

**June 15, 2020 Board of Education Special Board Meeting**  
**Written Comments Received Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Submitted via [BOE@cps.edu](mailto:BOE@cps.edu)**

1.

Comments for Today

Good afternoon. Thank you for the honor of speaking before you. I'm Joslyn Jelinek, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in practice for 20 years and a parent of a CPS elementary student. In my first 16 years of professional practice, I worked at Cook County Hospital in the Child and Adolescent Health Clinic, and had a caseload in child psychiatry. Currently, I am in private practice where a majority of my clients are adolescents.

School Based Policing is the fastest growing area of law enforcement in the country, adding to the commodification of black and brown bodies by advancing the school-to-prison pipeline. I am adamantly opposed to school children being the casualty of over-policing in schools. (Shriver National Center on Poverty).

Although SROs have been operating in schools since 1953, administrations have become increasingly reliant on them and their presence.

Research has demonstrated that the presence of police in schools increases the likelihood that a student will be referred to law enforcement for adolescent behavior.

This falls particularly hard on students of color who are over-policed in schools as it is. Only 1/3 of schools have SROs and the population of these schools reflect majority POC youth. (Handcuffs in Hallways Shriver National Center on Poverty February 2017)

I was drawn by two sections of Special Order S04 01 02. School Resource officers and Investigation at Chicago Public Schools of August 29, 2019

Part III Section A Selection of School Resource Officers states that school resource officers will provide valuable resources to school staff members, foster positive relationships with students. I contend that Master's-prepared social workers can do the same thing while minimizing the risk of juvenile records or ultimately leaving school if deterred by jails.

Part VII Section A Subsection 2 of Special Order states " only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional based on the totality of the circumstances, consistent with the Department directive titled Use of Force", which objectively allows SROs to use any part of the use of force manual with justification on school children.

I contend that people are holding on to SROs from a place of fear and "how it has always been done", and that there is much to learn from restorative justice and peace circles. I have had the privilege of participating in one of the most innovative peace circles in Chicago called "Circles and Ciphers" in East Rogers Park.

The powers that be are holding onto an armored police presence that very much intimidates and frightens youth on a daily basis to mostly provide comfort to adults.



3.

Remove CPD from Chicago Schools

Members of the Board,

I am writing to you as a current resident of Chicago and an arts education who works closely with CPS students, to demand that you follow the lead of Minneapolis and Denver and **immediately terminate CPS' contract with the Chicago Police Department.**

The money spent on policing Black and brown students should be spent on counselors, nurses, and social workers. It is past time we stop treating young people like criminals and provide them with the care they need.

All the best,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4.

Remove CPD from CPS NOW

I am a resident of Chicago, a pediatrician at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, and a registered voter. I demand the Chicago Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools follow the lead of Minneapolis and end all relations with the Chicago Police Department. The \$33 million allocated for SROs should instead be used for:

- Access to technology / internet for every CPS student. NOT just 1 per household.
- Cash assistance - Meet the actual, basic needs of families (policing is not a need).
- Undocumented employee relief fund - true to people with felony convictions.
- STSL students - students in temporary living situation
- Counselors and transformative justice alternatives to police

As a pediatrician, it is well understood in the medical community that systematic racism and police violence is a public health emergency and children are particularly vulnerable. SROs have no place in Chicago schools where children are meant to learn, develop, and thrive. **We demand this be included in the agenda for the Board of Education Meeting on June 24th.**

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]