

June 22, 2022 Board Meeting Written Comments
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1	<p>June 15, 2022 Raquel Don 曾樂巧 Representative of Parents/Caregivers in CPS donraq75@gmail.com 312-671-0110</p> <p>I know that it's evening. But I like to say hi. So hi everyone. I am Raquel Don. The parent of a Chicago Public School graduate and two current Chicago Public Schools students. I am the fourth generation of my family to live in the Bridgeport / Armour Square Neighborhoods. I have seen the changes of these neighborhoods over the numerous decades of my life. I have always been very involved in my children's schools. As a parent, I am engaged as a Local School Council Chair, Parent Advisory Council Chair, Bilingual Advisory Council honorary supporter and an Alternative Representative. I am also a Parent Board of Governors member which is a board of 13 parents and caregivers that represent the entire city. Now, if you were to view a map of the public high schools throughout Chicago, my two neighborhoods would stand out and shine bright like a diamond because there are no public high schools there. And part of my involvement at the schools is networking with other parents and caregivers from other schools in my neighborhoods. So I am not alone when I say that the Armour Square and Bridgeport Neighborhoods have more than enough students to fill a public high school on their own. But I fear that there is a political ploy to permanently shut the mouths of the residents from my neighborhoods in regards to finally getting a public high school. That would be a great disservice to this city because it will only encourage more middle class and hard workers to move out due a lack of quality public higher education. I will continue to advocate for my community until we have a public high school that will truly serve the Armour Square and Bridgeport Neighborhoods. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response to my community's needs.</p>
2	<p>I would like to comment on behalf of Leslie Westerberg. As a coworker and friend, I have seen firsthand the way her teaching and advocacy for students and staff alike have helped create a secure, respectful, fun environment at Nixon Elementary. We serve a bilingual, low-income population and to remove any librarian from this school is unjust. To remove an amazing educator and advocate like Leslie, who has raised over \$200,000 in resources and books for our students is an outrageous disservice to our community who needs even more access to literacy instruction. She has poured her blood sweat and tears into making Nixons library one of the greatest in the city and it would be awful to see all her hard work go to waste and gather dust. Please reconsider.</p>
3	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>As a parent of a CPS alumni, a CPS graduate and current Local School Council member, I have an appreciation and value of what public education has brought into our lives - Not only the education it provides but the guidance given from the school's family to the relationship and camaraderie developed with fellow students. My 22yo daughter</p>

graduated from John C. Haines neighborhood Elementary School, located in the heart of Chinatown, in 2014. I am a CPS graduate who attended my neighborhood elementary school on the northside and graduated from Lane Tech High School (that is what it was called then) many moons ago. I had a minimal 45-minute commute on public transportation from my home approximately 5 miles away to attend high school. By the time my daughter completed 7th grade, she received all C's and scores were average. Unfortunately, this would limit her in applying to select enrollment or IB high schools. To aid in the decision of a high school, we attended 22 open houses (fyi, we only attended 4 open houses for college. CRAZY, right?) but we needed to be sure we had options for quality education as well as accessibility to the high school for after-school activities and culture. We were not confident that the current neighborhood high school would provide such - As a LSC representative, I was made aware of parents who were concerned of their children's transition to high school at a school so far away from the community that does not provide the support/resources in regards to language and safety ... For my daughter, luckily multiple acceptance letters were received - Noble's Muchin College Prep was the best choice for attendance, culture and SAFETY. My daughter graduated senior year with (3) AP classes, 3.87 gpa, Top 5% in her class, participation in (3) sports throughout the school year plus 130+ booked community service hours - Evident the best choice and circumstance was made. My daughter had applied to 16 colleges and received 12 acceptance letters.. The reason I gave such detail is to show that her 7th grade grades/scores do not show the potential she has... Proudly, in the Chinatown / Bridgeport / South Loop communities, there are AT LEAST 8 neighborhood Level 1 Elementary Schools. Sadly, there is/are ZERO Level 1 Neighborhood High school(s) for these Elementary School students to know they are automatically accepted into... In addition, with the growth and development in ALL of our communities in this area - WE NEED & Will NEED to ensure the RESOURCES necessary for our community. WE NEED & DESERVE a QUALITY EDUCATION High School Supporting the Communities where Haines, Ward, Healy, South Loop, NTA reside... I understand the point of view towards Phillips and/or Tilden High Schools to continue as the feeder high school but with the growth and development in the Bronzeville / Douglas / Canaryville area communities, the neighborhood elementary schools will need to have the accessibility to these two high schools so those surrounding communities have the best resource close by as well..... Bottomline, we are fortunate to have such growth and development for families in our communities but we need to match it with the appropriate resources - A neighborhood quality education high school supporting the area elementary schools of Haines, Ward, Healy, South Loop, NTA..

Thank you for your time & consideration ~

June Moy Coutre'

4 06/19/2022

Dear Board of Education,

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group throughout the city of Chicago. It is booming in the Bridgeport area. According to the 2020 census, the Asian population has increased by 31% from the year of 2010 to 2020. It makes up 7% of the city's residents. We are thrilled that CPS's commitment to allocating the funds this year to build a high-quality neighborhood high school for the students in the Chinatown area. Currently, CPS high schoolers in Chinatown have to commute an average of between 30 minutes to an hour to their designated high schools every day. It means that they

will have to shorten their sleep and limit their extracurricular options in order to commute to school every day. Sleep deprivation has a well-documented impact on students' academic performance as well as their mental health. Limited extracurricular experience narrows students' opportunities to explore their interests and develop their skills. Both minimize the effort of CPS's equality framework to provide equitable education resources and opportunities to its minority students.

There is no secret that Asian American families value education greatly. Regardless of the parents' occupation or education level, education is always the top priority on every Asian American parent's mind. As a result, we have seen Asian American students perform above the average on standardized tests and be able to attend the top universities around the country. However, this stereotype doesn't apply to ALL Asian American students. Not all Asian students thrive academically. Their learning styles are as diverse as the students of other ethnic backgrounds. The data shows that 1/3 of the Chinatown 8th students go to CPS-selected high schools; 1/3 of them go to private/charter schools and 1/3 of students move to the suburbs. The only way to stop losing our CPS students to the suburb or private schools every year is to provide a high-quality and safe neighborhood high school option for students who are not attending the selective high school. This is what parents have been spoken through the data. In the Chinatown school community, there is not yet an established K-12 aligned bilingual program for Asian American students. It is a crucial resource for minority students to adapt and transition to their new culture and learning environment. We would strongly urge that CPS follows through with its promise and commitment to providing Asian American equitable resources and culturally responsive opportunities to eliminate barriers to success.

