

February 22, 2024 Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Tuesday, February 20th and Friday, February 23rd
Submitted via Written Comments Form

1

Respectfully submitted to the Chicago Board of Education:

The Transportation Office is NOT providing the transportation stipend to some Diverse Learners with IEPs that state the student is eligible for transportation, even after all paperwork has been submitted. Does the district hope families give up in securing their transportation funds? Have these funds been redirected without the knowledge of parents? When there is no follow through from the Transportation Office what other options do families of Diverse Learners have? Legal action?

Families have been told (essentially pressured) by CPS staff/administrators to deny transportation (per the bus driver shortage) and a stipend would be provided.

Families of Diverse Learners need these funds. Families expect these funds after they were told to deny transportation and a stipend would be sent on a monthly basis.

Families are self-transporting without the stipend. Families should put pressure on CPS to release these funds.

Does the staff in the Transportation office lack competence and follow through? Have these transportation stipend funds been redirected elsewhere? Why the extreme delay in sending out checks to families? Why was the Google form for Student Transportation: Request to Opt Into the Financial Incentive Program for SY23-24 removed from CPS's Transportation Office website?

"Families of diverse learners or students in temporary living situations who would like an alternative to District-provided transportation may apply for up to \$500 per month in financial aid from CPS (Based on the amount of actual learning days for the month). This is subject to approval.

Criteria for eligibility are as follows:

1. Financial Incentive is available ONLY to students in temporary living situations (STLS) and/or students who have transportation services included in their IEPs or 504 Plans.

2. Attendance must be at or above 20% in order to qualify for that month's payment

3. Accepting this monthly financial incentive means that you will be responsible for supplying transportation for your child to and from school.

If you are able to self-transport your child for the duration of the school year, please complete the form below and a member of CPS Transportation Services will be in contact for further actions.

Please complete ONE form for EACH child you wish to opt-out.

Please note that choosing to opt into the Financial Incentive Program for SY23-24 does not result in the loss of transportation services. Families who choose to opt out of the financial incentive program may do so and choose to be routed at any time. Routing may be delayed contingent on capacity.”

Please do right by these students identified by the district as priority students! Send the Transportation Stipend checks to families of Diverse Learners immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A mother of two Diverse Learners

2

Hello Board Members and CEO Martinez,

My name is Walter Brzeski.

I need all of your help as the CPS FOIA Dept. has refused to respond with the requested documentation in the following FOIA Requests sent in by me to them. The CPS FOIA Dept has taken multiple extensions without my agreement to respond and promised response dates that they didn't respond on. Here are the FOIA Requests:

1.) N014194-091223 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 105)

All construction plans, CPS FY2023 and FY2024 Budget details, capital budget spending documents, and board approvals for ADA work to be done at Steinmetz HS for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school year. This work was promised/agreed to by CPS in complaint #2019-DRC-6390 registered with the Illinois Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau. Also, include any and all documents submitted by Chicago Public Schools in this complaint to the Illinois Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau.

2.) N014253-092523 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 95)

CPS ADA Office's log of all requests for ADA accommodations by both CPS employees and non-employees for the period of August 1, 2023 through September 25, 2023 to include but not limited to the number of requests, denied requests, approved requests, individuals requesting ADA accommodations, requested location at the CPS facility of building, date of the request, and date approved or denied of the request. Additionally, the personnel file, salary/work history, resume, employee application card/file with prior work and education experience of Stephanie Sanchez (ADA Office).

3.) N014469-111023 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 62)

Investigative and disciplinary files for Gina Szulkowski of Steinmetz College Prep HS, including her reinstatement and any disciplinary determinations or warning given to her to able to return to her teaching position for the 2023-24 school year.

4.) N014537-112923 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 52)

All e-mails between [REDACTED] and cps.edu email addresses between the dates of September 1, 2022 and October 20, 2022. Emails do exist as they were mentioned in a lawsuit on this link:

<https://illinois.tylertech.cloud/DownloadResource.ashx?RID=199c3015-2762-4cf4-9147-aad809870936> (Case No: 2023L000727 - STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT –LAW DIVISION - VINCE CAPUTI, TARA DUNNE, ASHOK EMMANUEL, and GINA SZULKOWSKI, Plaintiffs v. MASTER SERGEANT CORNELL DAVIS, Defendant)

5.) N014563-120423 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 49)

CPS' responses to the following FOIA Requests: N014253-092523, N014194-091223, N014245-092423, & N013919-071123

6.) N014630-122223 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 35)

All invoices/receipts for food and beverage along with merchandise purchases by Steinmetz High School and their administration for their employees and for all Professional Development Days & all other meetings for the 2022-23 & 2023-24 school years.

