thing is also you should be all ashamed of yourselves for letting CTU use the student for Mayday. How much was the cost of mayday for the district.</p>
2	<p>Dear CEO/Superintendent King and CPS Board Members,</p> <p>I have dedicated my adult life to education and advocacy, and I bring a scientist's perspective to identifying systemic disparities and evaluating outcomes. For several years, I have raised concerns to both past and current Board members that student performance data being presented does not reflect the reality experienced by students and families.</p> <p>CPS has publicly positioned itself as the leader in post-pandemic student growth. However, assessment data do not support that claim. Students have not returned to pre-pandemic academic performance levels, nor have they demonstrated sustained academic gains over the past three years. Continuing to present an overly optimistic narrative without acknowledging these gaps undermines trust and delays the urgent interventions students need.</p> <p>I also previously warned that developments involving EPIC and Acero schools were early indicators of broader systemic instability. Less than a year after my warnings, ASPIRA schools announced closures before the end of this school year. I raised concerns that budget projections were inaccurate and that deficits would grow—concerns that are now materializing. These outcomes were foreseeable. The fact that they were not more aggressively addressed reflects a failure of oversight and proactive planning that must be acknowledged and corrected.</p> <p>I want to be equally direct about ongoing issues affecting students with disabilities. As President of the CPS Office for Students with Disabilities and (OSD) Family Advisory Board (FAB), I have been investigating disparities in both identification and service delivery, including clear racial inequities. I will be presenting additional findings at our final FAB meeting of the year on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 PM, and I strongly urge Board members to attend and engage directly with this data.</p> <p>We are also conducting a systemwide survey to better understand family experiences and identify areas for improvement. To increase participation, I am personally funding incentives, including \$50 prizes for randomly selected participants and \$100 awards for the BAC or PAC with the highest participation rate. Despite requesting support from OSD to promote this effort, outreach has been</p>



insufficient. This lack of support is concerning given the importance of family input. I expect the Board to take an active role in ensuring this survey is widely shared:

English: <https://bit.ly/OSDFABSurvey>

Spanish: <https://bit.ly/OSDFABSurveySpanish>

Finally, it is unacceptable that the Special Education Advisory Committee has not met since Fall 2024. During this time, there have been significant and unresolved developments, including the expansion of cluster programs, ongoing uncertainty regarding services for English learners with disabilities, and persistent staffing shortages. While these issues are discussed regularly in FAB meetings, they require formal Board-level attention and accountability.

The Board must reconvene this committee without further delay. Additionally, to ensure meaningful representation and continuity, the elected FAB President and Vice President should be included as standing members of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

The issues outlined here are not new—they have been raised repeatedly, and the consequences of inaction are becoming increasingly visible. I urge the Board to respond with the urgency, transparency, and accountability that CPS students and families deserve.

Be well,
Dr. Angel Alvarez