

**September 20, 2023, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, September 18th and Thursday, September 21st
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Adriana Salgado, and I am a parent of two regional gifted center CPS students. The lack of bus service for my children has impacted my family severely. We live approximately nine miles away from the school. Therefore, to transport my kids it takes approximately 2 hours each one, one to get there and one to get back home. On a daily average we waste 4 hours just to drop off and pick up our kids from the school. This is merely the time aspect not to mention the monetary aspect. My husband and I both work full time, and I am a part time student, therefore we have had to ask for help from family to accommodate our schedules. The solution offered to us in terms of a Ventra card does not fit our needs as it does not help with my time management nor is it practical for us to provide that transportation to our children as that would take even more time from our already tight schedules. We considered moving our children to a closer school but, there was no school that could offer our children the same quality of education as they are currently receiving at Pulaski. We prepared our children to have the opportunity to be able to attend this school and were willing to sacrifice their time and ours to cut our everyday leisure time. The current situation however worsened those conditions. We would appreciate to be able to return to some sense of normality.</p>
2	<p>I would like to address the lack of bus services for students at magnet and selective enrollment schools.</p> <p>For almost a month now, I have been spending on average three to four hours per school day on public transportation just to get my two young children to and from their separate schools. At only a month in, it is already abundantly clear to me that this current arrangement is not sustainable for my family. Not only is this physically draining for my children and myself, but my family will suffer financially as my working hours are shortened to account for the amount of time I spend in transit. Driving my children to school as many families are currently doing is not an option as I have never and likely will never hold a drivers license due to limitations that prevent me from safely operating a motor vehicle.</p> <p>The going rates for private transportation or using Uber every day are simply unaffordable for my family and many families in similar or worst financial situations. With my children being too young to navigate public transit on their own I am left with only three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue what I've been doing what I've been doing, something that looks as though it will be nearly impossible to maintain for the entire school year, especially during winter weather.2. Drive my family into debt paying for private transportation or ride shares.3. Send my children to our neighborhood schools - which would mean that my oldest leaves a school with a literacy proficiency rate of 82% to go to school of the literacy proficiency rate of 10% which is less than half of the already low state average. For my youngest, this would mean having to pay tuition at a community based preschool or staying home the rest of the year until she can go also go to the closest public option, where again, 90% of the student population is reading below grade level. <p>While I would absolutely love it if the state of our public school system was such that anyone living anywhere within the city limits could their child to their neighborhood</p>

school with confidence that they would get a quality education, this is not the case. Magnet and selective enrollment are often the best case options for many students of color as well as low income students - lack of transportation to those schools limits their access. I would like the board to consider this in hopes they take immediate action to correct it.

ATTACHMENTS

Good Morning

My name is Mark Bochra, a Christian Coptic from the land of Egypt. Coptic people are the direct descendant of ancient Egyptian civilization. We are a minority in our own land, Egypt as well. I am a Chicago Public School graduate in 2006 with honors and many community services awards and a former employee of CPS as well and this is where my journey started. I am the Founder of the Abraham Accord and with the help of Jesus Christ, it brought peace between Arab nations and Israel (the children of Abraham) only when I took both the Trump and the Biden administrations back to the basics "Good vs. Evil"

The eyes see better when you speak to it in basic language without identities, labels, or any of what you see in today's political world. My identity would be that I am a minority, diverse, and should be protected by democratic standards but the reality is I often like to speak to the world in simple terms "good vs evil" because many have eyes to see, many have ears to listen, and many have a mouth to speak the truth.

Throughout the centuries whenever there is great persecution and injustice, the name Jesus Christ stood trials among the powerful one.

During the slave era in America, it wasn't about the color of the skin but about good vs. evil in plain language, people blind by status and hate. Came the famous Sojourner Truth and wrote her famous speech "Ain't I a woman"

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

Then came the civil right era, and Michael Luther King traveled to the promised land Israel and Egypt, Israel represents the old testament and Egypt represents the new testament fulfilling Hosea prophecy when Jesus Christ escaped from Herod and went to Egypt "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Michael Luther King traveled to the middle-east, he learned to speak the parables from Jesus Christ and when he returned to America with a new identity, he changed his name from Michael to Martin Luther King teaching America something new in parable "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The founding fathers wanted America to be building on the teachings of Jesus Christ, 3 branches of government raised based on the teachings of Jesus Christ in order for America to prosper and gain blessings. You may read the letter "Doctrines of Jesus Compared with Others, 21 April 1803" written by Thomas Jefferson to other founding fathers of America.

But in Today's America something different came to it, especially in public schools which is why the president of Chicago Teacher union Ms. Staci Davis sent her son to a private catholic school rather than a public school. The CPS I graduated from back in 2006 looks and feel different from the current CPS but Mayor Brandon Johnson promise a good change, from the

past Lori Lightfoot leadership. So I emailed him and you all have access to those emails because President Shi was also copied on those emails.

At CPS when I was an employee, I was targeted for speaking about Jesus Christ and in the most horrific manner and was told “Speak again about Jesus Christ, your 3rd strike is your last” but in the end God revealed the truth. Why this happened? Because the people CPS hired in leadership positions like Camie Pratt gives us gender ideologies filled with lust that no innocent child needs while forsaking good moral teachings. CPS history is defined by the leadership they hire and if one hires an evil leadership who doesn’t fear God, then surely you won’t find God present within CPS.

I am here today to speak to you about Chicago Public School, look around you with an open eye, any place that removes the words of Jesus Christ from public life, is a chance for the devil to dive into that environment and often no prosperity follows it.

While President Shi has copies of many of my emails, I want to address much of my OCR complaint with him during office hours and for him to seek mediation and healing. He promised that he will listen; he also promised a change in culture from his predecessors and people are defined by their actions not words.

Thank you

Mark