Sincerely,

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- 5 Hello, my name is Walter Brzeski and I'm a Lane Tech Alum. The current Lane Tech administrators, teachers, students and community use words like:
- EMPATHY
 - SYMPATHY
 - KINDNESS
 - RESPECT
 - INCLUSION
 - ACCESSIBILITY
 - FREE SPEECH
 - RIGHTS
 - EQUITY
 - TRANSPARENCY
- However, Lane Tech's LSC doesn't abide by any of these words and their meanings when it comes to Public Participation in their monthly LSC meetings. In their December 2021 LSC meeting, the Lane Tech LSC voted unanimously (without a conversation among themselves) to only allow 'in-person' Public Participation. No longer could the public send an email to be read at the meeting along with participating live via an online platform or telephone as schools like Taft and Steinmetz high schools allow at their LSC meetings. Why is CPS, CPS LSC Relations Department, and the Chicago Board of Education allowing this to go on? Isn't one of the goals of LSCs to promote involvement in the community? The Lane Tech LSC prides themselves on being progressive as evidence by all their members proudly boasting of how they got rid of Lane's symbol name of INDIANS. This same Lane Tech LSC formed the LT Symbol Committee, a committee formed by the LSC that didn't abide by the Open Meetings Act and one that

never had official meetings, no meeting agendas or meeting minutes, failed to take attendance, never officially declared who was on the committee, and somehow this group gave updates at Lane Tech LSC meetings for over a year before disbanding from a lack of interest and organization. Yet, when it comes to the Lane Tech LSC being CHAMPIONS (their new symbol name and slap in the face to their opponents) and allowing for all means of Public Participation at their meetings, the Lane Tech LSC drops the ball and squelches the democratic way in favor of controlling and limiting who can and who can't participate in their meetings. And, if you have mobility, accessibility issues, you're out of luck if you can't physically attend their LSC meetings. Is this 2022 or is it still 1975 when it comes to inclusion and accessibility for all?

6 June 21, 2022

Miguel del Valle
President
Chicago Board of Education
1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President del Valle and Chicago Board of Education Members:
The Civic Federation recently completed its analysis of the Chicago Public Schools proposed FY2023 budget. I am writing to convey our findings in advance of tomorrow's Board meeting. The full report is available at civicfed.org/CPS_FY2023.

The Civic Federation opposes the Chicago Public Schools' proposed fiscal year 2023 budget of \$9.5 billion. The District has not sufficiently justified raising its education fund property tax levy by the maximum allowable amount of 5% under Illinois' tax cap law, which would result in a \$140 million property tax increase at a time when taxpayers already face serious economic strains and when CPS has alternative options available.

This would be the largest property tax increase for CPS under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in 30 years because of the extraordinarily high inflation environment. The Federation is concerned that if every taxing body in Chicago taxes to the cap, taxpayers will face substantially increased property tax burdens this year. The Federation urges CPS to exercise restraint with the property tax increase, especially given that the District's finances have been recently stabilized through funding from the State of Illinois and federal COVID relief funding.

The Federation was a strong and early supporter of the federal government providing historic financial assistance to states and local governments to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Civic Federation calls upon CPS to utilize some of the remaining federal funds and/or reduce expenditures before taxing to the cap. The Federation's analysis points out that it supported past property tax increases as well as the restoration of the teachers' pension levy, which is not subject to the tax cap, because they were critical to resolve the District's financial crisis. Chicago taxpayers have shouldered a significant burden that helped restore CPS to sustainability. CPS must consider that before imposing further maximum annual increases.

The Federation is well aware that CPS is facing difficult choices ahead as federal

funds run out and that it must find recurring sources to close future gaps. The District still needs to address long-term issues to support personnel and spending increases, including underfunded teachers' pensions, while enrollment continues to decline. No public long-term financial plan outlining strategies for these and other challenges has been presented.

If CPS were to significantly reduce the increase to its education fund levy for the next fiscal year, the Federation could support this budget proposal because there are many positive elements that improve its overall financial outlook, including a much improved level of reserves as well as improved cash position.

Sincerely,
Laurence J. Msall
President

7 June 21, 2022

President del Valle and Members of the School Board Chicago Board of Education
42 W. Madison Street Chicago, IL 60602

President de Valle and Members of the School Board,

I am writing to you today to ask for funding for Physical Education for full time teachers at all Chicago Public Schools and funding to implement CPR and AED training.

Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCAs) can happen at any time, and survival often depends on whether the victim receives bystander CPR and defibrillation via an AED. Over the last 10 years, out-of-hospital SCA survival rates in Chicago have risen from roughly 2% to over 10%. While that is obviously good news, it still leaves significant room for improvement. With needed funding, Chicago's students will receive the CPR and AED training needed to save lives in the event of cardiac arrest.

As you vote on the school board budget for the 22-23 fiscal year, please fund CPR and AED Training implementation.

The Chicago Board of Education also recently passed a strong new district-wide physical education policy. If adequately funded, this new PE policy can help ensure that all of CPS's roughly 350,000 students have access to high-quality physical education, putting them on the path to a healthier future.

As you consider the proposed update to the district's physical education policy, we urge you to prioritize health and equity for all CPS students. The American Heart Association (AHA) believes that physical education is an important part of a student's comprehensive, well-rounded education program and a means of positively affecting life-long health and well-being.

Optimally, physical education will engage students in health-promoting physical activity for at least half of class time and teach them the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong physical activity. The AHA recommends 150 minutes of physical education each week for children in elementary school and 225 minutes per week for middle school and high school. The AHA also believes that physical education should be supplemented, but

not replaced, by additional physical activity opportunities including classroom physical activity breaks, active learning, intramurals, afterschool programs, and recess.

