

CHI CAGO PUBLI C SCHOOLS
PUBLI C BUDGET HEARI NG
hel d on
Wednesday, August 23, 2017

STENOGRAPHI C REPORT OF PROCEEDI NG S had i n
the above-entit led matter at Chi cago Publ ic
School s Loop Offi ce, 42 West Madi son Street,
Garden Level , Board Room, Chi cago, Illi noi s,
commenci ng at 12: 30 p. m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MR. FRANK CLARK, Presi dent
MR. MARK FURLONG
DR. MAHALI A HINES
MS. GAI L WARD

Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR
Li cense No. : 084-004072

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ALSO PRESENT:

- MR. FORREST CLAYPOOL, Chief Executive Officer
- MR. RONALD MARMER, General Counsel
- DR. JANICE JACKSON, Chief Education Officer
- MS. ESTELA BELTRAN, Secretary to the Board

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PRESIDENT CLARK: Good morning, Ladies and gentlemen. I'm Frank Clark. Some of you said good morning back, I'm not accustomed to that, thank you. On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I want to thank you for coming today. The purpose of this hearing is to comply with the School Code provisions regarding Fiscal Year 18 Budget.

Madam Secretary, please state for the record the notice procedure for this hearing.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Chicago, and posted at the Board Room, Principal Office, 42 West Madison Street Lobby on August 18, 2017. The notice was also posted on CPSBOE.ORG website on August 14th, 2017. I will now read into the record the public notice as published:

Notice: Public Hearings FY18 Budget for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Chicago Board of Education, commonly known as Chicago Public Schools.

12: 38: 25 1 To Whom It May Concern: Public notice
12: 38: 27 2 is hereby given by the Chicago Board of
12: 38: 29 3 Education that it has prepared an FY18 Budget
12: 38: 32 4 for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year in tentative form
12: 38: 36 5 and that five copies thereof available for
12: 38: 39 6 public inspection have been filed and are now on
12: 38: 41 7 file in the Office of the Board of Education of
12: 38: 43 8 the City of Chicago, commonly known as Chicago
12: 38: 47 9 Public Schools, One North Dearborn Street, Suite
12: 38: 50 10 950, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, and available at
12: 38: 53 11 WWW.CPS.EDU/BUDGET.

12: 38: 58 12 And that said Board of Education will
12: 38: 59 13 hold two public hearings upon said budget on the
12: 39: 03 14 23rd day of August 2017. The first hearing,
12: 39: 06 15 Chicago Public Schools Loop Office, 42 West
12: 39: 09 16 Madison Street, Garden Level, Board Room,
12: 39: 11 17 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. The hearing time
12: 39: 13 18 12: 30 p.m. to 12: 30 -- I'm sorry, 12: 30 p.m. to
12: 39: 18 19 2: 30 p.m., and the registration from 11 a.m. to
12: 39: 21 20 12 p.m. And the second hearing, Chicago Public
12: 39: 24 21 Schools Loop Office, 42 West Madison Street,
12: 39: 26 22 Garden Level, Board Room, Chicago, Illinois,
12: 39: 29 23 60602. The hearing time 3: 30 p.m. to 5: 30 p.m.,
12: 39: 33 24 and the registration from 2: 30 p.m. to 3: 30 p.m.

12: 39: 39 1 Dated at Chicago, Illinois, August 11,
12: 39: 40 2 2017. Chicago Board of Education. By, Frank M.
12: 39: 43 3 Clark President, and attested by Estela G.
12: 39: 46 4 Beltran, Secretary.

12: 39: 48 5 And, Mr. President, I would also like
12: 39: 50 6 to note the Board Members who are present here
12: 39: 52 7 today for this first hearing. And we have Board
12: 39: 54 8 Member Furlong. We have Dr. Mahalia Hines. We
12: 39: 59 9 have Board Member Ward. President Clark.

12: 40: 00 10 And I would also like to acknowledge
12: 40: 02 11 Forrest Claypool, our CEO, our General Counsel,
12: 40: 06 12 Ronald Marmer, and our Chief Education Officer,
12: 40: 08 13 Dr. Janice Jackson. Thank you.

12: 40: 11 14 PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Madam
12: 40: 12 15 Secretary.

12: 40: 12 16 So let's begin with the Budget
12: 40: 14 17 proceedings, I believe that's going to be Brian
12: 40: 16 18 Hamer and Michael Sitkowski. Please proceed to
12: 40: 20 19 the podium.

12: 40: 38 20 MR. HAMER: Thank you very much,
12: 40: 39 21 President Clark. I'm Brian Hamer, the Director
12: 40: 42 22 of the Office of Management and Budget for the
12: 40: 45 23 Chicago Public Schools. I am here this
12: 40: 48 24 afternoon just to give a brief overview of the

12: 40: 51 1 proposed 2018 Budget, of course, we are all
12: 40: 55 2 primarily here today to hear from the members of
12: 40: 58 3 the public, and I just want to say that my
12: 41: 01 4 public -- my colleagues and I are very
12: 41: 04 5 interested in hearing what people have to say
12: 41: 07 6 about the budget. I have a brief slide
12: 41: 11 7 presentation and let us begin.

12: 41: 18 8 I think we'll start by doing a brief
12: 41: 21 9 recap of the Fiscal Year 17 Budget and Budget
12: 41: 28 10 Environment. As you may recall, we began with a
12: 41: 32 11 Fiscal Year 17 amended budget which provided for
12: 41: 37 12 \$5.41 billion of expenditures. In the very
12: 41: 41 13 middle of the school year, the Governor vetoed
12: 41: 45 14 \$215 million of State pension funding for CPS,
12: 41: 51 15 which was extremely troubling particularly given
12: 41: 54 16 the fact, as we all know, that the State
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12: 42: 00 18 school districts in the State of Illinois but
12: 42: 03 19 barely any funds to the Chicago Public Schools.

