

March 23, 2022 Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, March 21st and Thursday, March 24th
Submitted via Written Comments Form

1	<p>Please see attached.</p>
2	<p>My Subject is Local School Council for years when the late Mayor Harold Washington desire that the Black parents have an involvement in Chicago Public school and this at time, we do not represent that mission. I have proof that this is not the case at hand. I will inform those in authority that this is a VOID and negligence in our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adele Barksdale</p>
3	<p>I urge the board to not approve calendar option 2 with the August 22 start date for the 2022-23 school year. Apart from shortening everyone's summer for a second year in a row and potentially disrupting summer plans that have been booked, the uneven distribution of school days per semester is unfair to students given the typical grading scheme of using categories and total points within a category. Less time in a semester means fewer grades, fewer tests, fewer projects, making each of those worth a larger percentage of a student's grade. This problem would be compounded by the first semester being shorter and the general pacing that's slower at the beginning of the year and faster at the end that naturally leads to fewer assessments.</p>
4	<p>To: Members of The Chicago Board of Education From: Parent of a Junior at Jones College Prep Re: LSC's Actions Against Dr. Powers</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I am writing to give you another perspective on the LSC's actions against Dr. Powers, principal at Jones College Prep. I can assure you that many parents are not in agreement with the tactics of the three LSC members that contacted CEO Pedro Martinez alleging that Dr. Powers is a detriment to our school. Those three women do NOT speak for the school community as a whole. The media coverage has been slanted, highlighting only one side of the story to the public. In fact, at the special LSC meeting recently called, about 85-90% of the comments were against the LSC and embarrassed by their abhorrent behavior in this matter. Yet, only the LSC's vote and the opinion of those 3 members that started this were reported on. Even the student reps on that zoom meeting, criticized the LSC members as to how they consistently undermine them and purposely not involve them in issues that might receive push back. This LSC meeting was, frankly, an embarrassment to our school community. The disrespect they showed towards Dr. Powers was shameful.</p>

Under his leadership, Jones has flourished, consistently being named the 3rd best public high school in the state of Illinois. They have been honored with a national blue ribbon and continue to be one of the most sought after selective enrollment schools. Our time at Jones has been an overall positive experience. I have been informed from the teacher community that working there is a highly prized position. The educators appreciate the work ethic of a JCP student and turnover is relatively low. This is a direct reflection of the JCP leadership. For thirteen years Dr. Power's LSC ratings have been extremely high. Only when this most recent board was elected, did that mysteriously change.

Dr. Powers, these past few years has been faced with unimaginable hurdles, mainly due to Covid. The claims about residency are ridiculous, as everyone was aware that he lives mainly in Chicago but has a family in St. Louis and it has never been an issue. In fact, in this every changing work environment, working at home has become the norm, it doesn't mean he was ignoring his duties as principal. Their claims on racial tensions, mismanagement of funds, and inappropriate handling of personnel issues could have been addressed in a civil manner, as there are always two sides to the story and professional ways to mediate differences. Instead, they chose to go behind the back of the rest of the LSC, our Jones leadership and the current student and parent population. Shameful behavior to say the least.

The "serious risk of ongoing and future physical and psychological harm" that the 3 members of the LSC stated will be caused by Dr. Powers if he stays on as principal, will actually be caused by them if he is removed! The process of finding a new principal, especially with this tumultuous LSC relationship, is going to be daunting. And the only people that will suffer will be the educators and most importantly, the students. I have no doubt, Jones will begin to decline as a highly rated Chicago Public School if he is removed from his position in this way.

I urge you to investigate the other side of the story and ignore the LSC's request to remove Dr. Powers as principal of Jones College Prep.

Thank you,
Parent of a Junior at JCP

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I continue to be dumbfounded by this proposed change to the school schedule. I filled out the survey when I received the email, but at no point has there been any explanation about WHY any change was proposed at all. My first choice, which I indicated in the comments section of the survey was NO CHANGE. What are the perceived benefits? I see none. There are, instead, detriments to my family's well being. Our CPS student has had a rough couple of years -- who hasn't? -- and desperately needs her recuperation and recreation time, including working as a camp counselor at the very end of August. The camp experience last year was essential to restoring her peace of mind and positive mental state, which was hard won. After all we've been through, how can you turn and ask us to make more wholesale changes in our lives? Again, for no reason! Haven't we had enough stress? Haven't the kids and families struggled enough to adapt to the constantly changing situations, risk calculations and more? If there is a plausible purpose to this, I don't understand why you aren't telling us what it is, but more important, now is not the time to make changes. Please, for the love of family and children, do NOT change the start date for our schools.