As the Board considers funding of both CPR/AED training and Physical Education funding in the FY22/23 budget, we stand ready to assist in your good work of helping to build a better future for all CPS students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Peters

Illinois Government Relations Director

American Heart Association & American Stroke Association – Lauren.Peters@heart.org

8 Hello, my name is Jessica and I am a previous CPS student. I grew up in the Englewood neighborhood and have been an active participant in Chinatown since I was 16 years old. I am very familiar with the Harold Ickes Housing Development as it was filled with Black and Brown tenants in the 1950s. And after its demolition in 2000, these residents were promised better housing and a healthy, safe place to call home. That never happened. Now, in 2022, there are plans for the Chinatown High School to be built where that housing development once stood, despite those Black and Brown residents never receiving the home they were promised. And just as they were never invested in, neither are local schools around the Chinatown neighborhood. CPS should not only speak to community members and collect accurate data on their input, but they should also increase funding in local schools and commit to maintaining their buildings, curriculum, and jobs. Funds for local schools should be maintained if a new school is to be built. The proposal for vast budget cuts and the closing of multiple Southside high schools are proof of the minimal investment in Black and Brown youth. The community knows that the building of this Chinatown school can very well take away from the quality of education their children receive at local schools. And even though parents, teachers, and other community members have actively vocalized their concerns, it seems as if there is no attempt to engage and listen to them. This is shown through the consistent underfunding and blatant disregard for the disparities in Chicago public schools, specifically on the South and West sides. CPS, I care about our schools and I know you do too, so listen to us when we say that we want to be heard and we want meaningful, lasting change to take place for our schools. If you are to build a new school, do not do so at the expense of those that just want what is best for their families and their communities.

9 My name is Consuela Hendricks. I currently work with youth, parents, and other community members in Chinatown. Chinatown is in need of a high school however I don't believe it should be at the site of a former housing development. Tensions in Chinatown has been rising between Black and Chinese community members and I fear this will not alleviate any of the issues going on today. In 2020 several Chinatown residents were talking about shooting Black people on-sight online which caused tensions to rise and many Black folks who worked in Chinatown had to be escorted home for safety. Along with other issues, tensions have been growing between the two communities and putting the new high school at the former Ickes site may cause even more tension to grow between the two communities. I believe Chinatown deserves a high school however I believe the location for the school should be open for discussion. I believe the site should be in the 78 as this is something many community members I work with want.

10

I write to urge this Board to end its policy of forcing students out of school due to the now-endemic disease of Covid 19. There has been no meaningful audit of CPS's 2021-22 COVID-19 policy to show it stopped the spread of Covid in the slightest. It clearly causes learning loss as it compels healthy, asymptomatic students to miss in-class instructional time. And its failure can be seen in the precipitous drop in CPS enrollment this past year. Please end these Covid restrictions and allow life to go back to normal.

11

Good Morning distinguished Board Members, President del Valle, and CEO. Martinez.

My name is Leyde Carvajal and I am an Acero Schools parent whose children attend Roberto Clemente Elementary in the Belmont-Cragin community. I have two students at Clemente who are both in 7th grade, Adriana and Adrian. I started at Clemente when it first opened back in 2012. I had my oldest son, Onan, enrolled in kindergarten and is now in college. The support my son received made me commit to Clemente and enroll my two children. Both Adriana and Adrian are honor roll students and excelling academically. I am proud to be a part of Roberto Clemente which is meeting all standards in SPED and discipline and has historically been ranked commendable by ISBE. Clemente and Acero Schools have made safety the top priority for families as we all returned to in-person learning. Safe health practices such as mask mandates and weekly surveillance testing for staff and students, information on community resources including vaccination opportunities, financial assistance, and food pantries as well as ongoing support for parents and scholars is made available both in-person and virtually. I have volunteered in several extracurricular events and have also participated in the network curriculum, Padres Comprometidos. It was eye-opening, to say the least. We learned about being positive role models for our children, worked with our school leaders, broadened our knowledge in digital literacy and participated in several lessons that focused on social-emotional health. We were also given insight on the advocacy initiatives our network and other charter engage in and the upcoming charter renewal process. Roberto Clemente and the Acero Network have shown me that they truly care about the families that attend the schools and the communities they reside in while exceeding academic standings. I urge the board to visit our school and to consider Acero for the longest term available for this upcoming school year. Thank you.

Buenos Días valiosos miembros de la Junta, Presidente del Valle y CEO Martínez.

Mi nombre es Leyde Carvajal y soy una mamá de Escuelas Acero cuyos hijos asisten a la escuela primaria Roberto Clemente en la comunidad de Belmont-Cragin. Tengo dos estudiantes en Clemente que están en séptimo grado, Adriana y Adrian. Empecé en Clemente cuando abrió por primera vez en 2012. En ese momento tenía a mi hijo mayor, Onan, inscrito en el kinder, quien se graduó y ahora está en la universidad. El apoyo que recibió mi hijo me hizo comprometerme con Clemente e inscribir a mis dos hijos. Tanto Adriana como Adrian son estudiantes del cuadro de honor y sobresalen académicamente. Estoy orgullosa de ser parte de Roberto Clemente, que cumple con todos los estándares en SPED y disciplina e históricamente ha sido calificado como encomiable por ISBE. Las escuelas Clemente y Acero han hecho de la seguridad la principal prioridad para las familias a medida que todos regresamos al aprendizaje en persona. Las prácticas de salud seguras, como los mandatos de cubrebocas y las pruebas de vigilancia semanales para el personal y los estudiantes, la información sobre los recursos de la comunidad, incluidas las oportunidades de vacunación, la asistencia financiera y las despensas de alimentos, así como el apoyo continuo para padres y estudiantes, están disponibles tanto en persona como virtualmente. He sido voluntaria

en varios eventos extracurriculares y también he participado en el plan de estudios de la red, Padres Comprometidos. Este programa me ha ayudado mucho. Aprendimos a ser modelos positivos para nuestros hijos, trabajamos con nuestros líderes escolares, expandimos nuestro aprendizaje digital y participamos en varias lecciones que se centraron en la salud socioemocional. También recibimos información sobre las iniciativas de defensa en las que participan nuestra red y otros charter y el próximo proceso de renovación de charter. Roberto Clemente y la Red Acero me han demostrado que realmente se preocupan por las familias que asisten a las escuelas y las comunidades en las que residen mientras superan las posiciones académicas. Insisto a la junta a visitar nuestra escuela y considerar a Acero por el período más largo disponible para este próximo año escolar. Gracias.

12 6/14/22

Board of Directors
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Board Members

We are writing this letter to express our opinion that CPS should not use the site of the former Harold Ickes Development to build a new high school, ostensibly for the Chinatown community. Chinatown has needed a local high school for decades, and we were very happy that funding for a school has finally been appropriated. There are many potential sites for a new school and we want CPS and the Board of Education to complete a thorough and transparent process to determine the best location for the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop.