12: 42: 08 20 The State thereafter delayed about \$330
12: 42: 12 21 million of straight -- of State grant funding as
12: 42: 16 22 of June 30th, 2017. These actions taken
12: 42: 21 23 together equated to about 10 percent of CPS's
12: 42: 26 24 operating budget and didn't even take into

12: 42: 30 1 account the fact that the State grossly
12: 42: 32 2 underfunds CPS compared to other school
12: 42: 35 3 districts throughout the State.

12: 42: 38 4 Nevertheless, CPS was able to manage
12: 42: 41 5 through these shortfalls through active
12: 42: 44 6 management, creating internal efficiencies,
12: 42: 49 7 increased revenue and market access. CPS's
12: 42: 58 8 budget deficit has declined from \$1.1 billion in
12: 43: 02 9 Fiscal Year 16 to \$544 million beginning in
12: 43: 08 10 Fiscal Year 18. And this is the deficit that
12: 43: 14 11 we'll be addressing as part of the proposed
12: 43: 16 12 budget. This decline, this significant decline
12: 43: 19 13 in the deficit is despite various cost increases
12: 43: 23 14 which have been managed down through a whole
12: 43: 26 15 variety of internal efficiencies.

12: 43: 28 16 PRESIDENT CLARK: Brian, before you go
12: 43: 29 17 on, and I know I'm interrupting you in the
12: 43: 31 18 middle of your presentation, but this particular
12: 43: 34 19 bullet I think is noteworthy, and I want to make
12: 43: 36 20 sure that it is completely understood.

12: 43: 42 21 Two years ago when we looked at \$1.1
12: 43: 46 22 billion deficit in Fiscal Year 16 and we find
12: 43: 50 23 ourselves today with still a deficit but a
12: 43: 54 24 deficit that has declined down to 544 billion --

12: 44: 02 1 544 million in the Fiscal Year 18 budget, so a
12: 44: 06 2 little bit better than half a billion dollars,
12: 44: 11 3 \$500 million of deficit has been erased. Talk
12: 44: 18 4 to us a little bit about that because the point
12: 44: 21 5 that I want to make here is that some of this
12: 44: 26 6 was done obviously through internal controls,
12: 44: 28 7 efficiencies. There's a lot of issues around
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12: 44: 36 9 management, but these consultants found a large,
12: 44: 40 10 large sum, tens of millions of dollars in
12: 44: 45 11 savings, far in excess of any costs associated
12: 44: 48 12 with paying these consultants. But the real
12: 44: 50 13 reason I want to talk about this a bit more, it
12: 44: 53 14 just shows the focus and dedication of the CPS
12: 44: 56 15 leadership, obviously the commitment of the
12: 44: 58 16 Board and, frankly, the sacrifice and
12: 45: 02 17 understanding of the CPS employee base, mainly
12: 45: 09 18 teachers. You don't get rid of a half a billion
12: 45: 12 19 dollars without a lot of difficulty. So I did
12: 45: 16 20 not want just the number to be heard without an
12: 45: 19 21 understanding of what it has taken to get this
12: 45: 21 22 far, and yet we still have a little bit over a
12: 45: 25 23 half billion dollars that we're struggling with,
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MR. DeNARD: Excuse me, Brian.
President Clark, if you don't mind, I can answer
some of those questions. Ron DeNard, SVP of
Finance.

The way that we were able to reduce the
deficit was a combination of both increases of
revenue and decreases of expenses. As you
recall, last year we fought and the year before
we fought hard, 20 for 20, we were asking for
more revenue from the State, and we were able to
get more revenue from the State. In addition,
we were able to get the State to allow us to put
\$250 million of increased property taxes, which
is from the citizens of Chicago, we increased
their property taxes in order to reduce our
pension expense and that helps out with our
deficit.

There were many things that we did as
far as management efficiencies. For instance,
we went to the State and we were able to work on
our grant efficiency, and we were able to use an
additional \$60 million in our grants that we
couldn't use before. We also put better
controls in place, and our schools helped us by

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spending grant money first, which we're reimbursed for, and then spending on our operating funds. We also put together standardizing purchasing contracts so that we could get rebates.

So there are many, many -- there are many, many activities that we had and management efficiencies that we put in place, in addition to, as people have always come up and said, you need more revenue. Well, we went to the State, both the teachers, the parents, our management team and fought for 20 or 20. We're not there yet, but we're fighting to get more. And the mayor in addition helped out by we increased our property taxes. And remember, we're the only, the only school district that pays their own pension, the only one, and we increased our property taxes to help with the pension. So both local revenue, State revenue and management efficiencies.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much, Ron. Brian, you want to continue.

MR. HAMER: Okay. Let's turn to the Fiscal Year 18 budget, which includes \$5.75

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billion in spending and the same amount in resources. This budget protects investments in the classroom, which is always our focus, and provides 5 percent increase in per pupil funding to schools compared to Fiscal Year 17. The budget also incorporates an additional \$300 million of State revenue as proposed in Senate Bill 1, and \$269 million of new local resources.

Stepping back and looking at schools funding generally. Schools have received \$1.9 billion through student-based budgeting in their Fiscal Year 18 allocations. Schools receive the base rate of \$4,290 per student and then different amounts based on grade level and diverse learner least restrictive environment categories, but the base amount is \$4,290 per student.

Schools also receive foundation positions, namely, a principal, a counselor and a clerk and adjustments for teacher experience and if a school has multiple buildings.

Schools also receive discretionary funding from the State and the Federal Government, funds based on the percentage of low

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income students at each school. Funding for diverse learners is based on student Individualized Education Plans and specialized programs, such as, magnet, international baccalaureate and bilingual programs. They're all allocated to schools in addition to the funding sources I stated above.

I think that we always need to keep focus on the fact that our efforts are to protect and build upon the academic achievements that the district has experienced over the course of recent years, and so it's worth taking a moment and noting those achievements at this presentation. And let me just mention a few of them.