6	<p>My children's school does not have their basic needs meet. For example, only one person who does not work for Aramark is cleaning, and the Aramark contracted employees have not done their jobs. The bathrooms have yellow bowls due to lack of cleaning and it's not the only school from my discussion with other parents. Will Aramark take charge of holding up their contracts and clean the schools? Also, what does it take to get a crossing guard? We have not had one since the end of last school year and need one ASAP. Thank you for your time.</p>
7	<p>As a single parent I begin making my plans for the summer in January and finalize by February. Yet again, CPS has expressed an intention to change a schedule that parents could rely on (a post Labor Day start) far too late in the calendar year. There is absolutely no reason this decision could not have been made last year when you adjusted the schedule. The Board's lack of preparation/fore-thought is disappointing.</p> <p>Further, CPS' late start was a great thing. Children are simply not ready to return to school mid-August at the height of summer weather. June is frequently cold and our beautiful lake cannot be enjoyed as it can in August. I feel pretty certain that most of my arguments will be dismissed as frivolous. But the fact is that enjoying summer is simply an absolutely wonderful part of being a child. Do you remember being a child? At CPS my 6 year old doesn't get enough playtime outdoors, isn't read to enough, I think CPS forgets that joy is part of the whole health of a child. Taking a week away (again) and having them start when it's hot and families aren't ready, it doesn't serve the interests of kids. It serves the interests of adults.</p>
8	<p>See written comments in attachment. Comments are for speaker Tiffany Allison Harvey at 3.23.22 board meeting for Haugan School Campus upgrade request</p>
9	<p>Why does CPS hide behind "public opinion" when we know for certain that only a fraction of those involved are voting? CPS should own their decisions. Labor day start was the only good thing CPS did until now. Kids were allowed to enjoy full summer in this city of iron clouds and harsh winters. Now, it is not only pushed into August, but to even earlier start date. Something CPS tried in the past, then forgot (what is with this social amnesia going around the whole country anyway!). Do you really believe two extra weeks until exams will make a difference in exam scores. Seriously, that means your education system is completely wrong. We know for certain that CPS does not prioritize families, let's not forget that last year CPS and Mayor Lightfoot made remote learning for preschoolers tuition based, causing so many families leave CPS. Please come to your senses, our kids are not race horses raised for exams, they need their summer.</p>
10	<p>I strongly oppose the idea of an early start to the school year and a short summer vacation. I disrupts family life, but more importantly my child really does need a break. She is nine years old and commutes 1 hour each way in order to go to a decent school (since the CPS has given up on or is unable to provide decent neighborhood schools on the the south side). She leaves the house at 7:15 and doesn't get home till after 4:00. She needs a break. If you implement this calendar I will join the many families looking for alternatives to CPS.</p>

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I strongly urge the board to adopt the school year calendar that starts on Aug 22nd. It is of great benefit to the high schools to have more time preparing students for AP exams, SAT, and most of all, finishing the semester before winter break. Our current model does not serve high school students the best. I was so happy to see that an earlier start date is being voted on and is being examined. Please implement this change.

12

Dear CPS Board - Please vote "NO" on the proposed schedule change. This dramatic alteration in the school year happened too quickly, with too little input and is taking place without research, community engagement and little consideration for the plans of your key stakeholders - Chicago Families. Additionally, CPS will experience all time record low attendance the week of 8.22 due to many families not being in town. This will lead to decreased funding and lower school populations. Vote No Now.

Thank You,

Steve Timble

13

Dear President Miguel del Valle and the Chicago Board of Education,

The students of G.R. Clark Elementary School, in The Island neighborhood on Chicago's West side, have a grand vision for improving their outdoor playlot. The current playlot lacks equipment for all ages in the school (K-8) and lacks the space for sports facilities that could expand our in-school use and after-school program offerings. We wish to expand the playlot area by relocating the teacher parking lot to an adjacent and vacant parking lot that is privately owned, directly across the street to the South (lot address is 1100 S Menard). We are writing to ask that the Board of Education would acquire this property by eminent domain to maximize the potential of the G.R. Clark campus, and thereby create more space for our students to play, practice sports, and host outdoor events.

In December of 2021, nine of our 7th & 8th grade students hosted a "Playlot Project Student Vision" presentation of their sketches and ideas for improving the playlot to local business leaders at a neighboring business in our community. We have several corporate and non-profit partners who are committed to supporting this project. While we can improve the existing playlot space, the expansion of the area, by relocation of the teacher parking, would open up new possibilities and allow our students' dreams to come true. With your help, we want to see their vision come to reality.

Please view our students' presentation at islandchicago.org/grclarkplaylot

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nate Tubbs
LSC Chair, G.R. Clark Elementary

14

Pre Labor Day school start is drastic and we don't need a full week off for thanksgiving. Winter break is only a couple weeks after that.

15

Lane Tech is currently in the midst of voting to choose a new symbol name after their LSC voted to remove 'INDIANS' as Lane Tech's symbol in August 2020, 20 months ago.

The choices for the new symbol are as follows: no name at all, Bison, Champions, Owls, or Lightning. First of all, the name Champions would be a slap in the face and disrespectful to all of Lane's opponents. And Bison, Owls, or Lightning have nothing to do with Lane Tech and its long history.

Please follow this link for more information on the Lane Tech Symbol change:

https://lanetech.org/2022/03/22/lane-tech-symbol-survey/?fbclid=IwAR2TF5jInwMd7n_i3vVSYInUcfemVdRARPhm2HH_Hsq-94IPKiToFqb6gSE

NOTE: Lane Tech's current principal Edwina Thompson and their LSC (led by President Emily Haite) have been less than transparent on the symbol change and the Lane Tech Symbol Committee, a subcommittee of the LSC and open to Open Meetings Act (OMA) guidelines.