When the Harold Ickes development was torn down, residents were promised the return of public and affordable housing in the CHA's Plan for Transformation. Instead, Black families were displaced, with many of them leaving Chicago. CHA's commitments have dwindled from 1008 units of housing to 68. This is unacceptable and CPS should not become a party to this betrayal.

The Chinatown community deserves the self-determination to be involved in the decisions for the location and design of the school being promoted using their name. The community has been asking for a high school for decades. It's worth taking a few more months to make the best choice for the community's needs.

Likewise, the Harold Ickes community has been waiting for over 12 years for the city to provide them with new housing at the location they were promised. Building a high school on the Ickes land would irrevocably break that promise.

As stated above, it is important to conduct an open process involving members of all of the affected communities to find a site that supports a deserving community without bringing harm to another.

Respectfully,

Illinois Families for Public Schools.

13	<p>I want to raise an objection to the proposed CPS budget. I represent parents and teachers at my children’s school, Sabin Dual Language Magnet, and am a member of our local school council. 80% of families at Sabin are below the poverty line and our school has 98% Black and Latinx students. This is a student population that has been really hurt in the pandemic.</p> <p>Due to budget cuts, kids at Sabin are going from 5 specials to only 3 specials in the upcoming year—we’re losing technology and library classes! Meanwhile Pritzker, 3 blocks away, has 6 specials for their students. Specials should not be considered “extra”—they are key components of education and every student in the city deserves them. For racial equity to be achieved within CPS, close attention needs to be paid to the situations in individual schools—there is no one size fits all amount for low income schools (for example adding a single “lead coach”) that then offsets the inequitable conditions in the school.</p> <p>As a dual language school, we cannot combine dual language classes and English only classes so instead we are combining grades in the dual language program. This is hard on the teacher and makes it more difficult for the kids to catch up from the pandemic learning loss.</p> <p>I attended the special sessions to learn how the extra federal covid relief money was being spent. They said covid relief money would be spent on social emotional needs for kids impacted by the pandemic, but cutting specials at Sabin and other schools is directly counter to that. Budget cuts for low-income, minority schools like Sabin are the wrong decision for our kids and should not be instituted, especially when we have 1.4 Billion in federal funds that have not been spent.</p> <p>It is gravely short-sighted of the city to cut budgets at low-income schools because a strong, healthy public school system is necessary for us to recover from the pandemic and to ultimately address violence in the city. Giving kids a shot at a future starts with well-funded public schools. The reality on the ground of this proposed budget is to continue a legacy of systemic racism within CPS. Please vote no on this budget and restore funding to our schools.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
14	It will benefit both the parents and the children!
15	<p>All three of my children attend CPS. We live in Bridgeport. Two are in Skinner North, and one is in Healy. Having a high school in the Bridgeport and Chinatown communities would be very beneficial to my family, my children, and the community. At present, there are no public high schools near Bridgeport and Chinatown, which means children here need to go to schools far away by public transportation every day or have their parents drop them off and pick them up. Driving is a big burden for families. Establishing a high school in our community can reduce the burden on the family, and in result parents can spend more time serving the school and the community. Our children can also do more extracurricular activities as well. For example, high school students should start to develop a strong sense of community. They should spend more time understanding their own community as well as creating more value for their own community by contributing to the community. This way their self-awareness and sense of belonging will be strengthened. The establishment of a high school in our neighborhood can also attract</p>

	more talents and elevate community quality and cultural level. This high school is what everyone expects. I hope it will provide a good education first and highlight Chinese culture, and therefore can diversified the Chicago public school system. Moreover, this high school should provide good extracurricular resources, entertainment, sports, services, practice, and should offer more opportunities for young people to exercise their body. Last but not the least, I also hope this high school can help improve the safety of the community.
16	I am the parent of a 5th grade student. My child is going to high school soon, but we have no idea what to do because all high schools are far from where we live. We are immigrants with language barriers, limited knowledge and economic capacity. Having a high school in our community means we would have access to language and cultural services that help newcomers feel more at home. If a new high school is happening, we as parents will be worried less that our children will need to commute to school for long periods of time. It can also reduce our children's stress too and in result can also improve their' learning attitude. This new school can also makes students more interested in participating in all kinds of after-school activities. Finally, I would like to say that if a new high school is established, it could greatly reduce the crowding rate of existing high schools, and students will receive a higher quality education and have more access to various school facilities.
17	Build a strong community
18	The distance between home and school is shortened, and it is easier for our children's to go to school during the winter time.
19	As residents of Chinatown, we waited 40 years to a high school in our community that would allow our kids to save time spent on the road and use that time to study instead. In the US society that emphasizes equality, many communities have their own high schools, and therefore we demand that we be treated equally. We desire to have a high school with an emphasis on Chinese cultures in our own community.
20	Need a high school nearby home
21	I am a parent of a Chicago public elementary school student. I have lived in Chicago for nearly 30 years. I attended elementary school, high school and college in the the city. I have been living in Chinatown and Bridgeport. It was very convenient for me to go to elementary school; however, when I went to high school, I had to commuted to my school by CTA. I had to get up very early and ended up coming back home late every day. I had to wake up early in the morning to catch the bus. It was already getting dark after participating in various after-school activities. Sometimes I felt scared of taking the bus or train late at night. I recalled thinking about giving up many times at that time. Even after persevering, looking back now, it would be nice if there were a high school around Bridgeport and Chinatown at that time. I wish I would not have felt so afraid. So now I ask you to pass this bill that supports building a new high school in the Chinatown neighborhood, so that our children will not have the same concern about giving up high school as I did before. Thank you.
22	Convenience
23	Our Children can get closer to home without wasting too much time on the road.
24	I am looking forward to it.
25	I hope my children can study at a school in our neighborhood.
26	Opening a neighborhood high school around Chinatown would be able to provide a safe and consistent education environment to the families in the community. There are many choices of elementary schools in this community but lack of a neighborhood high school to serve the need, which results in the fact that many students need to spend 1 hour, or

