



# Board of Education

City of Chicago

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone (773) 553-1600 Fax (773) 553-1601

Susan J. Narrajos  
Secretary

Myra Rivera  
Assistant Secretary

**November 12, 2024**

## Members of the Board of Education

**Olga Bautista**  
**Michilla Blaise**  
**Mary Gardner**  
**Debby Pope**  
**Frank Niles Thomas**  
**Dr. Rafael Yáñez**

## **NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Enclosed is a copy of the **Agenda** for the **Special Board Meeting** to be held on **Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held at Colman CPS Administrative Office, 4655 South Dearborn, in the auditorium. Public will enter through door #3. The Board and the Chief Executive Officer have determined that registered speakers who wish to present during Public Participation may have the option to participate in person at the location of the Board meeting or virtually via an electronic platform. The public will have access to the meeting via live stream at [cpsboe.org](http://cpsboe.org).

Public Participation Guidelines are available on [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org).

For the November 14, 2024 Special Board Meeting, advance registration to speak will be available beginning Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. and will close on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in speaking can sign up. After the 24-hour registration period, a lottery will randomly select a set number of speakers from those who registered. For example, if 100 people register, the lottery will select 5 of them to speak. This process gives everyone a fair chance to address the Board. Advance registration during this period is available by the following methods:

- Online: [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) (recommended)
- Phone: (773) 553-1600

To ensure equity of access to address the Board, an individual may not speak at back-to-back meetings and more than one meeting per month. If you register for back-to-back meetings and more than one meeting per month, you will not be included for that meeting lottery. In the event an individual registers to speak at a consecutive meeting, the individual will not be called to address the Board.

Advance registration to observe will also be available beginning Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. and will close on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. or until all slots are filled. Advance registration during this period is available by the following methods:

- Online: [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) (recommended)
- Phone: (773) 553-1600

Although Advance Registration is recommended, you can also register to observe a meeting on the day of a Board Meeting via:

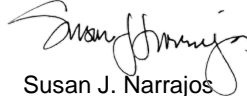
- Same Day in Person Observer Registration: Colman CPS Administrative Office, 4655 South Dearborn
- Registration Time: Opens at 3:15 p.m. and will remain open for the duration of the Board Meeting

Same Day, In-Person Observer Registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis as seats become available.

The Public Participation segment of the meeting will begin following the opening roll call and proceed for no more than 5 speakers for 10 minutes. Speakers selected through the lottery will receive instructions for Public Participation.

Members of the public may submit written comments for Board of Education meetings via the Written Comments Form on the Board's website at [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) or mailed to 1 N. Dearborn, Suite 950. Written comments received between the day the public agenda is posted through 5 p.m. the day after the Board of Education meeting will be submitted to the Board and posted within five (5) business days on our website at [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org).

Sincerely,



Susan J. Narrajos  
Secretary

SJN  
Enclosures

# **Board of Education**

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 950



## **Special Board Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**3:30 PM**

**Colman Office  
4655 S Dearborn St. Chicago,  
IL 60609 Auditorium**

**Board of Education**



# CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

## AGENDA

November 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA ELECTRONIC FORMAT

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS

VOTE ON PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS

## NON-DELEGABLE BOARD REPORTS THAT REQUIRE MEMBER ACTION

### RESOLUTIONS

24-1114-RS1 Resolution to Maintain Acero Attendance Centers

24-1114-RS2 Resolution Affirming the Values of Chicago Public Schools and Cementing Its Status as a Welcoming District for All Students

### REPORT FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL

24-1114-AR1 Authorize Retention of The Law Firm Cozen O'Connor

### PRESENTATION

- Acero Charter Schools Update

## NON-DELEGABLE BOARD REPORT THAT REQUIRES MEMBER ACTION

### MOTION

24-1114-MO1 Motion to Hold a Closed Session

### CLOSED SESSION

- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to 2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act.

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# Guidelines for Public Participation at Chicago Board of Education Meetings

These Guidelines are designed to ensure a fair and organized process for public participation at Board of Education meetings. Below you'll find details on how to register to speak, observe meetings, and other important information. The following Guidelines for Public Participation are issued by the President of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board President" and "Board") in accordance with Board Rule 2-4.1 and replace the Guidelines that were in effect October 2023.