Here's the email I sent to Ms. Thompson and the Lane Tech LSC:

To: Principal Edwina Thompson and those individuals currently in charge of changing the Lane Tech's symbol along with Emily Haite and the rest of Lane Tech's LSC:

Please be honest and transparent about the LT Symbol committee.

According to FOIA records I received from the Lane LSC, the LT Symbol committee (subcommittee of the LSC) never actually met. So, please come clean to all the Lane Tech community and alumni on this or I will by publishing the responses I received from the LSC on the committee.

From the time the longtime Lane Tech symbol of Indians was voted on by the LSC to be removed until the LSC handed off responsibility of choosing a new school symbol to Principal Edwina Thompson and the current Lane Tech, nary a meeting of the LT Symbol committee took place. Yet, somehow, the LSC received updates from LSC president Emily Haite from the LT Symbol committee of which she was on as well.

Walter Brzeski
(Lane Tech '83)

16

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I'm requesting the Board to step in and not vote on or allow the Lane Tech Symbol change to take place until a more transparent and credible way is chosen to pick the new name.

Walter Brzeski
(Lane Tech '83)

17

I really believe that starting the school year on Aug 22nd is the best option for the students. Particularly for the older students- being done with the 1st semester before winter break is a huge asset. This would put CPS on a similar schedule to almost every other school system and similar to most colleges

18

Why would this be for the 2223 school year when people have already made summer plans. If this indeed is going to happen then it should be the 2324 school year so people can plan accordingly.

I know we will miss the first week of school because we have plans already made.

19	<p>Please consider this change for next year. Per poll results the majority of parents don't want this. There was no information provided on the students who responded and without surveying a wide demographic skewed results are being presented.</p> <p>As a working parent I've already made plans for the week of 22 August and will lose money on a camp that my child will no longer be able to attend. Making this decision this late in the current school is not appropriate. I'm on board for next year as there would enough advanced notice.</p> <p>And then, most importantly, once this change is made for the 2023 school year don't ask every year.</p>
20	<p>Please consider NOT voting for the proposed calendar for the 22-23 school year. Children need summer vacation to recharge. Their lives have been so traumatized by the pandemic, that their social-emotional well-being is already negatively affected. They need to be able to enjoy unstructured time with friends and family. Their summer was already shortened last year. Without healthy social-emotional mindsets, they will not be open to the learning the early start (Aug. 22) is claiming to help with learning loss. Summer camps and family vacations were planned prior to the calendar being shared, so the attendance rates at the beginning of the year will be dismal. Kids/Families need these experiences, too.</p> <p>Additionally, teachers need time for recharge. With a record number of teachers leaving the profession, teachers need the social-emotional recharge. If a consideration of the post-Labor Day start isn't up as an option, at least reconsider the start date of Aug. 29.</p>
21	<p>I am opposed to the current plan to cut the summer short after what has been a long and trying 2 years from COVID, work stoppages/strikes, etc. If you want to end the 22-23 school year earlier in June, then take away breaks throughout the year and let the kids have a full summer this year.</p>
22	<p>My family is in full support of the August 22 start calendar. I do wish that we had the school calendar much earlier each year...this is really cutting it close, especially when summer camp programs registrations happen in mid-late winter.</p> <p>Dan Powers</p>
23	<p>Our family already made plans for this summer. We never thought all the sudden school starting date will change this year. If it ends up changing to 8/22. We will have no choice by miss the first week of school. You can change for next year, but with only a few month notice makes things really hard for many CPS families.</p> <p>Also, I know many CPS families rent, and their lease ends late August, usually families would prefer settling in a new place before school starts, the sudden change of starting date will be a big problem for those families. CPS families already had tough years because of Covid and CTU strikes, please don't add more issues to us!</p>

24	<p>I am not in favor of returning to school on August 22. Is every school fully air conditioned? It is still hot. It takes another week of summer away from our kids for the second year in a row. There are trips planned - My kids will likely miss a week of school because we are not changing our vacation. I want to see the data from the parent survey that shows that the majority of parents chose the earliest start.</p>
25	<p>As a parent of a CPS student, I am opposed to the August 22 start date. Our children have survived through a pandemic and need the break that summer provides.</p>
26	<p>I am in favor the late start date in August. The summer is short and my daughter's time is spent going to school and the rest camping, visiting relatives and learning more about her culture. It is already a juggling act so would appreciate a little home downtime before going back to class.</p>
27	<p>Our students have been through so much over the last two years. WHY? WHY? AND another WHY would you want to take more summer break away from them. Leave them alone. Let them heal. Allow them space. Don't change yet another thing. Give them stability, stop taking it away. Why would they feel comfortable or trust adults? This nonsense is up there with Rahm lengthening the school year and the school day with ZERO results. All year CPS is going on and on about the social emotional well being of our kids. This action is in complete opposition to the social emotional well being of our kids. Despicable.</p>
28	<p>As a father of two CPS students, I was heartened to learn of CPS's recent move to a mask-optional policy for all students and staff. However, this decision masks continuing issues with the CPS COVID mitigation strategies. Too many students are still being kept from school via rolling quarantines, and even the mask-optional policy has numerous caveats that needlessly keep students in a state of uncertainty about whether they can safely resume their normal lives. And unfortunately, enforcement of mask mandates has too often fallen too heavily on CPS kids.</p> <p>The fear and uncertainty surrounding COVID are understandable, but we are on the path to a world where COVID is endemic. Masking and rolling quarantines for close-contact cases are not as effective as we once thought they were, and the downsides of keeping kids in a state of perpetual uncertainty are all too clear.</p> <p>Moving forward, the Board should end its policy of masking and rolling quarantines for close-contact cases in favor of a Test-to-Stay approach. In addition, CPS COVID policy over the past two years should be independently audited. Surely there is a lot to learn here, and the Board should be accountable. As important, the Board should remove all misconduct reports filed against students who declined to wear a mask in February and March. These students should not have mask-related disciplinary issues on their record. Finally, the Board should commit to limiting all further interruptions to in-person schooling. We have numerous challenges ahead—they need to be faced maskless, in classrooms, and in communities with authentic oversight of their public institutions.</p>