In a landmark study of statewide educational outcomes, the University of Illinois found that CPS students are outperforming their peers in every major racial and ethnic group in Illinois. In its academic progress report, CPS reported dramatic improvements since 2011 on key metrics, including participation in the arts, math and reading growth, graduation rates, freshman on-track to graduate, attendance and

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dropout rates. For school year 15-16 the freshman on-track rate hit an all-time high of 87.4 percent. The dropout rate was cut in half to 6.8 percent. And the attendance rate was 93.4 percent.

CPS students have achieved a record high graduation rate with 73.5 percent of students earning a diploma. The graduation rate has steadily risen over the past six years, growing more than 16 percentage points since 2011 when just over half of CPS students earned a high school diploma.

CPS students outpace nationwide peers in graduation rate growth. While students nationally received a record high graduation rate of 83.2 percent for the 2014-15 school year, CPS students are outpacing their peers with a graduation rate that is growing more than three times faster than the national rate.

According to a University of Chicago study, roughly 42 percent of CPS graduates enroll in a four-year college or university, quickly approaching the national average of a 44 percent college enrollment rate.

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U. S. News and World Report heralded seven CPS high schools among the top ten schools in Illinois. Five of those schools were also ranked nationally.

These successes occur because CPS focuses on the classroom, and as we can see from this pie chart 97 percent of staff provide direct support to schools.

This next chart shows the allocation of CPS spending which very much follows the same point. It also notes that salaries and benefits account for about two thirds of the Fiscal Year 18 Budget.

Notwithstanding these impressive successes, let me make clear, as Ron DeNard just did as well, that it is essential that the State reform the way that pensions are funded in Illinois. This graph here shows that pension contributions pursuant to State law will continue to grow dramatically in coming years. And the following chart shows that those pensions are funded in a grossly unfair way. Even with the passage into law of Senate Bill 1, the landmark school funding proposal, Chicago

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schools will be treated in an extremely unfair way.

This chart indicates that in Fiscal Year 18, even with SB 1, State funding per student for teacher pensions outside of Chicago will come to \$2,801, whereas State funding per student for Chicago teacher pensions will amount to only \$612 million.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Brian, this is another one where I want to stop for a moment.

So your chart shows that the State's -- this is Fiscal Year 2017, the State contributed \$32 per CPS child for pension, per student for pensions, versus \$2,447 per child outside of -- for every other district?

MR. HAMER: That's correct, yes.

PRESIDENT CLARK: \$32 versus \$2,447?

MR. HAMER: That is correct. As I say, it is a grossly unfair way of allocating dollars to the school districts in the State of Illinois.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I'm trying to do the enlightened math. Somebody here is really much at this than me. But I don't think this is 1

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percent, is this one tenth of 1 percent?

MR. HAMER: It's a robust 1-and-a-half percent, I believe, yes.

PRESIDENT CLARK: So the rest of the State gets 98-and-a-half percent more than we do?

MR. HAMER: That's right.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I'm just trying to find ways to say it so people can appreciate it. It's unconscionable. There's nothing to be said other than the inequities are just grossly unfair and everybody needs to understand that. That is one of the many hurdles that we encounter in financing the Chicago Board of -- the Chicago Public School system, that even with Senate Bill 1, if we get it, it won't completely erase that disconnect.

MR. HAMER: And even another way of putting it is that we project that in Fiscal Year 18 the State will provide \$4.6 billion to pension -- teacher pensions outside of the City of Chicago and only \$233 million for the Chicago pension system, again, assuming that SB 1 becomes law.

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PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Brian.
Continue.

MR. HAMER: Before I close I did want to say a few words about the proposed Fiscal Year 18 Capital Budget, which we are also asking the Board to consider and approve in the coming days.

The 18 Capital Budget would provide \$136 million for capital projects, largely for emergency facility repair and deferred maintenance. And it builds upon the very substantial capital program that the Board approved last year, which amounted to \$938 million, of which a substantial part was directed again to deferred maintenance projects and other major repairs. We are also hopeful to seek a supplemental plan later in the year if we are able to identify additional resources.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Board Members, do you have any questions of Brian before he sits down?

The capital budget you emphasized is largely focused on emergency repairs. I want to be clear, all the Board knows, as I'm sure many

12: 58: 40 1 people in the audience, that the capital budget
12: 58: 42 2 is drastically low and really cannot do the
12: 58: 47 3 kinds of things that it should be -- that should
12: 58: 50 4 be done in order to continue to improve the
12: 58: 55 5 structural issues in some of our schools, that's
12: 58: 58 6 why he used the word emergency facilities repair
12: 59: 02 7 deferred maintenance. We recognize that at the
12: 59: 05 8 Board, and we're optimistic that if the funding
12: 59: 10 9 that we hope for materializes and Ron DeNard
12: 59: 15 10 works his magic that there may, in fact, be some
12: 59: 18 11 other opportunities to do more with the capital
12: 59: 20 12 budget.

12: 59: 22 13 Mark, were you going to say something?

12: 59: 26 14 MEMBER FURLONG: No, no, no, just
12: 59: 27 15 listening.

12: 59: 27 16 PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

12: 59: 32 17 MR. HAMER: Thank you very much.

12: 59: 34 18 PRESIDENT CLARK: Does that completely
12: 59: 36 19 conclude the presentations? Is there any
12: 59: 38 20 other -- okay.

12: 59: 42 21 Okay, if there are no other questions
12: 59: 43 22 from Board Members, let's proceed with today's
12: 59: 46 23 public comment segment. Madam Secretary, please
12: 59: 48 24 share the rules for public comments.

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SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you,
Mr. President.

For the record I would like to note that registration for the public hearing was held between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Individuals who registered to speak will have two minutes to comment, and I will call speakers in the order of registration. This hearing will conclude after the last person who has signed in to speak has spoken or at 2:30 p.m., whichever occurs first. When called please state your name.