7.) N014631-122223 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 35)

All invoices and receipts for Hello Kitty sweatshirts and other merchandise purchased by Steinmetz HS and their administration for their clerks and other Steinmetz employees for the 2022-23 & 2023-24 school years.

8.) N014734-012624 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 34)

All financial and legal documents, including but not limited to case files, record keeping and bookkeeping, repayment plans, canceled checks, invoices, receipts, balance statements, debt forgiveness or write-off documents, and demand for payment maintained by CPS to show repayment of money reported stolen from CPS by Robert Tirado (Lake View High School) in a vendor scheme. FISCAL YEAR 2013 OIG INVESTIGATIONS FRAUDULENT VENDOR SCHEME....The OIG conducted an investigation at a high school aft

3 I am writing to support the resolution to remove police officers from Chicago Public Schools (24-0222-RS1). I am a university professor and live in Chicago (Rogers Park neighborhood). In 2020, I was asked by my CPS teacher friends to testify about the research evidence against SROs in public schools during Chicago Board of Education and LSC meetings. According to multiple reviews of research, which look across studies to determine the overall trends, "there is no conclusive evidence that SRO's reduce crime among students or prevent mass shootings." SRO's have, at best, zero effect on school safety and may make school violence worse. This means there is no safety benefit to having police in schools. But there are many, many costs. Schools with police officers suspend and expel more students, arrest more students, and have lower attendance. In addition, students report feeling greater fear, disconnection, and disengagement in schools with police. Finally, within schools, students may experience verbal harassment and physical brutality from police. We also have to talk about who is

	<p>experiencing these negative outcomes. We know that nationally, Black students are 3 times as likely as white students to be arrested, and in CPS in 2020, it was 4 times. This means that when schools have police, we are literally putting Black and Latinx students in harm's way. When I originally testified with this evidence, we wanted the district to enact a policy removing police officers, rather than letting the harms continue school by school. I am happy that the persistence of Black Lives Matter advocates has finally brought us to this point, where the Board will vote on removing police officers from Chicago Public Schools and replacing them with social workers, nurses, teachers, counselors, and coaches--the people who holistically support students every day and can create an authentic feeling of safety. I applaud this Board for returning to this significant issue and will be applauding again when its members vote yes. Thank you!</p>
4	<p>Why is it that Chicago public schools get mad when I keep my child home from school when she is sick??? For example she had Covid they wanted her to come with mask on now she has pink eye bad in both eyes they want her there why cause they ain't getting paid for her child public schools are a joke and something needs to be done with the school it needs to be cleaned (Alexander Graham) is the school</p>
5	<p>Chicago is a city of 77 neighborhoods, each unique and with its strengths and weaknesses. Chicago is a city of over 600 schools, each unique with its strengths and weaknesses. Their needs differ. I urge you to allow each Local School Council to decide for themselves if their school still needs school resources officers. For some schools, they provoked discord. In others, they provided extra services for students not available in other ways and are greatly appreciated. We, in our homes or offices, cannot understand all the dynamics involved. PLEASE, allow each school to decide if these officers are needed or not. If you present them with some other options for using that money as has been stated, then each school must look at their unique needs and make an informed decision. I do not believe that the School Board is able to make that decision for each school. Please do not make a top down decision that you will not have to work with on a day-to-day basis.</p>
6	<p>Hi, I am Chicago city resident against police presence inside of our schools... My children, grandchildren, nices and nephews have attended public schools from which some have already graduated...I have seen the need within our schools and it is not precisely a police presence that, instead of protects, intimidates...Violence should not be in the mind of children if they had their basic needs covered ...In my opinion what CPS needs is an educational reform where our children get what they deserve " Be a priority" Which for that intention is the part of public taxes and especially property taxes that this department receives...Violence will never be removed from our schools with violence...A more appropriate solution to eliminate the cancer of violence within schools is to have an equitable distribution of public funds, where all school districts receive what is needed to the good education of our children...And the most important thing is that these public funds are managed with transparency by people with good moral quality, who are committed to one of the most noble and important professions in the life of a human being, Education, an education in its formation not only academic but also emotional and mental to be able to become healthy adults responsible for their own life in the future...Our schools need an educational reform where there is room for mental, spiritual, emotional and physical health professionals, not the presence of officers trained to combat violence, accustomed to responding with violence and not with conscience...</p>
7	<p>Schools should be a safe space for students, and safety cannot exist when students are forced to be around SROs. I stand in support with students and advocates calling for the removal of SROs and call on the CBOE to cancel the \$10.5 million contract between CPS and CPD and the investment of \$180,000 per officer back into schools for safety.</p>