	<p>even 2 hours to commute to the high school and put them in a dangerous situation. This is not acceptable and it is not safe for our kids! Furthermore, to address the needs of this community as a mental health service staff, family services, special education services, immigrant support and mental health services are necessary and important to the next generation of this community. This neighborhood high school is able to provide cultural sensitive and culturally appropriate service to the community. If this and the only one Chinatown neighborhood high school collaborate with community partners to address those needs of the community, it will be a good investment to the community and bring in long term, healthy and positive effect to the families and community wellness. I urge your approval of the neighborhood high school for the Chinatown community.</p>
27	<p>On behalf of Chinatown parents, I would like to express my support of the proposed plans for building a new high school in Chinatown. Here are some reasons and my ideas of what this proposed high school should be planned: 1. Transportation: It would be convenient for our students to travel by public transportation. It would be also convenient for us parents to pick up and drop off our children since there is a parking lot and parking space. 2. Flexible lunch choices for students: I hope our students can take advantage of their lunch break to dine in Chinatown. Not only will they have opportunities to experience the customs of Chinatown, but they will help promote local restaurants and even help with economic development in Chinatown. Therefore, I hope the school will allow the students to freely choose to eat either in school or in Chinatown. I also hope that the Chinese Chamber of Commerce can discuss with the merchants whether they can give students a 20% discount with their student ID cards, to attract more students to dine in Chinatown, and in result students can feel relaxed and interact with their classmates in the rich atmosphere of Chinese culture. 3. The new school should offer specific language and culture classes with an emphasis on the Chinese language and culture. Students should also choose diverse courses ranging from multicultural history, literature, to art. The school should also encourage students of ethnic backgrounds to learn from each other, communicate and integrate into each other's cultures. Having bilingual teachers and social workers at school would make it easier for parents to interact with students and participate in school activities and volunteering. 4. It is suggested that the campus design incorporates elements of traditional Chinese landscape architecture, such as small bridges and flowing water, courtyard pavilions, etc.</p>
28	<p>On behalf of the parents and students living in Chinatown, I want to express my desire to have a high school in Chinatown. We have tried several times, and we hope this time we will succeed. I have a child who is currently studying in high school. I know that as a parent, when choosing a high school for my child, it is difficult for me, and I feel helpless. My child could have chosen a good school with high quality education that suits him, however, often those schools are far away, and the transportation is inconvenient. Every day it takes at least 2-3 hours for my child to commute to and from school. Due to the safety concerns, parents like myself can only pick up and drop off their children by themselves, which means they cannot take a full-time job. This has become even more difficult for low-income families. And children spend a lot of time and energy on their way to school every day. It's hard to concentrate on reviewing homework at home, let alone making time for extracurricular activities such as other cultural and artistic activities they would like to get involved in. For all these reasons, we could not help but let our children get enrolled in schools with short distances with the risk of letting our children receive education that did not best suit them. We parents found it a painful and unfair choice. Now that I have another child in 8th grade. I am imagining how the opening of a new high school in Chinatown would benefit my child and the entire family. My child can go to a school that fulfills their needs and at the same time saves a lot of time and energy</p>

	<p>every day. They can participate more in after-school programs like learning piano, chess, calligraphy, painting, swimming and any sports activities they like. Not only can they travel short distances by themselves and go to school safely, but our parents can also choose better jobs with peace of mind. All of this means we will have more time to participate in community civic education, financial management and parent-child social activities. It would be nice if we can make our life more colorful, and we parents and our children will be healthier both physically and mentally! Therefore, we strongly demand that we establish a high school in Chinatown. Not only will our children receive a good quality education, but they will also be surrounded by traditional Chinese culture and art! I really hope all Chinatown families can enjoy this welfare!</p>
29	Really wish there will be a high school near Chinatown.
30	I hope to build a high school near Chinatown soon so that our children will spend less time on the way to school. I also hope that the new high school can provide diversified education and provide bilingual education at the same time, so that new immigrants can have a transition period.
31	I support building a new high school in Chinatown because this will give my child more choices and opportunities for a high school! Because this can help some Chinese immigrant families who have just arrived in the United States to find schools to study more easily! This school should bring convenience and safety. Hope that this school will provide services in Chinese, after-school tutoring, and better security system,
32	<p>Dear Board,</p> <p>My name is Debbie Liu. I was born and raised in Chinatown. I am the firstborn of immigrant parents. I, like many of my peers, had to figure out many things on my own - including where to go to high school. This daunting task is one every family, particularly Asian families in the Near South often face with the stress of finding a high school seat that will provide the vigor and competence to prepare for college and beyond. I remember there was a moment we almost moved to the suburbs because it was the sacrifice that my family thought we needed to make if the schooling did not work out. I am now a parent of my own and hope that this is not a decision I will be faced with when the time comes.</p> <p>Education is important and is a major deciding factor where people choose to live. Every community deserves high quality education with resourced facilities and staff and Chinatown has been aching for one for decades. Chinatown has been gerrymandered for years and large capital needs like this often fell to the wayside. I recognize that Chinatown is a microcosm of the city of serious inequities plaguing the public school system. We are products of our history of decisions made before our time including poor planning, per-pupil funding structure and even pure politics. While we can't change all of that, we can be more intentional about future decisions.</p> <p>In an effort to not appear that this is an election year stunt like it was four years ago, more must be done to ensure and engage the right families are at the table as you make decisions for a Near South high school that prepares for the next generation. Robust engagement can identify the best course forward along with transparent public discourse on all factors. Consistent engagement starting with a physical location and programming should be thoroughly investigated. While there is some rumors about the location at 24th/State, there are other opportunities worth investigating including the 78, where a part is already slated for the development of a tech and research institution in partnership with the University of Illinois. There are potentials that are worth reviewing</p>

(and perhaps imagining) within this area of need. If we have already waited this long, let's get it right.

Thank you.

33 Hi, my name is Soo Lon Moy and I'm a retired Chicago Public Schools teacher. I taught at John C. Haines and Robert Healy Elementary Schools in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities respectively. I am also proud of the fact that I'm a product of the Chicago Public Schools. I am speaking today to urge CPS to pass the \$70 million budget proposed for a new high school to serve students in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities.

In my teaching career of more than 30 years, as a bilingual lead teacher, I taught upper-grade Cantonese bilingual students and worked with their parents in the Bilingual Advisory Council. It was a struggle for parents and students to find a good high school to attend since there are no CPS high schools in the neighborhood.

Education is very important to immigrants. Students would benefit from a good neighborhood high school with quality education and appropriate bilingual programs without having to spend hours traveling to high schools outside of their neighborhood. The Chinatown and Bridgeport communities have been asking for a good neighborhood high school for many years. It's time to make this a reality for our students who deserve a good neighborhood high school that will serve their educational needs.