And then, Mr. President, I will start by calling Dian Palmer from SEIU Local 73, she's a co-trustee for that Local 73, followed by speaker number 1, Dan Gonzalez, and then speaker number 2, Mara Castillo.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Before the first speaker begins, Dr. Jackson, there was one question I forgot to ask. What is the number one school in the nation?

DR. JACKSON: Are you referring to the last report that called out Walter Payton?

PRESIDENT CLARK: I'm just waiting for

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your answer.

DR. JACKSON: Okay, Walter Payton College Prep High School.

PRESIDENT CLARK: The number one school in the United States is a Chicago Public School. Please.

MS. PALMER: Thank you, I'm Dian Palmer, co-trustee of Local 73. At Local 73 our members are special education classroom assistants, school security officers, bus aides, custodians and parent workers who offer support to thousands of CPS students and their parents every day. I am really impressed about the Walter Payton School, and that's why I'm so saddened that we're to a point where we're doing layoffs of these workers that support these students every day.

Every year CPS asks more of our members and your employees. They've asked them to take furlough days, to forego wage increases, increase employee's health insurance costs and they've done layoffs, and now they're asking them to take layoffs again. You cannot sustain your high level of excellence if you don't have

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the people there that will support the students.

So we're asking the Board, you all are in charge of the school and you're supposed to set the direction for the school, and we're asking you to take a stand with these employees to talk to Rauner and Mayor Rahm Emanuel about supporting these schools. These students are our future for tomorrow and we need them. I know I do. I'm going to need the jobs that they're going to support with the fine education they'll get in the Chicago Public Schools. And so I'm asking you that rather than sit back and just accept whatever they -- you know, whatever bones they want to throw the way of the Chicago Public Schools, that you stand up with these students and stand up with these workers so that we can get a workforce that's there, ready and able to support our students. And rather than lay these employees off, that you stand with them in making sure that our schools are in fine condition.

So I'm asking you to rescind these layoffs and return these workers to support the students of the Chicago Public Schools.

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SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you,
Ms. Palmer.

MR. GONZALEZ: Good afternoon, my name
is Dan Gonzalez, I am a special education
classroom assistant or SECA, and I'm a proud
steward and member of the Local -- SEIU Local
73.

Just like many of my coworkers who are
SECAs who were laid off, my job is to support
our children who have various disabilities,
including physical, cognitive, visual
disabilities. This also includes offering
support to students who have behavioral disorder
and emotional impairments.

We report to work each day so that our
children from our community have a quality
education and they have the support they need to
accomplish those things and they have the
advocates that are there to enable them to do
what they can't do for themselves. We're often
short staffed and over capacity. These layoffs
mean -- these layoffs mean that come this school
year SECAs, teachers and other support staff
will be asked to take on more duties and

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responsibilities which ultimately impacts the time and attention and support that we give our students who need it the most. The support we provide is vital to the kids we service, but each year CPS seems to resolve its budget obstacles by cutting staff that are needed.

Today I'm here not only to speak on behalf of SECAs but also on on half of our most affected and vulnerable children. Instead of offering more support to our children who need it the most, our Governor Rauner, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS have chosen to continue the political games and thus callously take the very support our very children need away from them. CPS needs to demand more from those who hold the power instead of putting the burden on workers who have sacrificed enough. We are not pawns, we are not your ends to a means. Do the right thing please. Rescind the 950 layoffs and let us go back to work so we can continue to support our children so they can get the quality education they deserve.

And just to reiterate, we work here, we live her, we pay taxes and we come to work to

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support these students. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you for your comments.

As the next speaker approaches the microphone, we will then call speaker number 3, Natasha Carlson, followed by speaker number 4 please, Katherine Osgood, and then speaker number 5, Max Castillo.

Please state your name.

MS. CASTILLO: Hi, my name is Mara, and today I'm here because of the CPS layoffs. And it's not fair, it's not right and it's horrible what CPS is doing to students, parents and staff. We must unite and fight back. CPS needs to manage their budget better and stop bullying hard working families like myself. I'm a single mom with three kids and it's already affecting my own kids who also happen to be CPS students. I've been on the board for 12 years with outstanding performance and they decided to cut my position just like this for no reason. I'm a school health aide at Curie High School, every day I made a huge impact on students and parents by serving them. The principal claims it was

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Rauner and the whole budget thing. That's nothing but excuses, excuses and excuses.

I'm also an active member of Local 73, our goal is to get our job back and we're going to fight this back, but in order for us to do that we need your support, we need you to be our voice. We need to stand together and protect the people that has been affected by this tragedy like myself and other people around here. We need to join forces now and to tell Rauner and Rahm and the whole crew we are watching you and we are coming, to stop bullying us please and please protect us and help us. I'm born and raised in Chicago and I'm always here and I made a huge difference and please, please support us.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Castillo.

Our next speaker please, speaker number 3, Natasha Carlson.

MS. CARLSON: Good afternoon, unelected School Board, my name is Natasha Carlson, the co-chair of the Special Education Committee that we have to sustain and support our members since

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our district and the ODLLS Department does not.
I am entering my eighth year of teaching, and I'm here today because last night I broke down in tears. But those tears are because of the constant chaos that is fostered and perpetuated by this Board and our district, not because of the fault of my principal or my school. We have a Board that is hand picked by our mayor to continue to inflate the blatant lies around our schools rather than put into action the appropriate supports and services that are needed to support our schools and communities. A lack of action on the State does not equate to it being okay to not have a local action.
I cried because I haven't even made it to a full ten years yet, June 2020, and even then that's still three years off of having the potential of having an elected school board that actually represents our communities and is held accountable, that represents the interests of us rather than interest of a mayor that only serves to the 1 percent. And since I'm stuck still with at least five years of an unaccountable

13:08:48 1 school board, except to our mayor, I am here to
13:08:50 2 plead for you to once do as a Board to choose to
13:08:51 3 represent the people in our district and not the
13:08:53 4 politics of our mayor. Your names are first on
13:08:58 5 this budget, this 243-page budget book, before
13:09:03 6 even our CEO. You are on a rubber stamp that
13:09:07 7 are approving these lies. Do you even care that
13:09:09 8 the budget relies on 570 million that doesn't
13:09:13 9 exist? It is phantom money. Do you know
13:09:16 10 that -- remember, we had three budget hearings
13:09:19 11 last year, is that what you're setting us up for
13:09:22 12 again since the Board is going to approve this
13:09:24 13 budget no matter what likely on Monday without
13:09:27 14 funding from the city level sec, without funding
13:09:30 15 from the State level sec? Unless you as a Board
13:09:33 16 fight for the progressive revenue and not
13:09:37 17 regressive revenue, we only can assume --

13:09:39 18 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Carlson.