As presented at the 3.23.22 meeting:

Good Morning/Buenos Dias to all. My name is Mayra Garcia Guzman and I am a parent at Talcott Fine Arts & Museum Academy.

I am here today to speak about a project that our school has undertaken- raising funds for a new playground and field. Our project will cost approximately \$1.4M

We have already secured over \$1M toward this goal. The funding was raised through a combination of (1) parent and community member donations, (2) school fundraising, (3) school and PTO funding commitments, and (4) city and state funding from elected leaders. Today I am here to respectfully request your assistance, and partnership, to get our project over the finish line by helping us secure the remaining \$355,000 needed.

A new playground and field is pivotal to the continued growth and success of our student body. Our current field lacks proper drainage, thereby limiting its use during the winter season and rainy weather. So students cannot have gym, or other recreational outlets even when the weather is mild.

Talcott also has a special education cluster program. We'd like to have a playground and field that also meets the needs of these students so that they too can enjoy outdoor learning and play.

This playground and field represent more than playtime for our students. It is a safe space for their growth and development. Our schools demographic represents 27 zip codes across the city, and 68% of our population is economically disadvantaged. We need a new playground to be able to extend our curriculum, learning opportunities, and to provide a secure environment, beyond the classroom walls.

Finally, as we emerge from a 2 year pandemic, it is especially important for young people to have access to places for sport and play to ensure that their social emotional development continues progressing, in addition to their academic achievement.

Good morning! My name is Blanca Boyas. I am a parent at Talcott School. I have a daughter in 4th grade and a son in kindergarten.

I am happy to be here because we are getting near the end of two and a half years of work to make our playground and field renovation a reality. Our project got a boost in June of 2019 when \$350,000 was designated for Talcott's field renovation in the state capital budget, as a result of a Community Member on our LSC working with State Representative Delia Ramirez.

We began a process to get input from students, teachers, and parents about what they wanted for our outdoor space. We received pro bono services from an architectural firm to do designs and renderings for the field and playground. With the help of Alderman LaSpata, Talcott received \$650,000 in Open Space Impact Funds for the project.

Combined with \$30,000 in school funds and \$15,000 that the PTO has raised, we are now about \$350,000 short of the total estimated cost of \$1.4 million. 75% of Talcott families are low-income families but we are doing as much fundraising as we can. We raised \$7000 with a raffle and have a Fun Run happening next week. We raised nearly \$9000 in individual donations.

Our students are so excited to have a beautiful new field. Right now, our kids play board games in a classroom during recess most days because, in addition to the months of cold, anytime it snows or rains the field becomes a giant puddle for days.

We have been working with the Facilities team at CPS. Bids are out for the project and construction is scheduled to start on May 23rd so that it can be completed this summer. If we can renovate both the field and playground at the same time, it will be significantly cheaper. Doing the project in phases would cost an additional \$200,000-300,000 and most likely mean that we cannot upgrade our 40-year-old playground.

This project is ready to go and mostly funded. We ask that you consider making an investment in our school so that we can complete the project this summer and give our kids and functional, safe space to play.

Thank you!

30

I was extremely disappointed to hear CEO Martinez express his continued commitment to CPS' current COVID-19 policy, especially the use of quarantines and masking for "close contact" cases. Nor was there any substantive response or engagement with the seven parents who testified during public comment about the need to end these protocols. Over the course of the past two years, schoolchildren, teachers, and parents across the city have been put through a historically unprecedented set of disruptions, as officials scrambled to react to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the understandable moment of global panic in March of 2020, schools were closed and our public education system was replaced with virtual remote instruction. The closures were supposed to last two weeks. One year later, the Chicago Public Schools were still fumbling with a return to normal in-person instruction, staging acts of theater to appease the most panicked voices in local politics and media. Two years later, CPS' COVID-19 policy continued to run on pure inertia, with Chicago dead last in the state in lifting its indoor masking requirements. Even now, CPS stands outnumbered in its use of senseless quarantine protocols, excluding hundreds of healthy kids from school every day, and re-imposing masking on hundreds more-- a policy that other large school districts abandoned long ago.

I urge the Board to take up our four simple demands: An immediate end to quarantines and mask mandates for close-contact cases; a removal of all misconduct reports filed against students and staff who declined to mask in February and March; a commitment to limiting any further interruptions to in-person schooling; and a call for an independent audit to be conducted of the past two years of CPS COVID policy so that we the people can be fully informed about the scope of mistakes that have been made, and so that the Board can be empowered to learn from them.