Students and families should be deciding how the \$180,000 currently used to pay for each officer should instead be used to create safety in their school.

8

Good afternoon:

We are reaching out to you hoping you can help.

We believe the law has been misinterpreted by CPS equity team and we would like to get some clarification, however when we reached out to the Equity team, they just kept saying that they are in compliance with the law. When the law was read and reviewed it did not specify new signage in all school bathrooms, it clearly specifies privacy protection for all students. Our petition is clear in our message below and we would like somebody who can help us. Please understand our position as parents who are acting on the best of our best intentions.

Would you please assign somebody who can advocate for us and help us with this situation?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Parents at Garcia, Zizumbo and Torres - Acero schools

PETITION:

Since February 5th, parents have been trying to get transparent communication in regards to the physical plan laid out for the Garcia, Torres and Zizumbo school bathrooms.

Parents care and want to ensure that the right of privacy is inclusive for all students and we would like to have a copy of the physical plan laid out so any student who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, shall be provided with reasonable alternative arrangements.

We kindly request that all additional signs women+, men+ recently placed in all bathrooms be removed to avoid student's confusion. Meanwhile ensuring inclusion the school can make the proper accommodations to students who request on an individual case.

We hope our request can be granted hoping for a positive outcome for the wellbeing and inclusivity of all students.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Adam Vazquez and

	<p>Parents of Garcia, Torres, Zizumbo</p> <p>we have collected over 100 signatures supporting this petition.</p>
9	<p>I keep thinking if I could just put the right words together in the right order it will move you. Then I realized the words don't need to come from me. They've already come from you. We're standing on the shoulders of everything you've done for students with disabilities, english language learners and low-income students before and after you were on this board.</p> <p>BUT the word that needs to come from you is "NO", No, Mr. Martinez you are not allowed to disenfranchise 30% of the bused population. No, Mr. Mayfield, we made a promise to these kids in Kindergarten to get them to school, we're not going to go back on our word in 4th grade. No, Ms. Jones, We are not going to send one student to school in a vehicle costing the district \$80, 000 per year when we can send 4 in that vehicle. The paratransit vehicle cost range is \$26,\$80\$ Where's the audit you asked for, because one company is charging over 3xs as much. To deliver the same service.</p> <p>With regards to the New Resolution, I keep hearing "No Policies have been changed", but what I'm seeing is "Never waste a good crisis" By refusing to come up with reliable solutions, you are pushing students away from their chosen schools if you remove the vehicle that student is taking to her schools. You've put up the barrier to their education. You've isolated 30% of your bused students 85% low income primarily from south and west side neighborhoods If you are not removing "selective enrollment schools", but removing the means to get there, that's just smoke and mirrors. And you ARE pushing students away from them.</p> <p>I'm just a father making a fuss When will you let our kids back on the bus.</p>
10	<p>Suggestion Regarding the bus driver challenges-</p> <p>I think it can be said that parents have not flocked to the CTA as an option for getting their youngest bused students to school. However if the role of "Bus Marshal" were created and thought about like a position like a crossing guard/bus monitor/seca, I think it could go a long way towards families adopting the CTA option. In practice the Bus Marshals would ride a particular CTA route at a specific time. ie- Bus Marshal Martina would get on the bus going east on Irving Park at Independance Park. She would get on the first bus after 8:00am. InterAmerican students (or any other Students) could get on that bus. At Freemont and Irving she and the interAmerican Students would exit the bus and walk several blocks to school. She would have a separate job at the school and at the end of the day walk the Irving Bus Students back to the bus stop. Parents could meet their students at any stop along Irving Park Rd. Is this idea perfect, definitely not, but it makes exceptional use of the resources available and I believe could be imporved upon to make it a functional mode of transportation for CPS.</p>
11	<p>I'm asking just one board member to stand up to the "decision maker" who everyone else is afraid to defy. We know there is a bus driver shortage, but we also know that you have the power to grant transportation allowances, but someone has decided not to, and this person or persons won't admit publicly who they are. One or two people made the decision to destroy students' access to SEES and Magnet schools this year, and the rest of the board is just going along with it and protecting the identity of that person. If you are</p>

one of the board members who knows this is wrong, please stand up for what is right for the low income students attending SEES and Magnet schools and fight for a transportation allowance now.

