

August 26, 2020 Holiday Waiver Public Hearing
Written Comments Received Wednesday, August 19th through Thursday, August 27th
Submitted via Written Comments Form

- 1 To the Chicago BOE,
As a parent at Sauganash Elementary I would like to voice my concern for the degree of overcrowding at the school. Classes are at 123% capacity, directly affecting individual learning and adding to teacher stress. This will not change with remote learning, and in fact may be even more detrimental in the remote setting.
Gym time is limited due to overcrowding, also negatively affecting student education and increasing injuries. Lastly the overcrowding forces the school to use hallways for teaching and storage.
Please consider these factors as you contemplate capital expansion.
Thank you.

2 Please vote to remove police from schools.

- 3 As a military veteran I support the position that Veterans Day be a learning day vs. a holiday. I suggest that part of the curriculum for that day be the true meaning of 11/11, and that is Armistice Day, a day dedicated to stopping war and violence.
Over one hundred years ago the world celebrated peace as a universal principle. The first World War had just ended and nations mourning their dead collectively called for an end to all wars. Armistice Day was born and was designated as "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated."
After World War II, the U.S. Congress decided to rebrand November 11 as Veterans Day. Honoring the warrior quickly morphed into honoring the military and glorifying war. Armistice Day was flipped from a day for peace into a day for displays of militarism.
Veterans For Peace has taken the lead in lifting up the original intention of November 11th – as a day for peace. As veterans we know that a day that celebrates peace, not war, is the best way to honor the sacrifices of veterans. We want generations after us to never know the destruction war has wrought on people and the earth.
Veterans For Peace is calling on everyone to stand up for peace this Armistice Day. More than ever, the world faces a critical moment. Tensions are heightened around the world and the U.S. is engaged militarily in multiple countries, without an end in sight. Here at home we have seen the increasing militarization of our police forces and brutal crackdowns on dissent and people's uprisings against state power. We must press our government to end reckless military interventions that endanger the entire world. We must build a culture of peace.

This Armistice Day, Veterans For Peace calls on the U.S. public to say no to more war and to demand justice and peace, at home and abroad. We know Peace is Possible and call for an end to all oppressive and violent policies, and for equality for all people.

Arnold Stieber
Coordinator
Chicago Chapter
VeteransForPeace.org

- 4 I don't approve of the Holiday waiver. We need to respectfully honor our Veterans. In the meeting, I heard a lack of proper research and investigation to our Veterans. Looking into certain groups without their feedback and only questioning a CPS ROTC employee instead of Chicago Veterans organization isn't enough to waive Veterans Day. It's a lack of respect to assume one CPS ROTC employee can speak for all Chicago Veterans. Veterans have families and we want our day to honor them accordingly. Thank you!
-
- 5 You should make Election Day a holiday but it should not mean Veterans should not be recognized. I would prefer a day be added to the end of the calendar year to accommodate the much needed Election Day.