In this moment, as cases of COVID-19 are in decline, it is absolutely the time to look at this whole episode in the cold light of day and ask some hard questions about what was done, why it was done, and what the costs have been. Was it the right thing to cut young children off from their social lives and their learning for a year and sit them in front of computers? Was it the right thing to scare parents into thinking of their schools as a danger? To scare teachers into fearing their students? To mask indefinitely with no sense of what we were achieving? Our answer to all of these questions is no. Do Board members have a different answer? We will continue to push for a full accounting until we hear from them.

31

My entire comment is uploaded as attachment

32

I am a CPS parent of a kindergartener and would like to reiterate the following four requests:
no more quarantines or masking for close contacts; the removal of all misconduct reports against kids and staff who declined to mask in Feb and March; a commitment to not interrupting in-person schooling; and an audit of the past two years of COVID policy.
Thank you.

33

Good afternoon.

I am a proud product of CPS, a parent of 4 current CPS children and an educator.

Everyone here wants only one thing: The very best for our children.

150 studies show that masks do not prevent covid 19, and even states so on the packaging.

Illinois court decisions in 2020 and February 4th, 2022 ruled that neither the governor nor the schools can enforce masks (the mask mandate is a policy and policies are not laws).

February 15, JCAR blocked re-implementation of the governor's mask mandate.

February 17, appellate court ruled the governor's appeal moot and void.

 February 28, the Governor lifted his mask mandate for schools.

Covid cases have fallen sharply in both self-reported cases and in school screenings

Why I'm citing these:

Schools continue to ostracize unvaccinated children. My 6th grade son and other children are not allowed on the Indiana Dunes school field trip at Disney 2. We demand this be re-evaluated to consider and include all children!

As for my daughter, she has been written up, isolated, and removed from the classroom--only the health department can authorize a quarantine--for not wearing a mask.

CPS has no authority to implement anything that violates Constitutional rights both state and federal!

It's ironic because there is a movement happening THIS MONTH where so many women leaders are telling young women--young Latinas--they need to find their voice and stand up for what they believe in. Yet, despite these legal rulings, the Governor's decision, and the sharp decline in reported cases listed above, my daughter was ostracized for her decision which has left a lingering negative effect on her. We demand these misconducts be removed from her record and the records of all other children that experienced the same situation!

Despite the masks being optional, the current Chicago mask stipulations by CEO Martinez will continue to affect and violate the rights of children. If you are a parent--especially a Mom, you would never want to see your child treated this way. I urge you: don't crush the spirit of these CPS students! Stop the discrimination and ostracization! Choice is critical! It's Parental decision! You are all Now on Judicial Notice these actions are in violation of..... Federal law 28 CFR §36.202 prohibits "denial of participation" Federal law 28 CFR §36.202(c) states that unless someone has been individually assessed as a "direct threat" you may not exclude any child from the SAME and EQUAL services as others. Thank you!

Buenas tardes.

Gracias por la oportunidad de hablar.

Soy padre de 6 hijos.

Soy profesora, me encanta enseñar.

Aquí todos queremos una sola cosa: lo mejor para nuestros hijos.

150 estudios demuestran que las mascarillas no previenen el covid 19, e incluso lo afirman en el empaque.

Las decisiones judiciales de Illinois en 2020 y febrero de 2022 dictaminaron que ni el gobernador ni las escuelas pueden hacer cumplir las máscaras (el mandato de máscara es una póliza y las pólizas no son leyes).

El 15 de febrero, JCAR bloqueó la reimplementación del mandato de máscara del gobernador.

El 17 de febrero, la corte de apelaciones dictaminó que la apelación del gobernador era discutible y nula.

El 28 de febrero, el gobernador levantó su mandato de máscara para las escuelas.

Los casos de covid han disminuido drásticamente tanto en los casos autoinformados como en las evaluaciones escolares.

Por qué estoy citando estos:

Las escuelas continúan condenando al ostracismo a los niños no vacunados. Incluso ahora, mi hijo de sexto grado y otros niños no pueden participar en la excursión escolar de Indiana Dunes. ¡Exigimos que esto se reevalúe para considerar e incluir a todos los niños!

En cuanto a mi hija, la han amonestado, suspendido y sacado del salón de clases, solo el departamento de salud puede autorizar una cuarentena, por no usar una máscara.

Es irónico porque hay un movimiento que está ocurriendo ESTE MES en el que muchas mujeres líderes les dicen a las mujeres jóvenes, a las jóvenes latinas, que deben encontrar su voz y defender lo que creen. Sin embargo, a pesar de los fallos legales, la decisión del Gobernador, y la fuerte disminución en los casos denunciados, mi hija estaba siendo condenada al ostracismo por su decisión y seguía teniendo un efecto negativo en ella. ¡Exigimos que estas malas conductas se eliminen de su registro y de todos los registros de los niños que también pasaron por esta misma situación!

A pesar de que las máscaras son opcionales, las estipulaciones actuales de máscaras de las escuelas en Chicago, por parte del CEO Martínez, continuarán afectando y violando sus derechos.