## General Information

### Observing the Meeting

#### Watching Online

- Members of the public, employees of the District, Local School Council members and members of other groups may view the meeting live by selecting "Watch live" on the Board's website at [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org).

#### In-Person Observer Attendance

- To attend in person, you must register in advance to assure your seat. Registration opens 48 hours before a meeting.
- There are 100 observer slots available for advance observer registration.
- If advance registration is full or has closed, same-day, in-person observer registration is also available. You can still register on the day of the meeting in person, starting at 10:15 a.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Same-day, in-person registration begins at 10:15 a.m. the day of the Committee meeting and Board meeting in the lobby at 42 W. Madison (unless the location or time is otherwise indicated). Please be aware that same-day, in-person observer registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, and registrations will be taken as open seats are available.

#### How to Register

- Online: Visit [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) (recommended)
- Phone: Call (773) 553-1600

### Accommodations - Accessibility

All meeting locations are ADA and generally accessible in consideration of those with disabilities:

Individuals with a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity who require an accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or other services to participate in a Board meeting must notify the Board Office at (773) 553-1600 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting to request the accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or other service.

Sign language interpretation is available upon request without prior notice.

### Restrictions

Current or prospective vendors wishing to present products or services for purchase should not use the public participation portion of a Board meeting for this purpose. Hand-held posters and placards are not allowed in the Board Room.

# Speaker Registration and Participation



## Advanced Speaker Registration Open Period

- Unless otherwise noted in the notice for the Board meeting, Advance Speaker Registration Open Period opens 48 hours before the meeting. This usually means registration opens at 10:30 a.m. on the Monday before a Wednesday Committee meeting and on the Tuesday before a Thursday Regular Board meeting.
- The Advance Registration Open Period will remain open for a 24 hour period.

## How to Register

- Online: Visit [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org) (recommended)
- Phone: Call (773) 553-1600

## Randomized Lottery for Speaker Selection

In order to provide more equity of voice during the public participation segment, a randomized lottery will be conducted to select speakers for any meeting where the number of registered speakers exceeds the number of slots available.

- Randomized Selection: During a 24 hour registration period, anyone interested in speaking can sign up. After this time, a lottery will randomly select a set number of speakers from those who registered. For example, if 100 people register, the lottery might select 30 of them to speak. This process gives everyone a fair chance to address the Board.
- Number of Speakers: The Board will allocate no more than 30 speaking slots to members of the general public to speak to the Board.
- Notifications: After the lottery, you'll receive an email confirming whether or not you've been selected to speak. Instructions for participating in the meeting will also be provided.
- Applicability: The Randomized Lottery applies to all Board Meetings where advanced registration is available. This system will not only apply to Board Meetings but also to other meetings where advanced registration is available, such as Committee meetings and Hearings.

## Participation

Speakers who registered via the Advance Registration process will have the option to attend in person at the location of the Board meeting or via electronic/telephonic means.

## Limitations on Speaking

To maintain a fair chance for speakers to address the Board, you may not speak at back-to-back meetings and you may not speak at more than one meeting per month.

- If you register for back-to-back meetings and more than one meeting per month, you will not be included for that meeting lottery. This ensures more opportunities for the public to address the Board.
- Speakers may not cede their time to another person.

## Speaker Remarks and Submissions

- Each speaker is given .two (2) minutes to present their remarks and materials to the Board. Speakers must end their presentation upon the request of the Board Secretary when their time is up to allow the next speaker to begin.
- All public presentations must be limited to issues of concern before the Board and/or related to the Chicago Public Schools.
- Comments of a personal nature, unrelated to the operations of Board or CPS, directed towards individual Board members, employees of the Board or any other individual are not permitted.
- It is the meeting chair's prerogative to limit the discussion of any speaker to allow for broad and diverse public participation.
- All speakers must adhere to the Behavior Expectations in the following section.

## Order of Speakers

The Board Secretary may group speakers according to a particular topic and may call certain speakers out of numerical order so that all comments regarding a particular topic may be heard together.

## Special Considerations



### Union Representatives and Public Officials

- Union representatives that are elected officers may address the Board.
- City, state, and federal officials may request to speak by contacting the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs at [IGA@cps.edu](mailto:IGA@cps.edu).
- Each union representative or public official is given five (5) minutes to present their remarks.
- Union representatives and public officials may not cede their time to another person.
- The Board Secretary at the discretion of the President may call city, state, and federal officials to speak at any time, as appropriate.