ATTACHMENTS

Hello Board Members and CEO Martinez,

My name is Walter Brzeski.

I need all of your help as the CPS FOIA Dept. has refused to respond with the requested documentation in the following FOIA Requests sent in by me to them. The CPS FOIA Dept has taken multiple extensions without my agreement to respond and promised response dates that they didn't respond on. Here are the FOIA Requests:

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http://www.cpsoid.org/uploads/3/6/1/7/3617112/oig_fy_2013_annualreport.pdf)**

9.) N014754-013124 (Business days awaiting the responsive documentation from CPS: 12)

Steinmetz College Prep Internal Accounts documents for each regular Steinmetz LSC meeting he 2022-2023 and 2023-24 school years along with any emails these documents are attached to and submitted and emailed to the Steinmetz LSC and its members by principal Anna Vilchez to be approved by the LSC. CPS Email addresses to search to locate the documents are as follows: Anna Vilchez (avilchez@cps.edu), Vince Caputi (vlcaputi@cps.edu), Tara Dunne (tsdunne@cps.edu), and Rolando Rodriguez (rrodriguez229@cps.edu) Keyword(s): Internal Accounts. Let it be known, I requested these same documents from the Steinmetz LSC and the Steinmetz LSC FOIA Officer (Norma Lopez-Murillo) and she denied the documents without a legal reason.

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT



February 22, 2024

Chicago Board of Education
1 North Dearborn, Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602
(773) 553-1600
boe@cps.edu

Via E-Mail

RE: DECISION TO REMOVE POLICE FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education:

We write on behalf of Advancement Project and the Alliance for Educational Justice to enthusiastically support the decision to terminate the contract between the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and fully remove police from schools. As such, we applaud the introduction of the resolution to create a comprehensive school safety policy and highly encourage you to vote to end the contract at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. We know that this is not an easy decision to make, and we further applaud the courage of every school board member who is ready to meet this moment.

This monumental change for Chicago's schools would not have been possible without years of organizing by young people and organizations like the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC), who continue to fight for a safe, welcoming school system in which students, families, and communities thrive. We urge you now to commit to fully executing that vision by reinvesting the \$180,000 per officer¹ that CPS was spending into funding for resources that will truly create safer schools. The nearly \$10.3 million currently spent on policing² should instead be spent on funding real community safety, including trauma-informed resources and supports for young people and their families. We know that the safest schools are the schools with the most resources – that have cultures of care, not punishment and criminalization.

We previously wrote to the Board in June of 2020, at the height of the pandemic and the racial justice movements occurring across the country.³ At the time, we urged you to listen to youth and organizers calling for CopsOutCPS and the removal of police from schools. While we welcomed

¹ This amount is derived by dividing the \$10.3 million contract with CPD by the 57 police officers the contract covers.

² Nader Issa, "Board of Education moves to pull school police officers," The Chicago Sun Times (Feb. 20, 2024), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2024/02/20/board-education-moves-pull-school-police-officers>.

³ Advancement Project and Alliance for Educational Justice, "Letter to Chicago Board of Education: #PoliceFreeSchools is both possible and necessary," (Jun. 26, 2020), <https://advancementproject.org/resources/letter-to-chicago-board-of-education-policefreeschools-is-both-possible-and-necessary/>.

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the decision to reduce the funding for police by \$21 million,⁴ we knew that there was still work to be done to completely end the policing and criminalization of Chicago’s students and families.

For 25 years, Advancement Project, a national racial justice organization, has pioneered efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline. We collaborate with organizations like BPNC on similar efforts and are proud to support the progress they have made in Chicago. Our organization has been monitoring and objecting to the actions of police in CPS since 2003 in support of local grassroots organizations. Together with BPNC and the Alliance for Educational Justice – a national network of 35 youth and intergenerational organizing groups of color across 12 states – we remain steadfast in urging school districts to invest in the resources and supports that actually meet the diverse needs of young people, particularly after having experienced a once-in-a-generation pandemic.