I strongly urge the Board of Education to approve the proposed budget to include \$70 million for a new much-needed neighborhood high school to serve students in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities. Thank you.

34 Joint Statement from Members of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community Education Committee

We ask that the Chicago Board of Education vote to approve funding for a new Chinatown Area High School on the Near South Side to serve the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop. For over 40 years, the Chinatown community has persisted in advocating for a neighborhood high school to serve the unique needs of students in the area. With the delay of the vote for more time for community engagement, we welcome an open and transparent discussion to jointly develop solutions that will both fund this need and not harm our neighbors.

As a coalition of parents, students, community organization leaders, and long-time residents, we envision a neighborhood high school that will serve the racially diverse, multilingual, and multicultural student population of the Chinatown Area.

- Located in the Chinatown Area, the high school will be accessible to local residents via numerous train and bus lines, and safe passage programs will ensure equitable access for parents and students alike.
- This high school will provide a closer option for many, allowing local students, parents, and community based organizations to be more involved in the school. Their involvement would help direct the school to meet the needs of the large population of immigrant families through culturally-attuned school day and after-school programs, multilingual translation services, and bilingual education programs.

- The high school will come equipped with world-class facilities such as a large auditorium, providing space for cultural exchange between students and the community, and a swimming pool, allowing students to maintain healthy and active lifestyles year round. Robust extracurricular offerings will bridge students across different backgrounds and interests.
- The high school will provide mental health support and socio-emotional learning resources for students processing the ongoing violence and bigotry that affect our diverse community.
- The school will offer a college preparatory curriculum with STEAM programs to introduce students to career opportunities and keep their post-secondary options open. Scheduling will permit and encourage the development of other skills and interests, including home economics.

We urge the board to allocate the \$70 million proposed by CPS and utilize the additional \$50 million that State Representative Mah has secured already for this new high school, which will be a space for all of the diverse students in the Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop neighborhoods to learn and thrive with the support of their families and the neighborhood community.

ATTACHMENTS

June 15, 2022

Raquel Don 曾樂巧

Representative of Parents/Caregivers in CPS

donraq75@gmail.com

312-671-0110

I know that it's evening. But I like to say hi. So hi everyone. I am Raquel Don. The parent of a Chicago Public School graduate and two current Chicago Public Schools students. I am the fourth generation of my family to live in the Bridgeport / Armour Square Neighborhoods. I have seen the changes of these neighborhoods over the numerous decades of my life. I have always been very involved in my children's schools. As a parent, I am engaged as a Local School Council Chair, Parent Advisory Council Chair, Bilingual Advisory Council honorary supporter and an Alternative Representative. I am also a Parent Board of Governors member which is a board of 13 parents and caregivers that represent the entire city. Now, if you were to view a map of the public high schools throughout Chicago, my two neighborhoods would stand out and shine bright like a diamond because there are no public high schools there. And part of my involvement at the schools is networking with other parents and caregivers from other schools in my neighborhoods. So I am not alone when I say that the Armour Square and Bridgeport Neighborhoods have more than enough students to fill a public high school on their own. But I fear that there is a political ploy to permanently shut the mouths of the residents from my neighborhoods in regards to finally getting a public high school. That would be a great disservice to this city because it will only encourage more middle class and hard workers to move out due a lack of quality public higher education. I will continue to advocate for my community until we have a public high school that will truly serve the Armour Square and Bridgeport Neighborhoods. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response to my community's needs.

06/19/2022

Dear Board of Education,

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group throughout the city of Chicago. It is booming in the Bridgeport area. According to the 2020 census, the Asian population has increased by 31% from the year of 2010 to 2020. It makes up 7% of the city's residents. We are thrilled that CPS's commitment to allocating the funds this year to build a high-quality neighborhood high school for the students in the Chinatown area.

Currently, CPS high schoolers in Chinatown have to commute an average of between 30 minutes to an hour to their designated high schools every day. It means that they will have to shorten their sleep and limit their extracurricular options in order to commute to school every day. Sleep deprivation has a well-documented impact on students' academic performance as well as their mental health. Limited extracurricular experience narrows students' opportunities to explore their interests and develop their skills. Both minimize the effort of CPS's equality framework to provide equitable education resources and opportunities to its minority students.

There is no secret that Asian American families value education greatly. Regardless of the parents' occupation or education level, education is always the top priority on every Asian American parent's mind. As a result, we have seen Asian American students perform above the average on standardized tests and be able to attend the top universities around the country. However, this stereotype doesn't apply to ALL Asian American students. Not all Asian students thrive academically. Their learning styles are as diverse as the students of other ethnic backgrounds. The data shows that 1/3 of the Chinatown 8th students go to CPS-selected high schools; 1/3 of them go to private/charter schools and 1/3 of students move to the suburbs. The only way to stop losing our CPS students to the suburb or private schools every year is to provide a high-quality and safe neighborhood high school option for students who are not attending the selective high school. This is what parents have been spoken through the data.

In the Chinatown school community, there is not yet an established K-12 aligned bilingual program for Asian American students. It is a crucial resource for minority students to adapt and transition to their new culture and learning environment. We would strongly urge that CPS follows through with its promise and commitment to providing Asian American equitable resources and culturally responsive opportunities to eliminate barriers to success.

Sincerely,

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The Civic Federation

10 North Dearborn Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602 | 312-201-9066 | civicfed.org



June 21, 2022

Miguel del Valle

President

Chicago Board of Education

1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950

Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President del Valle and Chicago Board of Education Members:

The Civic Federation recently completed its analysis of the Chicago Public Schools proposed FY2023 budget. I am writing to convey our findings in advance of tomorrow's Board meeting. **The full report is available at civicfed.org/CPS_FY2023.**

The Civic Federation opposes the Chicago Public Schools' proposed fiscal year 2023 budget of \$9.5 billion. The District has not sufficiently justified raising its education fund property tax levy by the maximum allowable amount of 5% under Illinois' tax cap law, which would result in a \$140 million property tax increase at a time when taxpayers already face serious economic strains and when CPS has alternative options available.

This would be the largest property tax increase for CPS under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in 30 years because of the extraordinarily high inflation environment. The Federation is concerned that if every taxing body in Chicago taxes to the cap, taxpayers will face substantially increased property tax burdens this year. The Federation urges CPS to exercise restraint with the property tax increase, especially given that the District's finances have been recently stabilized through funding from the State of Illinois and federal COVID relief funding.