### Interpreters

- An interpreter will be provided for those speakers who wish to make their remarks in Spanish, and Spanish-language interpreters are available. If you need an interpreter for a different language, please notify the Board Office at least two (2) business days before the meeting.
- While speakers may choose to address the Board in Spanish, they will need to provide a written version of their statement the day prior to the meeting if they wish to have it translated into English during the meeting. Speakers who do not provide their statement in advance may still address the Board, but their statement will be translated and shared with Board Members at a later time.

### Behavior Expectations

- The Board values and welcomes courteous, respectful, and civil behavior from all speakers and all persons attending a Board meeting. The Board expects speakers to limit statements to those relating to the operations of the Board or CPS, and refrain from comments of a personal nature, unrelated to the operations of the Board and CPS. It is the meeting chair's prerogative to limit the discussion of any speaker to allow for broad and diverse public participation.
- Profane language, unsolicited comments, and disruptive behavior are prohibited. Individuals who are disruptive may be given a warning and may also be removed from the meeting, if necessary. If any individual is removed from a meeting as a result of disruptive behavior, the individual may forfeit their right of reentry to future Board meetings.

## Written Comments and Other Participation

### Submitting Written Comments

- Even if you are not selected to speak during Public Participation, you can submit written comments. Complete the Written Comments Form on the Board's website or send your comments by mail to 1 N. Dearborn, Suite 950, Chicago, IL 60602. Unless otherwise noted in the public notice for the Board meeting, written comments must be submitted between the posting of the Board meeting agenda and 5 p.m. the day after the Board meeting for consideration by Board members and inclusion in the meeting proceedings.

### Media and Recordings

- The Board records the public participation portion of each Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to edit any and all portions of the recording from each monthly meeting. These recordings are aired on local cable channels for the convenience of the public. Members of the public can copy any portion of the public participation or business portion of the meeting from the televised broadcast or from [www.cpsboe.org](http://www.cpsboe.org).
- An area of the Board Room will be designated for members of the media who wish to cover the Board meeting. This number may be limited in order to accommodate as many public participants as possible. Guidelines and requirements for media access to Board meetings are issued by the Office of Communications.

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to participate in Board meetings. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment.



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
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Chicago, IL 60602

## Board Report

24-1114-RS1

Agenda Date: 11/14/2024

### RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN ACERO ATTENDANCE CENTERS

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois enacted the Charter Schools Law as Public Act 89-450, effective April 10, 1996, as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board's mission is to provide a high-quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, and the Board has laid out a vision for the future of Chicago's students, parents, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board's charter selection process seeks to charter schools that share its mission, vision, and aspirations for students by creating new and innovative educational techniques and programs within the public school system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Board of Education entered into a Charter School Agreement with Acero Charter Schools, Inc. ("Acero") on February 19, 1998, and has renewed the Charter Agreement thereafter, with the current Agreement effective for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to its current Charter Agreement, Acero has operated fifteen Campuses and Attendance Centers predominantly serving Latine students; and

**WHEREAS**, by notice dated October 9, 2024, Acero notified the Board of the "closure of as many as seven (7) Attendance Centers," which identifies seven campuses only as "subject to" closure; and

**WHEREAS**, Acero asserted in its notice that closures are "in the best interests" of Acero's continued operations and financial security; and

**WHEREAS**, if permitted to close seven Attendance Centers at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, approximately 2,000 students will be displaced from their public school and approximately 270 educational staff will be laid off of work; and

**WHEREAS**, closing seven Attendance Centers could cause substantial disruption and harm to the education of Acero's students and employment of its staff; and



**WHEREAS**, Acero's announced closures are inconsistent with the educational mission of the Board and call into question whether the Board should renew Acero's Charter School Agreement in 2026;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO THAT:**

1. Acero representatives are directed to appear before the Board at a date and time to be determined between Acero and the Board, but in no event more than \_\_\_\_\_ days after adoption of this Resolution, to explain the basis for its October 9, 2024 notice of its intention to close "up to" seven (7) Attendance Centers.
2. The Board and Acero shall mutually discuss and explore alternatives that enable Acero to continue operating its fifteen Attendance Centers through June 30, 2026.
3. Should Acero proceed with closing seven (7) Attendance Centers before the next school year:
  1. It shall return all unspent public funds and property as required under 105 ILCS 5/27A-10.10 and Acero's Charter School Agreement; and
  2. This action may be considered in whether to renew Acero's Charter Agreement for another term in 2026.
4. To minimize the potential disruption to the Acero students, the 2025-26 GoCPS application deadline shall be extended to December 15, 2024.



