

**June 18, 2024, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments  
Received between Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> Submitted via  
Written Comments Form**

1	<p>I want to publicly request this Board to officially extend Public Speakers time from 2 minutes to 3 minutes. 2 minutes is not enough time to fully articulate extremely important ideas and proposals. The Chicago City Council has set a exemplary standard of allowing 3 minutes for each public participant to speak at public meetings. This publicly accessible and forward thinking Board of Education can and should also adopt this policy.</p>
2	<p>I am writing to express my deep frustration with the lack of transparency and comprehensiveness surrounding the development of the new five-year strategic plan. While I appreciate the inclusion of the Student Voice Roundtable presentation at the May board meeting, that presentation has not been made available on the website. In addition, it is unacceptable that similar feedback from the Strategic Plan Community Forums and EFMP Community Roundtables held earlier this year remains unavailable.</p> <p>The public deserves full transparency and access to all voices contributing to this crucial plan. Furthermore, the decision to postpone discussion on Priority 3: "Inclusive and Collaborative School and Community" raises concerns about genuine community engagement. The timeline on the CPS website indicates a June release for the draft plan, yet there's been no mention of soliciting feedback on school choice and selective enrollment processes.</p> <p>Therefore, I urge the Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately release a comprehensive report on the CPS website summarizing all community feedback received during the Strategic Plan forums and roundtables, including the Student Voice Roundtable presentation featured at the May board meeting.</li> <li>• Clearly define a timeline for addressing Priority 3: "Inclusive and Collaborative School and Community," including dedicated community engagement opportunities focused on school choice, selective enrollment processes, and other aspects of fostering a truly inclusive school environment.</li> </ul> <p>Only through inclusive and transparent practices can we ensure a strategic plan that truly reflects the needs of all CPS students and communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
3	<p>I am a local Marine Corps Recruiter out of Oak Lawn office, requesting to see how I can be useful to the committee and community of Chicago.</p> <p>I understand the desire for additional time mentioned during public comment in the Agenda meeting. After a year observing the process and participating in many, Agenda, Committee and board meetings I believe 2 minutes is appropriate for Agenda and Board Meetings and maybe 3 in a community meeting like the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. 2 minutes allows for the board and staff to get a big picture and creates pathways for follow-up. In a busy meeting, 3 minutes would add at least 30 minutes to a meeting with 30 public participants.</p> <p>However, where the board could improve is with tangible follow-up communication, especially when it's a parent speaking to the board about a specific incident that involved their child. This year I've seen some parents praise staff and faculty and it would be great if you could chalk the win and let that parent know that a board member sent that</p>

teacher a note saying "keep up the good work" (or some other form of acknowledgement)

Or more commonly, a parent looking for answers and accountability should also feel like they have an advocate in the board to uncover those answers and I'm not confident the board has a great tool for tracking and understanding individual issues that have escalated to a parent standing in front of them.

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# ATTACHMENTS

Good Morning board, thank you for letting me speak.

Before I drone on and on about busing I wanted to share a quick thought about the loss of the Library position at InterAmerican. Without Spanish speaking librarians, we risk alienating a significant portion of the cps student body. A bilingual librarian reflects the diverse linguistic needs of the student population.

As you vote on money transfers this month, I'd like you to pay particular attention to Page 2973 on the page counter or 2637 at the bottom of the page line 13181 in the [Agenda for the Agenda Review Committee Meeting](#) Document.

**13181 Transfer from School Transportation - City Wide to Oscar Mayer Magnet School**

**20240453981**

Rationale: Concussion of the parental IRS Mileage reimbursement program for the SY 23 24

**Transfer From:**

11940 School Transportation - City Wide School  
115 General Education Fund  
Fund  
54210 Pupil Transportation  
255021 Options Student Transportation  
000000 Default Value

**Transfer to:**

24401 Oscar Mayer Magnet  
115 General Education  
54210 Pupil Transportation  
255021 Options Student Transportation  
000000 Default Value

Amount: \$27,856

It seems to be providing \$27,856 to Oscar Mayer, for the purpose of reimbursing parents for Mileage for this School Year 23-24. Oscar Mayer is a CPS Montessori Magnet school in Lincoln Park.

Not only Lincoln Park's Oscar Mayer, but two other northside schools appear to continue to offer funding to reimburse parents for transportation; Disney II and LaSalle II. All three seem to have maintained the mileage reimbursements they have offered since their inception to gen-ed students living 1.5-6 miles away from school, with no caveats towards IEP or STLS students. I would love it if you could prove that statement incorrect.

I've been told all year that we can't share our para-transit with a family that lives three minutes away because they don't have transportation on their 504 and it wouldn't be equitable, yet three minutes in the other direction it appears to be business as usual for the Disney II transportation model.

Let me conclude by saying my numbers and sources are the same as yours, the agenda for the Agenda Review Committee Meeting. Additional supporting material is Disney II's parent reimbursement form on their website, which mentions all three schools.

I would love to be proved wrong, and hope a little digging by yourselves will prove me wrong and uncover reasonable answers and that these northside schools are not distributing transportation allowances to gen ed student's families.

I'm just a parent making a fuss-Why have you held back transportation allowances from only some of us?