Si usted es un padre, especialmente una mamá, nunca querrá ver que su hija/hijo o cualquier niño/a sea tratado de esta manera. Les pido que no aplasten su espíritu ni el espíritu de todos los estudiantes de CPS! ¡Alto a la discriminación y segregación! Opción es importante!

Todos los miembros de la Junta de Educación ahora están bajo notificación judicial, estas acciones violan.....

La ley federal 28 CFR §36.202 prohíbe la "negación de participación"

La ley federal 28 CFR §36.202(c) establece que, a menos que alguien haya sido evaluado individualmente como una "amenaza directa", no puede excluir a ningún niño de los MISMOS e IGUALOS servicios que los demás.

¡Gracias!

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I want to begin by making an unequivocal statement. The Constitution of the United States of America is not and shall not be suspended in the event of a pandemic. Every man, woman, and child, standing on this land, has inalienable rights and liberties. Our rights and liberties may not be infringed upon without due process. The State of Illinois, County of Cook, City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Teacher's Union have taken it upon themselves to deny our students due process in accordance with the law. Two weeks to flatten the curve has become a never-ending circus of mandate after mandate, restriction on top of

restriction. While other states ended their mask mandates roughly a year ago, IL, Chicago and CPS in particular have continued mandating universal masking, up until they finally realized it wasn't smart for them to continue doing so, seemingly for political reasons. Additionally, CTU is actively trying to be heard by the dept of Labor in their efforts to force universal masking once again. However, last month, something very important happened right here in Cook County. A Cook County judge denied the Cook County Department of Public Health's forcing of a 7th grader to quarantine. The judge cited an Illinois Supreme Court case stemming from the Spanish Flu exactly 100 years ago. The ruling made things quite clear: health authorities cannot infringe on our liberties with a quarantine of any duration simply by alleging there is a "medical basis" for it. The CCDPH failed to provide clear and convincing evidence to prove their case. With that being said, I pose the question, if the CCDPH, whose job it is to keep and track all Covid 19 data, cannot provide enough evidence to force an individual to quarantine, then does any such evidence even exist? If CCDPH does not have the evidence to force a student to quarantine, then what evidence does CPS and CTU claim to have when they say Covid-19 mitigations have been proven to work? Do they claim to have a better handle of Covid-19 data than the department of health does? If so, where is this data? I stand here with several other parents and I demand to see this data. I demand a full audit of the effects of the mitigation policies on the students. And I demand a full audit of where the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds have gone within the CPS system. For those of you who may not have heard, a quick google search will reveal, CPS received close to 2.8 billion dollars in ESSER funds. Certain promises had to be made in order to keep this money. I would like full transparency on where these funds have gone and whether or not they are tied to the promise of keeping the universal masking and rolling quarantines going. I know this is a lot of information coming at us all at once. Trust me when I say, this is the last thing I want to be doing. However, I firmly believe the rights we fail to fight for today will be the rights our children will never know we had.

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Allow children regardless of vaccination status to participate equally in school activities, including field trips. no more quarantines or masking for close contacts; the removal of all misconduct reports against kids and staff who declined to mask in Feb and March; a commitment to not interrupting in-person schooling; and an audit of the past two years of COVID policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Remarks

CPS Board Meeting | March 23, 2022

Good Morning President del Valle, valued Board Members and Dr. Martinez.

My name is Alma Adan and I am proud to say that I am an Acero Schools parent. My children attend Roberto Clemente in the Galewood community. Our journey began 8 years ago and since then, all 3 of my children have attended Clemente. Emma is in 7th grade, her sister Jacqueline in 6th grade and their younger brother Cristian in 3rd grade.

My testimony today cannot begin to describe how amazing my experience has been with Acero Schools. My time at the school has gifted me with the opportunity to grow alongside my children. My involvement at Clemente ranges from volunteering for school field trips, open houses, attending monthly parent meetings, supporting our end of the year carnival day, and leading school fundraising events. My ongoing involvement has given me the chance to lead as our schools parent committee president where I am deeply engaged on Title I funding while also supporting our BAC meetings for our English and Diverse learners. At Acero Schools opportunities for parent engagement are genuine and deep.

I have also been a participant in the network's parent curriculum, *Padres Comprometidos*. This training teaches parents how to better understand our children's educational needs through social emotional connection while also learning new skills such as navigating platforms like Google Classroom, Zoom, and others like it so that we stay connected with our teachers and children's education during remote learning. The course also covers mental health where we were provided with resources to utilize at home that were shared by our school social worker. I have now completed two cohorts of programming and I firmly believe that I am equipped to be a strong advocate for my children.

This only begins to scratch the surface of the amazing work Acero Schools is accomplishing. During the pandemic the network kept ongoing communication with us and offered several resources to assist families including food available at the school, housing & rental information and vaccination clinics for our community at Clemente. I ask the board to recognize charter schools and acknowledge the positive impact being made in our communities. I am proud to say I belong to Acero Schools.

Buenos días Presidente del Valle, miembros valiosos de la junta, y Dr. Martinez

Mi nombre es Alma Adán y me enorgullece decir que soy madre de Escuelas Acero. Mis hijos asisten a Roberto Clemente en la comunidad de Galewood. Nuestro viaje comenzó hace 8 años y desde entonces, mis 3 hijos han asistido a Clemente. Emma está en 7° grado, su hermana Jacqueline en 6° grado y su hermano menor Cristian en 3° grado.