As demonstrated by data and numerous studies, we know that the mere presence of police in schools serves to reinforce and accelerate the school-to-prison pipeline. According to data released by the U.S. Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2017-2018 school year, Black boys were subjected to arrest and law enforcement referrals at rates more than two times higher than their white peers, while Black girls were 3.7 times more likely to be arrested than white girls.⁵ Research shows that higher discipline rates for students of color are not due to higher rates of misbehavior, but instead due to systemic racism.⁶ A March 2018 report from the Government Accountability Office confirms this fact. The study concluded that stark disparities persist in the administration of discipline for Black students and students with disabilities across the country.⁷

Despite the prevalent myths equating police with safety, there is no conclusive evidence that the presence of police in schools reduces violence. Conversely, research on police in schools confirms that school police do not create safety, they create harm. A Brown University study released in October 2021 found that school police neither prevent school shootings nor gun-related incidents.⁸ Further, the researchers found that the presence of school resource officers harms school environments and increases the number of student arrests and referrals to law enforcement as well as the use of suspensions and expulsions. The presence of police in schools also increases

⁴ Mila Koumpilova, “Chicago school board backs funding for campus police – and an initiative to reduce reliance on it,” Chalkbeat Chicago (Jun. 28, 2023), <https://www.chalkbeat.org/chicago/2023/6/28/23777534/chicago-public-schools-police-contract-whole-school-safety/>.

⁵ Rebecca Epstein, Erin Godfrey, Thalia González, and Shabnam Javdani, *Data Snapshot: 2017-2018 National Data on School Discipline by Race and Gender* (2020), [New CRDC Data Fact Sheet \(georgetown.edu\)](https://www.georgetown.edu/crdc/data-fact-sheet).

⁶ Russel J. Skiba and Natasha T. Williams, *Are Black Kids Worse? Myths and Facts About Racial Differences In Behavior: A Summary of the Literature*, Indiana University (Mar. 2014), https://indrc.indiana.edu/tools-resources/pdf-disciplineseries/african_american_differential_behavior_031214.pdf.

⁷ U.S. Government Accountability Office, *K-12 EDUCATION: Discipline Disparities for Black Students, Boys, and Students with Disabilities* (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-258>.

⁸ Sorensen, et. al. Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. *The Thin Blue Line in Schools: New Evidence on School-Based Policing Across the U.S.* (2021). <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/ai21-476>

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absenteeism among students with disabilities.⁹ Researchers at Hamline University found that there is no association between the presence of a school resource officer and the deterrence of violence. In fact, they found a higher mortality rate when an armed officer is present during a school mass shooting.¹⁰

Not only do school police not keep young people safe, they actually create harm. Last year we released a report on police violence in schools titled “#AssaultAtSpringValley,” analyzing over 370 incidents of police assaults – including physical and sexual assaults – against children in schools since 2011.¹¹ Seven of these assaults occurred in Chicago: #AssaultAtHainesElementary, #AssaultAtCYD, #AssaultAtMarshall, #AssaultAtMcCutcheon, #AssaultAtWestinghouse, #AssaultAtFarragut, and #AssaultAtTheodoreRoosevelt.¹² This analysis on school police violence follows our first report on policing in schools, titled “We Came to Learn,” that chronicled the violent history of school policing in the United States and the ongoing harms that students, especially Black and Latine students, face at the hands of school police officers.¹³

Within CPS, young people of color receive suspensions, expulsions, and police notifications at greater rates than their white counterparts. During the 2022-2023 school year, Black students made up 58.1% of all suspensions, 80% of all expulsions, and 62.1% of police notifications, despite only being 35.8% of the total enrollment in the district.¹⁴ Further, every school year in CPS there are hundreds of calls made to police – between July 2018 and April 2022 there were a total of 11,783 police notifications throughout the district.¹⁵ Troublingly, many of these notifications were sent to police to address concerns like wellness checks and suicidal ideation, criminalizing students in need rather than providing professional care and support.