The Federation was a strong and early supporter of the federal government providing historic financial assistance to states and local governments to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Civic Federation calls upon CPS to utilize some of the remaining federal funds and/or reduce expenditures before taxing to the cap. The Federation's analysis points out that it supported past property tax increases as well as the restoration of the teachers' pension levy, which is not subject to the tax cap, because they were critical to resolve the District's financial crisis. Chicago taxpayers have shouldered a significant burden that helped restore CPS to sustainability. CPS must consider that before imposing further maximum annual increases.

The Federation is well aware that CPS is facing difficult choices ahead as federal funds run out and that it must find recurring sources to close future gaps. The District still needs to address long-term issues to support personnel and spending increases, including underfunded teachers' pensions, while enrollment continues to decline. No public long-term financial plan outlining strategies for these and other challenges has been presented.

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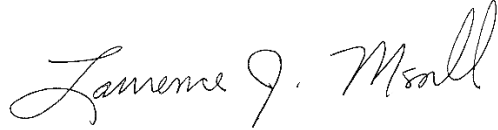
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If CPS were to significantly reduce the increase to its education fund levy for the next fiscal year, the Federation could support this budget proposal because there are many positive elements that improve its overall financial outlook, including a much improved level of reserves as well as improved cash position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence J. Msall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laurence J. Msall
President

June 21, 2022

President del Valle and Members of the School Board
Chicago Board of Education
42 W. Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60602



President de Valle and Members of the School Board,

I am writing to you today to ask for funding for Physical Education for full time teachers at all Chicago Public Schools and funding to implement CPR and AED training.

Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCAs) can happen at any time, and survival often depends on whether the victim receives bystander CPR and defibrillation via an AED. Over the last 10 years, out-of-hospital SCA survival rates in Chicago have risen from roughly 2% to over 10%. While that is obviously good news, it still leaves significant room for improvement. With needed funding, Chicago's students will receive the CPR and AED training needed to save lives in the event of cardiac arrest.

As you vote on the school board budget for the 22-23 fiscal year, please fund CPR and AED Training implementation.

The Chicago Board of Education also recently passed a strong new district-wide physical education policy. If adequately funded, this new PE policy can help ensure that all of CPS's roughly 350,000 students have access to high-quality physical education, putting them on the path to a healthier future.

As you consider the proposed update to the district's physical education policy, we urge you to prioritize health and equity for all CPS students. The American Heart Association (AHA) believes that physical education is an important part of a student's comprehensive, well-rounded education program and a means of positively affecting life-long health and well-being.

Optimally, physical education will engage students in health-promoting physical activity for at least half of class time and teach them the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong physical activity. The AHA recommends 150 minutes of physical education each week for children in elementary school and 225 minutes per week for middle school and high school. The AHA also believes that physical education should be supplemented, but not replaced, by additional physical activity opportunities including classroom physical activity breaks, active learning, intramurals, afterschool programs, and recess.

As the Board considers funding of both CPR/AED training and Physical Education funding in the FY22/23 budget, we stand ready to assist in your good work of helping to build a better future for all CPS students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Peters
Illinois Government Relations Director

American Heart Association & American Stroke Association – Lauren.Peters@heart.org

Remarks

CPS Board Meeting | June 22, 2022

Good Morning distinguished Board Members, President del Valle, and CEO. Martinez.

My name is Leyde Carvajal and I am an Acero Schools parent whose children attend Roberto Clemente Elementary in the Belmont-Cragin community. I have two students at Clemente who are both in 7th grade, Adriana and Adrian. I started at Clemente when it first opened back in 2012. I had my oldest son, Onan, enrolled in kindergarten and is now in college. The support my son received made me commit to Clemente and enroll my two children.

Both Adriana and Adrian are honor roll students and excelling academically. I am proud to be a part of Roberto Clemente which is meeting all standards in SPED and discipline and has historically been ranked commendable by ISBE. Clemente and Acero Schools have made safety the top priority for families as we all returned to in-person learning. Safe health practices such as mask mandates and weekly surveillance testing for staff and students, information on community resources including vaccination opportunities, financial assistance, and food pantries as well as ongoing support for parents and scholars is made available both in-person and virtually.

I have volunteered in several extracurricular events and have also participated in the network curriculum, Padres Comprometidos. It was eye-opening, to say the least. We learned about being positive role models for our children, worked with our school leaders, broadened our knowledge in digital literacy and participated in several lessons that focused on social-emotional health. We were also given insight on the advocacy initiatives our network and other charter engage in and the upcoming charter renewal process.

Roberto Clemente and the Acero Network have shown me that they truly care about the families that attend the schools and the communities they reside in while exceeding academic standings. I urge the board to visit our school and to consider Acero for the longest term available for this upcoming school year.

Thank you.

Buenos Días valiosos miembros de la Junta, Presidente del Valle y CEO Martínez.

Mi nombre es Leyde Carvajal y soy una mamá de Escuelas Acero cuyos hijos asisten a la escuela primaria Roberto Clemente en la comunidad de Belmont-Cragin. Tengo dos estudiantes en Clemente que están en séptimo grado, Adriana y Adrian. Empecé en Clemente cuando abrió por primera vez en 2012. En ese momento tenía a mi hijo mayor, Onan, inscrito en el kinder, quien se graduó y ahora está en la universidad. El apoyo que recibió mi hijo me hizo comprometerme con Clemente e inscribir a mis dos hijos.

Tanto Adriana como Adrian son estudiantes del cuadro de honor y sobresalen académicamente. Estoy orgullosa de ser parte de Roberto Clemente, que cumple con todos los estándares en SPED y disciplina e históricamente ha sido calificado como encomiable por ISBE. Las escuelas Clemente y Acero han hecho de la seguridad la principal prioridad para las familias a medida que todos regresamos al aprendizaje en persona. Las prácticas de salud seguras, como los mandatos de cubrebocas y las pruebas de vigilancia semanales para el personal y los estudiantes, la información sobre los recursos de la comunidad, incluidas las oportunidades de vacunación, la asistencia financiera y las despensas de alimentos, así como el apoyo continuo para padres y estudiantes, están disponibles tanto en persona como virtualmente.