Hoy no puedo comenzar a describir en mi testimonio de hoy lo increíble que ha sido mi experiencia con Escuelas Acero. Mi tiempo en la escuela me ha regalado la oportunidad de crecer junto a mis hijos. Mi participación en Clemente comienza por ser voluntaria en excursiones escolares, Casas abiertas, asistir a reuniones mensuales de padres, apoyar nuestro carnaval a fin de año, y dirigir eventos escolares de recaudación de fondos. Mi participación me ha dado la oportunidad de liderar como presidente del comité de padres de nuestras escuelas, donde estoy profundamente comprometida con la financiación del Título I; al mismo tiempo apoyó nuestras reuniones BAC para nuestros estudiantes de inglés y diversos. En Escuelas Acero, las oportunidades son genuinas y profundas para el compromiso de los padres.

También yo he sido participante en el programa de Padres Comprometidos. Este entrenamiento les enseña a los padres como comprender mejor las necesidades educativas de nuestros hijos, a través de la conexión socioemocional, cómo aprender nuevas habilidades, y cómo navegar en plataformas como Google Classroom, Zoom, o otros similares- para que podamos mantenernos conectados con nuestros maestros y la educación de los estudiantes, durante el aprendizaje remoto. El curso también cubre la salud mental, donde se nos proporcionaron recursos para utilizar en el hogar que fueron compartidos por nuestra trabajadora social de la escuela. Ahora he completado dos temporadas del programa y creo firmemente que estoy equipada para ser una poderosa defensora de mis hijos.

Esto es solo el comienzo de nuestras Escuelas Acero del increíble trabajo que está logrando. La red mantuvo una comunicación constante con nosotros y ofreció varios recursos para ayudar a las familias durante la pandemia, como proveer alimentos en la escuela, dar información sobre viviendas y alquileres, y las clínicas de vacunas para nuestra comunidad en Clemente. Le pido a la junta que reconozca las escuelas chárter y reconozca el impacto positivo que se está teniendo en nuestras comunidades. Me enorgullece decir que pertenezco a Escuelas Acero.

Waters School Campus

40.4% minority

24.1% low income

623 students



Haugan School Campus

93.8% minority

92.8% low income

872 students



Chicago Public Schools Board of Education Meeting March 23, 2022
Haugan School Playground Request
Parent Tiffany Allison Harvey

Good morning Mr. Martinez, board members. I am a parent of a second grader at Haugan Elementary School. First, thank you so much for the board's commitment earlier this school year to fund a desperately needed new roof for our school.

That said, because the capital needs of Haugan have been neglected for so long, probably about half a century, maybe more, we are also here to renew our request for a safe, functional, and attractive campus for our school. Specifically, we need a total revamp of our two large play patios, and 11 new exterior doors.

Pictures can be more impactful than words, so now I wanted to direct you to the photos on the first page of my handout, which illustrate both why Haugan needs a campus upgrade, and, unfortunately, that allocation of resources within CPS is often far from equitable.

The four pictures on the left are of Waters Elementary School, and the four pictures on the right show Haugan's play patios after a typical Chicago winter.

These are both CPS schools, just 1.5 miles down the road from each other, but they serve very different populations. Haugan has 872 kids, and its student body is approximately 94% minority and 93% low income. Waters serves 249 fewer students, and has a significantly whiter and wealthier student population.

The two schools' campuses also could not be more different. You'll notice Waters' campus has an interesting play structure, a turf field, multiple natural and garden areas, and a new addition. We, at Haugan, have plain, broken, and dangerous concrete. And to be clear, we do not begrudge any school or students anything – but Haugan students are just as deserving and should not have so much less.

We at Haugan are very thankful for our wonderful and warm school community, but our children and Albany Park neighborhood need and deserve a safe and beautiful campus to promote learning, exercise and love of the outdoors. It's Haugan's turn! Thanks for your consideration.

I strongly oppose the idea of an early start to the school year and a short summer vacation. I disrupts family life, but more importantly my child really does need a break. She is nine years old and commutes 1 hour each way in order to go to a decent school (since the CPS has given up on or is unable to provide decent neighborhood schools on the the south side). She leaves the house at 7:15 and doesn't get home till after 4:00. She needs a break. If you implement this calendar I will join the many families looking for alternatives to CPS.



GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
Elementary School

G.R. Clark Elementary
1045 S. Monitor Ave
Chicago, IL 60644

March 22, 2022

Chicago Board of Education
1 North Dearborn, Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear President Miguel del Valle and the Chicago Board of Education,

The students of G.R. Clark Elementary School, in The Island neighborhood on Chicago's West side, have a grand vision for improving their outdoor playlot. The current playlot lacks equipment for all ages in the school (K-8) and lacks the space for sports facilities that could expand our in-school use and after-school program offerings. We wish to expand the playlot area by relocating the teacher parking lot to an adjacent and vacant parking lot that is privately owned, directly across the street to the South (lot address is 1100 S Menard). We are writing to ask that the Board of Education would acquire this property by eminent domain to maximize the potential of the G.R. Clark campus, and thereby create more space for our students to play, practice sports, and host outdoor events.