13:09:40 19 MS. CARLSON: -- you will continue to
13:09:41 20 cut when there's nothing left to cut. You will
13:09:41 21 bankrupt our district before we even get an
13:09:41 22 elected school board.

13:09:43 23 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you for your
13:09:44 24 comments.

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Our next speaker please, speaker number 4, Katherine Osgood.

MS. OSGOOD: Hi, my name is Katie Osgood, I'm also the co-chair of the Special Education Committee at the CTU. And I'm here today to talk about this budget and especially around special education funding, which frankly it's atrocious what you guys are doing.

Last year you guys commingled the special ed and general ed budgets together, thereby obscuring exactly what was going on with special education, we couldn't see where the money was going, which is illegal, by the way. After outcry from principals and parents and teachers, you did uncommingle those budgets, however, you then lied about how much money each school actually needed to service their children with special needs and then said that you were allocating more money this year, which again is false. This is just a clever trick to hide the massive cuts that you are actually placing on special education that is directly impacting schools.

At my school we were told we only

13: 10: 45 1 needed five diverse learner teachers for our K-8
13: 10: 49 2 program, and this is on top of the \$350,000 cuts
13: 10: 53 3 that we got due to enrollment. And as a result
13: 10: 55 4 we lost two assistants, a dean who ran our
13: 10: 58 5 restorative justice program, we lost a
13: 11: 00 6 kindergarten teacher, and that's on top of all
13: 11: 05 7 the other cuts we've had over the past three to
13: 11: 06 8 four years. We appealed three separate times
13: 11: 09 9 for more funding last year and you rejected them
13: 11: 12 10 each time in your racist appeals process. This
13: 11: 14 11 year we appealed again, finally you just okayed
13: 11: 19 12 our appeal less than a week before school
13: 11: 21 13 begins, and we're frantically trying to hire
13: 11: 26 14 someone at this point. And we're not going to
13: 11: 28 15 have enough SECAs, we actually had to cut more
13: 11: 31 16 in order to fund two more SECA positions we
13: 11: 34 17 needed just to meet the needs. Your methods for
13: 11: 35 18 allocating SPED funds are just wrong. You
13: 11: 36 19 cannot, you cannot tell -- this year you
13: 11: 39 20 actually had your ODLSS, Office of Diverse
13: 11: 42 21 Learner folks come in and you said you went
13: 11: 45 22 school by school to fund special ed, but, I'm
13: 11: 47 23 sorry, there's no way you looked at those tens
13: 11: 50 24 of thousands of IEPs that are at every single

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school. There's no way that each of those --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Osgood.

MS. OSGOOD: And you are going ahead and it's impossible that you've done. Instead you're blatantly breaking IDA SPED law and ignoring the individual needs and funding -- your funding instead based for your own financial convenience and it's harming our students.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Osgood, thank you for your comments.

MS. OSGOOD: So I'd like some response to what you've done with these special ed changes because it's atrocious. I'm asking you guys to tell me why you continue to cut our most vulnerable learners.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Osgood.

MS. OSGOOD: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker please, speaker number 5, Max Castillo, followed by speaker number 7, Joy Clendinning, and speaker number 8, Jerry Skinner.

MAX CASTILLO: My name is Max. Can you

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respect our schools, respect our teachers and respect all of us? Because all of us make a difference. We make a difference because you guys are just stopping us.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker please, Joy Clendening.

MS. CLENDENNING: Good afternoon, I'm Joy Clendening, CPS parent of two current students and two graduates speaking today for Illinois Raise Your Hand for public education.

In spite of its reliance on over \$500 million in new dollars which have yet to be secured, this budget continues the cuts to neighborhood schools and to art, music and library services, as well as other courses and supports across the district. In their place it focuses on continued privatization and high stakes standardized testing, replacing teachers with unproven, expensive technology and treating public education as merely a means to create workers rather than citizens.

Privatized schools and services now account for \$1.1 billion of the CPS budget, and CPS still considers new charters while

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enrollment declines across the district and is flat at charter schools. Meanwhile, CPS neighborhood schools have taken the brunt of the cuts for the fourth year in a row, and the district allows schools like Harlan, Fenger, Kelvin Park, Foreman, Julian and Kelly to lose over a million dollars again. CPS has put many high schools on a slow starvation plan that's leading to death with no apparent sense of providing a well-rounded support education to the students in these buildings.

CPS has attacked the State for inequitable funding practices, yet has not put in place their own hold harmless protection for students at schools where budgets have not only been decimated but targeted by CPS's own portfolio initiative. The City may like to tout test scores, but we don't hear them admitting that spending on librarians has decreased \$9 million over two years or that the decrease of 7 million -- there's a decrease of 7 million on full-time arts and music positions and that special ed appeals have only been granted to majority white schools.