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
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## Board Report

24-1114-RS2

**Agenda Date:** 11/14/2024

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### **RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE VALUES OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CEMENTING ITS STATUS AS A WELCOMING DISTRICT FOR ALL STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Board of Education (Board) wholeheartedly embraces its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Board to prohibit unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or sex (includes gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and pregnancy-related medical conditions), race or ethnicity, ethnic group identification, ancestry, nationality, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, age, immigration status, marital status, registered domestic partner status, genetic information, political belief or affiliation (not union-related), military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in the educational programs or activities the Board operates; and

**WHEREAS**, all CPS staff and students are entitled to their First Amendment right to free speech, but harassment, discrimination, and bias-based harm have no place in CPS school communities and will not be tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, students and staff deserve a safe and supportive space to process, grieve, share, reflect, learn, and take action together. CPS encourages engagement with students to discuss difficult, controversial, or emotionally charged topics in a safe and productive manner. In doing so, CPS provides guidance and resources for supporting, managing, and reflecting on student civil discourse, civic learning, and civic engagement. This includes recognizing the factors that have shaped perspectives, including life experience, family, culture, and identity. The purpose is to provide space where young people generate questions, explore their curiosities, strengthen their civic skills, and analyze aspects of our society and government; and

**WHEREAS**, CPS' students, staff and their families originate from many different countries besides the United States, may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), may be undocumented and/or may live in mixed status households (meaning one or various members of the family can be

undocumented while others have some kind of temporary or permanent status); and

**WHEREAS**, CPS reflects the diverse population of the world, which the district celebrates in many ways through a student's daily experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Presidential Election may have caused fear, concern, confusion, sadness, anger, or anxiety in CPS staff, students, and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, CPS is committed to ensuring students have access to a high-quality, well-rounded, rigorous, and joyful education. To achieve this, CPS continuously works to ensure that students see themselves reflected in the curriculum by incorporating LGBTQIA+, disabled, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other historical figures into its lessons. CPS also follows the State of Illinois' mandate to teach LGBTQIA+ history in its public schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION, THAT:**

1. CPS will work alongside its union partners and immigration advocates to provide training and support for students, staff and their families on immigrant rights, understanding various legal statuses, and the overall health and well-being of those affected.
2. CPS will provide multi-language resources for its students, staff, and their families in partnership with the City on legal assistance, immigrant rights, mental health care, and public safety.
3. CPS will include in its legislative agenda advocacy at the state and federal levels for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protective Status, and Refugee Settlement Programs, as well as oppose any legislation for the creation of a Muslim registry system or eroding civil rights protections upon our communities.
4. CPS schools will always welcome all students, staff and their families regardless of legal status.
5. CPS will not provide assistance to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law. Therefore, ICE will not be permitted access to CPS facilities or personnel except in the rare instances in which CPS is provided with a criminal warrant.



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
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Chicago, IL 60602

## Board Report

24-1114-AR1

Agenda Date: 11/14/2024

### AUTHORIZE RETENTION OF THE LAW FIRM COZEN O'CONNOR

#### THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Retention of the law firm Cozen O'Connor for Fiscal Year 2025.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Board has retained the law firm Cozen O'Connor to represent the Board of Education in connection with matters as deemed appropriate by the Board. Authorization is requested in the amount of \$40,000 for the firm's services to represent the Board. As invoices are received they will be reviewed by the General Counsel, and if satisfactory, processed for payment.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** None.

**FINANCIAL:** Charge \$40,000.00 to Law Department - Professional Services:  
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....10210-115

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.


Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted August 24, 2023 (23-0824-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability - The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

APPROVED,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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RUCHI VERMA  
General Counsel



# Board of Education

Office of the Board  
1 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 950  
Chicago, IL 60602

## Board Report

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24-1114-MO1

**Agenda Date:** 11/14/2024

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### **MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION ADOPTED/FAILED**, that the Board hold a closed session to consider the following matters:

- (1) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to 2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act.