In December of 2021, nine of our 7th & 8th grade students hosted a "Playlot Project Student Vision" presentation of their sketches and ideas for improving the playlot to local business leaders at a neighboring business in our community. We have several corporate and non-profit partners who are committed to supporting this project. While we can improve the existing playlot space, the expansion of the area, by relocation of the teacher parking, would open up new possibilities and allow our students' dreams to come true. **With your help, we want to see their vision come to reality.**

Please view our students' presentation at islandchicago.org/grclarkplaylot

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nate Tubbs
LSC Chair, G.R. Clark Elementary
(312) 550-6290

Lane Tech is currently in the midst of voting to choose a new symbol name after their LSC voted to remove 'INDIANS' as Lane Tech's symbol in August 2020, 20 months ago.

The choices for the new symbol are as follows: no name at all, Bison, Champions, Owls, or Lightning. First of all, the name Champions would be a slap in the face and disrespectful to all of Lane's opponents. And Bison, Owls, or Lightning have nothing to do with Lane Tech and its long history.

Please follow this link for more information on the Lane Tech Symbol change:

https://lanetech.org/2022/03/22/lane-tech-symbol-survey/?fbclid=IwAR2TF5jInwMd7n_i3vVSYInUcfemVdRARPhm2HH_Hsq-94IPKiToFqb6gSE

NOTE: Lane Tech's current principal Edwina Thompson and their LSC (led by President Emily Haite) have been less than transparent on the symbol change and the Lane Tech Symbol Committee, a subcommittee of the LSC and open to Open Meetings Act (OMA) guidelines.

Here's the email I sent to Ms. Thompson and the Lane Tech LSC:

To: Principal Edwina Thompson and those individuals currently in charge of changing the Lane Tech's symbol along with Emily Haite and the rest of Lane Tech's LSC:

Please be honest and transparent about the LT Symbol committee.

According to FOIA records I received from the Lane LSC, the LT Symbol committee (subcommittee of the LSC) never actually met. So, please come clean to all the Lane Tech community and alumni on this or I will by publishing the responses I received from the LSC on the committee.

From the time the longtime Lane Tech symbol of Indians was voted on by the LSC to be removed until the LSC handed off responsibility of choosing a new school symbol to Principal Edwina Thompson and the current Lane Tech, nary a meeting of the LT Symbol committee took place. Yet, somehow, the LSC received updates from LSC president Emily Haite from the LT Symbol committee of which she was on as well.

I'm requesting the Board to step in and not vote on or allow the Lane Tech Symbol change to take place until a more transparent and credible way is chosen to pick the new name.

Walter Brzeski
(Lane Tech '83)

Aguemos Talcott!

Connecting by Playing



Invites your support

www.talcottplayground.com

Who We Are

- *425 Students Enrolled 2018-2019
 - 81.6% Hispanic / 7.5% Black / 7.5% White / 0.9% Asian / 2.4% Other
 - 68.5% of student households classified as "Low Income" by CPS
 - 95.6% attendance rate
- *Fine Arts Neighborhood and Magnet Cluster School
 - 30% of students live in the neighborhood
 - 70% of students are magnet enrolled
- *Chicago's First Museum Academy integrates K-8 learning with Chicago's top museums
 - Partners include The Field Museum and the National Museum of Mexican Art
- *Talcott is recognized state wide for it's Dual Language Program
 - Acedemic excellence and cross-cultural competence through language immersion
- *Reggio Emilia based curriculum for grades Pre-K through 1st
- *Talcott is a Level I+ School, the highest rating awarded by CPS
- *Achieved Illinois Gold Circle of Quality for it's Early Learning Program
- *Rated Far Above Average in both Reading and Math Growth



Our Vision



Architect's Rendering



Fundraising Contributions

Fundraising Goal = \$1,400,000

Open Space Impact Funds = \$650,000

State Capital Budget Funds = \$350,000

School and PTO Funds = \$35,000

Individual Donations = \$8,750

School Event Fundraising = \$7,000+

Total Raised to Date = \$1,050,750



Good afternoon.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the parent of one child currently enrolled in Chicago Public School services. I am addressing the board today as an advocate of the stay in school coalition.

Over the past few years we have all been through a lot of difficulties that have affected us physically, mentally, and some financially. Our children, who have been deemed the LEAST physically VULNERABLE to Covid, have been suffering in academic and social development, due to teacher union strikes, school closures, and unlawful masking policies.

NOW that the vaccines are available everywhere, to protect all that wish to protect themselves, ages 5 and up, covid cases have decreased along with the mortality rates.

The vaccine and mask shaming along with endless mandates and protocols in our schools needs to end.

It is not ethical, nor helpful according to new scientific studies, and it's not the most productive use of our time, energy, and funding.

Our focus should be on HELPING THE CHILDREN to heal from this mass national trauma and HELPING THE CHILDREN'S academic and emotional development. Not endless, protocols, vaccinations, and Covid testing.

Today I ask the board to commit to transparency and consistency moving forward. If we are going to follow current science and government mandates, then let us follow it wholeheartedly. And not only when it supports CPS board members personal, career, political, or financial agendas.

Parents and CPS should be moving toward healthier happier times, not implementing fear and dissension tactics in efforts to reach vaccination and testing quotas.

Thank you