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Raise Your Hand is calling on you,
Board of Education, call publicly for the mayor
and the City to do their part by passing TIF
surplus and corporate head tax ordinances
because no matter what happens in Springfield,
CPS will still be short the funding needed to
provide a high quality education to every
student and we need you to stand with us --
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Clendennig.
MS. CLENNING: I'm almost finished.
We want you to commit to a hold
harmless for neighborhood schools to eliminate
this vicious spiral caused by student-based
budgeting and reduced enrollment. We expect you
to cut money from Office of Network Support,
Innovation and Incubation and Assessment and
instead put this money into neighborhood
schools. We told the press the other day that
the Governor has been trying to divide and
conquer public school supporters in Chicago and
those downstate with his anti-Chicago rhetoric.
What better way to disarm that divisive vitriol
than by stepping up and showing that the Chicago
Board of Education is doing everything it can

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to, one, fulfill its fiduciary duties within CPS and, two, to advocate fiercely for sustainable revenue from the City of Chicago.

We really hope that you will not approve this budget next week, that you'll step back and say we can't do this, we need to read through the whole thing, we need to get the rhetoric out of the budget, we need to think about our values and what we really want and work together for the schools that our students deserve. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Clendinning.

Our next speaker please, speaker number 8, Jerry Skinner, followed by speaker 9, Chris Baehrend, followed by speaker number 10, Summer Alexander.

MR. SKINNER: I'm Jerry Skinner, I was a 22-year veteran teacher and Local School Council member at Kelvyn Park High School.

President Clark, you mentioned that CPS has the number one school in the country, but that is not enough, sir, you need to look at what's going on at the typical schools in CPS.

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You have 1,000 position cuts. You have tens of millions of dollars in budget cuts. The schools I know best are in the 31st Ward, including Kelvyn Park. Kelvyn Park we had 11 positions cut this year on top of the same cuts that have been going on for four, five, six years now. We see that students are losing out on many opportunities in programs in the 31st Ward. We've had in the 31st Ward alone \$8 million in budget cuts. 19 percent of the funding in the 31st Ward has been cut. 100 positions, number one in all Chicago. So this budget is the latest chapter in an ongoing crisis, manmade crisis in public education Chicagoans. It's manmade because this Board refuses to consider immediate and practical ways to generate more progressive funding for our students.

So please, I urge you, reject this budget, stop CPS, stop Chicago Board of Education being broke on purpose. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Skinner.

Our next speaker please.

MR. BAEHREND: Hello there, my name is

13: 18: 38 1 Chris Baehrend, I'm president of the Chicago
13: 18: 39 2 Alliance of Charter Teachers and Staff, it's the
13: 18: 42 3 union that represents 25 percent of the charter
13: 18: 44 4 schools in Chicago. And I'm here to remind you
13: 18: 48 5 that charter expansion and these budget cuts, no
13: 18: 52 6 matter how they get dressed up in the
13: 18: 54 7 presentation, are affecting not just district
13: 18: 56 8 schools but also charter schools. I'm here to
13: 18: 59 9 support all district and charter schools, but
13: 19: 01 10 this expansion, a couple of the budget cuts has
13: 19: 04 11 caused drops in enrollment at the majority of
13: 19: 07 12 the schools that we represent, budget cuts there
13: 19: 08 13 obviously. And we've had two rounds of layoffs
13: 19: 11 14 at the majority of schools that we represent,
13: 19: 13 15 two or more rounds of layoffs.

13: 19: 15 16 I'm not here to blame you, I'm here to
13: 19: 17 17 ask for your help. I think about this
13: 19: 20 18 presentation you had here, and I imagine that
13: 19: 22 19 like if my boss cut my salary, I probably
13: 19: 25 20 wouldn't go home to my kids and take food out of
13: 19: 28 21 their mouth when I could find the funds to pay
13: 19: 30 22 for their -- what they need somewhere else. If
13: 19: 36 23 you're going to wait for Trump -- I'm sorry, for
13: 19: 38 24 Rauner to do something, right, or for the Trump

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administration to do something, right, we're going to be waiting forever and it's going to get worse and worse. Rahm picked all of you to be on this Board, he obviously has a lot of faith in you.

I know that with the Chicago Teachers Union you signed a letter this year in the most recent negotiations agreeing to search for more revenue not just at the State level. So I'd like to encourage you to engage with the Chicago Teachers Union or just publicly advocate for some of the things mentioned here, the corporate head tax, TIF surplus. There are lots of other progressive solutions -- progressive revenue solutions out there. Personal property lease transaction tax, that would create a wider base for like sales tax, many other states do that, that would generate \$35 million, or ride share tax could generate \$15 million, New York City does that. There's a hotel tax that would generate \$30 million, New York City, raising the hotel tax to where New York has it would generate \$30 million. Many other cities have a higher level.

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SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Baehrend.

MS. BAEHREND: So please do the right thing by our kids. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank up.

And our next speaker please, Summer Alexander.

MS. ALEXANDER: Hi. Hello, my name is Summer Alexander, and like many of my coworkers we're at least -- we're recently laid off. I work with special needs students throughout the district, the support we provide ensures our children to get a fighting chance in this world. We often are working short staffed while heavy demands are placed upon us. It is inconceivable that CPS would even consider laying off a thousand workers, which of them are SECAs, bus aides, security officers and teachers who protect, nurture our students. Once again, the Board of Education is choosing to under resource our children. CPS needs to stop counting on a Governor who has no interest in our future children. The fact is Governor Rauner made it -- his intent clear when he vetoed the Senate Bill 1, a bill that would have given the remedy

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to the unequal, unfair, unreliable State funding of local schools and ensuring that our children would receive equality and quality education to secure their future.

It's time that the people in power stop playing this political football game with our lives and our kids' lives and the people who support them. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Alexander.

Our next speaker -- speakers, Mr. President, will be speaker number 11 please, Norine Gutekanst, followed by speaker number 12, Pam Witmer, and our last speaker will be Martin Ritter.

MS. GUTKANST: Good afternoon, since we've got some decisionmakers in the rooms, I've got some questions and I've got some recommendations.

So in October of 2016 CPS and CTU settled a contract and the Board agreed that the Board shall obtain funding to fund up to 55 sustainable community schools. This is to address inequitable resource allocation in our

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high poverty neighborhoods and also the persistent issues of violence and inequality, lack of opportunity that plague our poorest neighborhoods and fuel the exodus of black and brown families from Chicago and from our schools.