He sido voluntaria en varios eventos extracurriculares y también he participado en el plan de estudios de la red, Padres Comprometidos. Este programa me ha ayudado mucho. Aprendimos a ser modelos positivos para nuestros hijos, trabajamos con nuestros líderes escolares, expandimos nuestro aprendizaje digital y participamos en varias lecciones que se centraron en la salud socioemocional. También recibimos información sobre las iniciativas de defensa en las que participan nuestra red y otros charter y el próximo proceso de renovación de charter.

Roberto Clemente y la Red Acero me han demostrado que realmente se preocupan por las familias que asisten a las escuelas y las comunidades en las que residen mientras superan las posiciones académicas. Insisto a la junta a visitar nuestra escuela y considerar a Acero por el período más largo disponible para este próximo año escolar.

Gracias.

6/14/22

Board of Directors
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Board Members

We are writing this letter to express our opinion that CPS should not use the site of the former Harold Ickes Development to build a new high school, ostensibly for the Chinatown community. Chinatown has needed a local high school for decades, and we were very happy that funding for a school has finally been appropriated. There are many potential sites for a new school and we want CPS and the Board of Education to complete a thorough and transparent process to determine the best location for the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop.

When the Harold Ickes development was torn down, residents were promised the return of public and affordable housing in the CHA's Plan for Transformation. Instead, Black families were displaced, with many of them leaving Chicago. CHA's commitments have dwindled from 1008 units of housing to 68. This is unacceptable and CPS should not become a party to this betrayal.

The Chinatown community deserves the self-determination to be involved in the decisions for the location and design of the school being promoted using their name. The community has been asking for a high school for decades. It's worth taking a few more months to make the best choice for the community's needs.

Likewise, the Harold Ickes community has been waiting for over 12 years for the city to provide them with new housing at the location they were promised. Building a high school on the Ickes land would irrevocably break that promise.

As stated above, it is important to conduct an open process involving members of all of the affected communities to find a site that supports a deserving community without bringing harm to another.

Respectfully,

Illinois Families for Public Schools.

I want to raise an objection to the proposed CPS budget. I represent parents and teachers at my children's school, Sabin Dual Language Magnet, and am a member of our local school council. 80% of families at Sabin are below the poverty line and our school has 98% Black and Latinx students. This is a student population that has been really hurt in the pandemic.

Due to budget cuts, kids at Sabin are going from 5 specials to only 3 specials in the upcoming year—we're losing technology and library classes! Meanwhile Pritzker, 3 blocks away, has 6 specials for their students. Specials should not be considered "extra"—they are key components of education and every student in the city deserves them. For racial equity to be achieved within CPS, close attention needs to be paid to the situations in individual schools—there is no one size fits all amount for low income schools (for example adding a single "lead coach") that then offsets the inequitable conditions in the school.

As a dual language school, we cannot combine dual language classes and English only classes so instead we are combining grades in the dual language program. This is hard on the teacher and makes it more difficult for the kids to catch up from the pandemic learning loss.

I attended the special sessions to learn how the extra federal covid relief money was being spent. They said covid relief money would be spent on social emotional needs for kids impacted by the pandemic, but cutting specials at Sabin and other schools is directly counter to that. Budget cuts for low-income, minority schools like Sabin are the wrong decision for our kids and should not be instituted, especially when we have 1.4 Billion in federal funds that have not been spent.

It is gravely short-sighted of the city to cut budgets at low-income schools because a strong, healthy public school system is necessary for us to recover from the pandemic and to ultimately address violence in the city. Giving kids a shot at a future starts with well-funded public schools. The reality on the ground of this proposed budget is to continue a legacy of systemic racism within CPS. Please vote no on this budget and restore funding to our schools.

Thank you.

Hi, my name is Soo Lon Moy and I'm a retired Chicago Public Schools teacher. I taught at John C. Haines and Robert Healy Elementary Schools in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities respectively. I am also proud of the fact that I'm a product of the Chicago Public Schools. I am speaking today to urge CPS to pass the \$70 million budget proposed for a new high school to serve students in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities.

In my teaching career of more than 30 years, as a bilingual lead teacher, I taught upper-grade Cantonese bilingual students and worked with their parents in the Bilingual Advisory Council. It was a struggle for parents and students to find a good high school to attend since there are no CPS high schools in the neighborhood.

Education is very important to immigrants. Students would benefit from a good neighborhood high school with quality education and appropriate bilingual programs without having to spend hours traveling to high schools outside of their neighborhood. The Chinatown and Bridgeport communities have been asking for a good neighborhood high school for many years. It's time to make this a reality for our students who deserve a good neighborhood high school that will serve their educational needs.

I strongly urge the Board of Education to approve the proposed budget to include \$70 million for a new much-needed neighborhood high school to serve students in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities. Thank you.

Joint Statement from Members of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community Education Committee

We ask that the Chicago Board of Education vote to approve funding for a new Chinatown Area High School on the Near South Side to serve the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop. For over 40 years, the Chinatown community has persisted in advocating for a neighborhood high school to serve the unique needs of students in the area. With the delay of the vote for more time for community engagement, we welcome an open and transparent discussion to jointly develop solutions that will both fund this need and not harm our neighbors.

As a coalition of parents, students, community organization leaders, and long-time residents, we envision a neighborhood high school that will serve the racially diverse, multilingual, and multicultural student population of the Chinatown Area.

- Located in the Chinatown Area, the high school will be accessible to local residents via numerous train and bus lines, and safe passage programs will ensure equitable access for parents and students alike.
- This high school will provide a closer option for many, allowing local students, parents, and community based organizations to be more involved in the school. Their involvement would help direct the school to meet the needs of the large population of immigrant families through culturally-attuned school day and after-school programs, multilingual translation services, and bilingual education programs.
- The high school will come equipped with world-class facilities such as a large auditorium, providing space for cultural exchange between students and the community, and a swimming pool, allowing students to maintain healthy and active lifestyles year round. Robust extracurricular offerings will bridge students across different backgrounds and interests.
- The high school will provide mental health support and socio-emotional learning resources for students processing the ongoing violence and bigotry that affect our diverse community.
- The school will offer a college preparatory curriculum with STEAM programs to introduce students to career opportunities and keep their post-secondary options open. Scheduling will permit and encourage the development of other skills and interests, including home economics.

We urge the board to allocate the \$70 million proposed by CPS and utilize the additional \$50 million that State Representative Mah has secured already for this new high school, which will be a space for all of the diverse students in the Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop neighborhoods to learn and thrive with the support of their families and the neighborhood community.