You now have a great responsibility before you – the opportunity to provide real safety and support for the thousands of young people and families who rely on CPS. That will only be possible by removing police from schools and terminating the contract with CPD. We also caution you against looking at other carceral systems as “solutions,” including surveillance technologies like cameras and weapons detection systems. These technologies also serve to police and criminalize young people and their families while negatively impacting the learning environment. Young people in Chicago deserve care and community, not policing and harm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessica Alcantara, Senior Staff Attorney, at [REDACTED] or to

⁹ Sorensen, et. al. Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. *The Thin Blue Line in Schools: New Evidence on School-Based Policing Across the U.S.* (2021). <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/ai21-476>

¹⁰ Peterson, et. al. Hamline University. *Presence of Armed School Officials and Fatal and Nonfatal Gunshot Injuries During Mass Shootings.* (2021). <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2776515>

¹¹ See <https://policefreeschools.org/resources/assaultatspringvalley-2023-analysis-of-police-violence/>.

¹² See #AssaultAt Map, <https://policefreeschools.org/map/>.

¹³ See <https://advancementproject.org/wecametolearn/>.

¹⁴ Chicago Public Schools, “Suspensions and Expulsions,” <https://www.cps.edu/about/district-data/metrics/>.

¹⁵ This information was obtained via FOIA request N010690-032522, submitted 03/25/2022, completed 08/03/2022, [https://cps.mycusthelp.com/webapp/rs/\(S\(azuvhrakerklcqotubaicipo\)\)/RequestArchiveDetails.aspx?rid=10690](https://cps.mycusthelp.com/webapp/rs/(S(azuvhrakerklcqotubaicipo))/RequestArchiveDetails.aspx?rid=10690).

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT



Maria Fernandez, Managing Director of Campaign Strategies, at

Sincerely,

Judith Browne Dianis
Executive Director
Advancement Project

Leidy Robledo
Co-Executive Director
Alliance for Educational Justice

Keno Walker
Co-Executive Director

CC: *Jianan Shi*
President

Elizabeth Todd-Breland
Vice President

Mariela Estrada
Member

Mary Fahey Hughes
Member

Rudy Lozano, Jr.
Member

Michelle Morales
Member

Tanya D. Woods
Member

Dr. Angel Alvarez Written Comments for CPS Board Meeting 2/22/24

I believe in accountability and transparency; I believe it is the best way to get to truth and justice. That's why I released a report showing the racial disparities in police utilization in our schools and provided low-cost and high-impact recommendations to solve this problem. But it wasn't the high schools with SROs that showed the greatest racial disparities. I will be releasing a follow-up report highlighting my recent findings. The biggest misuse of police was in elementary schools, elementary schools do not have SROs, and they show the greatest racial disparities in police interactions with students. King, Leland, and Hey were among the ones that showed the highest use of police that targeted Black children, and these are some of the same schools that are doing it today. We shouldn't demonize police when it is CPS bureaucrats who are making the phone calls and misusing and abusing police officers to discipline Black and Brown children. We need to bring transparency and accountability to these schools and bureaucrats.

Neglecting low-income students of color is not new; it is something that CPS has been doing for generations. Let's focus on some recent decisions regarding transportation cuts. The transportation cuts that targeted magnet and selective enrollment students disproportionately hurt low-income students of color. Eighty-five percent of the students that lost busing were low-income, and the majority were students of color. Suppose you don't want to believe me and the analysis I performed using CPS data. In that case, you should ask the 50 low-income students at Ericson Magnet who aren't there this year after busing cuts, the 68 low-income students at Robert A Black who aren't there this year after transportation cuts, or the 75 low-income students at Beasley that aren't there this year. Do you believe that hundreds of families decided they were going to take their kids out of the best-performing schools in the city, coincidentally after CPS cut busing? No!

Let's go back to 2012 when we faced \$3.9 billion in deferred maintenance and needed repairs. CPS bureaucrats insisted they needed to close 50 schools that served primarily low-income students of color because that was the only way to achieve fiscal solvency and ensure our operations were sustainable. They closed those schools, and 10 years later, we have \$600 million in annual deficits and \$14.4 billion in needed maintenance and repairs. These same bureaucrats are saying, this time, they can solve the problems THEY created. They should have solved them years ago. They didn't. Based on these outcomes, if those bureaucrats think they did a good job serving our students and providing fiscal accountability, they are both racist and stupid. We need more accountability and transparency, and need forward-looking statements about the budget deficit.

Thank you.
Dr. Angel Alvarez