CTU fought for this initial pool of money because we want to see CPS work to get sustainable revenue, not just so we can have a few better schools, but so that we can have a sustainable community school district where every school fully meets the needs of the students in those neighborhoods. And we want these funds to be used to fund additional staff, programs, trainings and that support our students in accordance with the desires of the parents in those communities and also address the toll that poverty and violence are taking on our students and their families. And any conversation you have with a CPS employee is going to articulate the real toll that we see every day when we work in those schools.

What I'm asking is where is the sustainable source of seed money that's going to

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fund this initiative so that these 20 to 55 schools can actually begin to make a difference? And what is the long-term plan for funding these sustainable community schools? So at the end I'd like you to answer this please.

CPS's unelected school board and their mentor Rahm, we're asking you to immediately demand new sources of revenue that are sustainable, not additional taxes on our working families who are already overtaxed and overburdened. There are numerous local opposition -- local options available to the City.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Gutekanst.

MS. GUTKANST: Just wrapping up.

Reinstate and increase corporate head tax. Freeze and surplus additional TIF funds. Increase the personal property lease tax rate. Implement a higher ride share tax. And increase the Chicago Hotel Accommodations Tax.

Now, is there anybody here who can address my question about funding for the sustainable community schools initiatives?

DR. HINES: Can I ask one question? I

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just want to ask you one question because three out of those four things that you mentioned actually are not up under our purview but the aldermen. Have you worked with the aldermen?

MS. GUTEKANST: Absolutely, we talk to the aldermen all the time.

DR. HINES: Well, then you know that it's not under our purview, it really isn't. It's the aldermen who decide where TIF money goes. It's the aldermen who decide where those taxes go. If we could decide, we'd be better off here.

MS. GUTEKANST: You are the stewards of our schools and you should be advocating for what is in the best interest of the 400,000 students who attend those schools every day.

DR. HINES: I just want to say one thing to you and then I'm going to let our President. I know the difference between advocating and deciding. I also have been a public school teacher and principal in education for 34 years, that's why I volunteer to sit here. So I know the difference in the definition. I can advocate all I want, but if I

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can't make that decision -- you can advocate, but I'm not a decisionmaker. Thank you. Frank, go ahead.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I thought that your questions were to the point. I appreciate your questions, if the answers -- your questions are easy, the answers and solutions frankly are much more difficult and complex. You may think that a corporate tax solves the problem, the corporations say they will leave. I don't know if that's true or not, but they do say that. There's an effort in Springfield to have a millionaires tax, some of which we would probably see, that has not succeeded so far.

There are a number of sources that people are looking at, but frankly they just haven't happened. We don't legislate what happens in Springfield, what we do do is the money that we do generate, whether it's from property taxes or anything within our control, we make the hard choices. What you heard here are the results of those hard choices. And that's exactly what happens, people who actually are affected by those hard choices come to us

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and they give us their thoughts and their opinions, all of which frankly we listen to, and sometimes we have to make some modifications because we have unintended consequences. Thank you very much.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Gutekanst. Thank you for your comments.

MS. GUTKANST: One more comment.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: I'm sorry. Our next speaker, Ms. Witmer.

MS. WITMER: Good afternoon, thank you for your time today. My name is Pam Witmer, and I'm the senior policy manager at the Illinois Network of Charter Schools. As always INCS recognizes that the district is faced with a multitude of funding challenges. The charter school community is committed to working with the district to ensure that all of its students are equitably funded.

We are appreciative that the Board eliminated the 4 percent holdback for special education funding this year, and we look forward to more streamlined and equitable appeals process for those schools that need additional

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special education funds to serve their students with special education needs.

In addition, while we understand that the district is faced with a cash flow challenge, we still encourage you all to eventually move forward with providing charter public schools special education funds in the beginning of each quarter rather than as a reimbursement at the end. The current process does place a strain on charter schools' budgets as they have to dip into other funds to pay for those services.

As you are forced to make additional tough funding decisions throughout the year, we trust that you will treat and fund all of your students, including charter public school students, equitably in order to ensure that every child reaches their full potential. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Witmer.

And our next speaker please, Martin Ritter.

MR. RITTER: I had a speech, but then

13: 28: 55 1 you kind of went hard at my boss so I --
13: 28: 58 2 Dr. Hines, you mentioned talk to the aldermen,
13: 29: 01 3 talk to the aldermen. So I personally am one of
13: 29: 05 4 CTU's representatives who speaks to the aldermen
13: 29: 08 5 on a weekly basis, and over 40 aldermen signed
13: 29: 11 6 the TIF surplus ordinance, but the person that
13: 29: 14 7 appointed all of you to your positions has put
13: 29: 18 8 the stop on it. So I would ask you as the --
13: 29: 21 9 all of you as the stewards of public education
13: 29: 24 10 to as a group collectively ask for a sitdown
13: 29: 27 11 with Mayor Emanuel and say, hmmm, we could use
13: 29: 31 12 more money, the teachers have come up with a
13: 29: 33 13 plan, let's work with the teachers to fund
13: 29: 35 14 through an enormous TIF surplus. Clerk Orr said
13: 29: 39 15 that a potential surplus this year could reach
13: 29: 42 16 up to a hundred million dollars. Don't you want
13: 29: 45 17 that? Or do you want that to sit in special
13: 29: 48 18 funds that move around? And I believe the
13: 29: 50 19 Tribune found one that got maneuvered between a
13: 29: 54 20 hotel and then a convention center and then Navy
13: 29: 57 21 Pier. But you guys didn't say anything. That's
13: 30: 01 22 money that you could get. If I went home to my
13: 30: 03 23 wife and said there's money on the table that I
13: 30: 06 24 just won't get, I'm sleeping on the couch, okay.

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Don't be the ones who sleep on the couch, fight for more revenue please. Put your words and hearts where you promised in our contract to work with us to fight for sustainable progressive revenue at the State and in the City. There's a corporate -- you heard all the examples, put -- earn some credibility with the teachers that work in your schools and the support staff and our SECAs, clerks and clinicians.

Dr. Jackson, you said on Twitter yesterday, you said there's a thousand brand new teachers. I hope you want them to be there for 25 or even 34 years. You will gain their credibility and commitment if you work with us to get sustainable revenue and stop doing these pay day loan schemes with Wall Street and spending \$70,000 a day on interest. Terrible. Do better.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. President, this concludes public participation.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much. Ron DeNard, do you have a mic?

MR. DeNARD: Yes.

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PRESIDENT CLARK: Can you, just in round numbers, how much does CPS get in TIF funds.

A VOICE: Get more.

MR. DeNARD: Well, there's two things. So last year we got an increase in TIF surplus of up to \$87 million. And as they figure out that there's more TIF surplus, they give it to us. That's 22 million.

And I want to address that issue you said about interest because I'm going to say this again. You talk to us about the interest, but let me tell you something, the State owed us \$330 million, they didn't pay us so we borrowed it and we made sure that our teachers got paid, our clerks got paid, our administrators got paid and our pension got paid. Now, the way we were able to do that was because we had to borrow. So when you stand up here and talk about why we're borrowing, then go down and make sure that the State pays us the money that they owed us, not that we were asking for, that they owed us. So we made sure that our teachers got paid because we had to borrow it. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Ron.

And one more comment about TIF funds. One of the drawbacks that it's a source is it tends to be a one-year solution, is that a correct statement?

MR. DeNARD: That is correct. A TIF surplus is just a one-year source, it's not dependable. So if I hired you based on a TIF surplus, we may not have it the next year. So that's something that we appreciate when we get it, but it's not, as you say, sustainable revenue.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.

And all of you that spoke, thank you for your comments. I don't believe that from your perspective and your understanding, and I think some of you have a deep understanding, I don't assume that you don't of the budgetary process, but the very simple thing that Ron DeNard pointed out, yes, we borrow and, yes, we borrow at rates that I wish we did not have to pay. But when we borrow we borrow because we have absolutely no other immediate option. Some of the things that you talk about that you would

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I like to see done, even if they are doable, take time and when we're forced to make an immediate decision. When you expect the State to pay you the money that they have already agreed to pay, this is not an area of dispute and you don't get it and a payroll comes due, to the extent that we can still borrow, we do. And as Ron points out, that's how you got paid.

You can talk about other options or you can certainly point to things that you think we should do that we're not doing, but we borrow under emergency circumstances when we seem to have no other short-term viable option.

Nevertheless, I listened to everything that was said. I listened to some of the recommendations. I think that you're trying to be thoughtful. And in all candor, I think we all want to get to the same game, we want to have a strong, strong financial institution where some of the problems that we're faced with today ultimately go away. None of you in your comments made reference to the fact that the budget deficit in two years has been cut in half, that means frankly that we have to borrow

13: 34: 50 1 less, that also means that your financial
13: 34: 52 2 futures are a bit more secure. Whether you like
13: 34: 55 3 the decisions or not, some of you, most of you
13: 35: 00 4 were here from CTU and you have a perspective,
13: 35: 04 5 others that were here from the charters. The
13: 35: 05 6 CTU believes I think, at least from the comments
13: 35: 08 7 you made, that every dollar we spend with the
13: 35: 10 8 charters is a dollar poorly spent. Well, that's
13: 35: 13 9 a perspective. For the parents who send their
13: 35: 15 10 kids to charter schools, frankly, they have a
13: 35: 18 11 different perspective.

13: 35: 20 12 Nevertheless, it is our job to listen
13: 35: 22 13 to all of you and all of your perspectives and
13: 35: 25 14 make the best judgments we can. When you make a
13: 35: 28 15 judgment you please some people and you
13: 35: 30 16 displease others. Thank you very much.

13: 35: 32 17 Board Members, are there any other
13: 35: 34 18 questions?

13: 35: 34 19 MEMBER FURLONG: Frank, I have one.

13: 35: 36 20 Ron, on the special education, so we've
13: 35: 41 21 been through this threefold. Can you say
13: 35: 42 22 whether we're going to spend more money this
13: 35: 44 23 year than last year just so that everybody can
13: 35: 46 24 hear where you're at on this?

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MR. DeNARD: We will spend more on special education, slightly more than last year. And there will be more than -- I think we're hiring more teachers and paraprofessionals.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much, Ron.

A VOICE: More on the schools?

A VOICE: They're all laid off.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I don't want -- we have an orderly process, let's maintain it.

If there are no other questions -- Forrest.

CEO CLAYPOOL: I was just going to say to Mark's point, there are 661 schools, and we've lost 20,000 students in the last two years alone. Enrollment is very different at every school. And you have 55,000 IEP students that change throughout. So you're going to see schools hiring. You're going to see schools laying off. It's what happens every single year at the school district and has for a long, long time. It's the nature of a highly decentralized school system with each school being very different and with the enrollment changes that's

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been particularly pronounced in recent years.

But what Ron is pointing out is that there are overall special education funding will be flat up. And we particularly put additional dollars into the areas where the students are the most disabled, what we call Level 3. In many of our cluster programs you'll see a significant increase in the number of staff in those locations, despite enrollment issues.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.

If the Board Members have no other comments, then this concludes the Budgetary Hearing. Thank you very much. Thank you all for participating.

(Whereupon, these were all the proceedings had at this time.)

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
COUNTY OF C O O K)

Karen Fatigato, being first duly sworn,
on oath says that she is a court reporter doing
business in the City of Chicago; and that she
reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
public hearing, and that the foregoing is a true
and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
given at said public hearing.

Karen Fatigato



Karen Fatigato, CSR
LIC. NO. 084-004072

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