BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF CHICAGO
BUDGET HEARING
AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE 2016-2017 FISCAL YEAR
held on
February 13, 2017

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in
the above-entitled matter at 42 West Madison
Street, Garden Level Board Room, Chicago, Illinois,
commencing at 2 o'clock p.m., MR. FRANK CLARK,
presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS:

MR. FRANK CLARK, President
MR. JAIME GUZMAN, Vice President
REV. MICHAEL J. GARANZINI
MR. ARNIE RIVERA
MS. GAIL D. WARD

ABSENT:

MR. MARK F. FURLONG
DR. MAHALIA A. HINES

Reported By: Anna M. Morales, CSR, RMR
License No.: 084-002854
ALSO PRESENT:

MR. FORREST CLAYPOOL, Chief Executive Officer

DR. JANICE JACKSON, Chief Education Officer

MR. RONALD L. MARBER, General Counsel

MS. ESTELA G. BELTRAN, Secretary to the Board
Whereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 2:07 o'clock p.m.)

SECRETARY BELTRAN: President Clark, before you begin this hearing, I would like to introduce Jadine Chou, Chief of Safety and Security. She will give a brief safety announcement. Jadine?

MS. CHOUC: Great. Hello, everyone. My name is Jadine Chou. I am the Chief of Safety and Security for Chicago Public Schools. On behalf of all of us, we would like to welcome you to today's budget hearing.

I would like to quickly share some safety announcements to assure the safety of all of our attendees today. In order to maintain a safe environment, we ask everyone keep all the aisles and exits clear. The primary entrance and exit is to my right, the door that you came in. If you are leaving the room as a matter of course, we ask that you use this exit to my right.

In the event of an emergency and we need to vacate the room, you will hear an alarm. Please remain calm and promptly move to exit the room. In addition to the primary exit, there are two...
additional exits for your use, one behind me to the 02:08:05
left and one behind me to the right. During the 02:08:08
meeting, if you need any special emergency 02:08:11
assistance, please wave the attention of one of our 02:08:13
security officers and they will come to your aid. 02:08:16
We will have CPD and emergency responders who will 02:08:18
be available to assist us in the event of an 02:08:21
emergency.

At CPS, safety is of the highest priority 02:08:24
and we appreciate you taking the time to join us 02:08:27
today.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Jadine. 02:08:30
Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Good afternoon, ladies and 02:08:32
gentlemen. Welcome. I am Frank Clark, and on 02:08:37
behalf of my fellow Board Members, I want to thank 02:08:39
you all for coming today.

The purpose of this hearing is compliance 02:08:43
by the Board with the School Code Provision 02:08:46
regarding amending the fiscal year 2017 budget. 02:08:49
Madam Secretary, please state for the 02:08:54
record the notice procedure for this hearing. 02:08:56

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President. 02:08:58
Notice of this public hearing was published in the 02:09:00
Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Chicago, on February 8, 2017, and posted on cpsboe.org and cps.edu Web sites on February 8, 2017. The amended budget was posted on the cps.edu Web site on February 6, 2017, in accordance with the School Code.

I will now read into the record the public notice as published:

Notice Public Hearings FY-17, Amended Budget 2016 to 2017, Chicago Board of Education commonly known as Chicago Public Schools. To Whom it May Concern: Public notice is hereby given by the Chicago Board of Education that it has prepared an FY-17 amended budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in tentative form and that five copies thereof available for public inspection have been filed and are now on file in the office of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, commonly known as Chicago Public Schools, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, and available at www.cps.edu/budget and that said Board of Education will hold two public hearings upon said amended budget on the 13th day of February, 2017, Chicago Public Schools Loop office, 42 West Madison
Street, Garden Level, Board Room, Chicago, Illinois

60602, the first hearing taking place from 2 to 4; the registration, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and the second hearing taking place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with registration taking place from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois, February 6, 2017, Chicago Board of Education by Frank M. Clark, President, and attest, Estela G. Beltran, Secretary.

Mr. President, I would like to note for the record the members that are present today.

Member Rivera?

MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Vice President Guzman?

VICE PRESIDENT GUZMAN: Present.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Member Ward?

MEMBER WARD: Present.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Father Garanzini?

REV. GARANZINI: Present.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: President Clark?

PRESIDENT CLARK: Present.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Five members present. We have a quorum. And I would also like to recognize
Forrest Claypool, our CEO; Ronald Marmer, our General Counsel; and Dr. Janice Jackson, our Chief Education Officer.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. Let's begin with the amended budget presentation. Ron Denard is going to make that presentation.

MR. DENARD: Good afternoon, Board of Directors, President Clark, Vice President Guzman, and fellow Board Members. I'm making our amended budget presentation today.

We'll start off with our fiscal year '17 budget is $5.5 billion of revenues and expenses, and it includes the $215 million that has been vetoed by Governor Rauner.

So we're going to amend the budget, and this is the first phase of the amendment. There are four items -- there are four furlough days that we've previously announced that create $35 million of savings. There's 50 percent of unspent nonpersonnel district run school budgets that are frozen. There's centrally controlled professional development costs that will be cut for 5 million. And then the charter share of the above reductions
is $18 million for a total of $104 million that will be taken out of expenses and we're taking $104 million out of revenue and, thus, that will reduce our budget from $5.5 billion to 5.411, and that's the amended budget.

PRESIDENT CLARK: That budget does not have any layoffs, no personnel reductions, no teacher reduction.

MR. DENARD: Yes, there are no personnel or teacher reductions within this budget amendment.

PRESIDENT CLARK: And that budget still contemplates action out of Springfield for the balance of $111 million.

MR. DENARD: Yes, it does. That's correct.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Board Members? Thank you. Let's proceed with the public comments segment.

Madam Secretary, please share the rules for public participation.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President. For the record, I would like to note that registration for this public hearing was held between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Individuals who registered to speak will have two minutes to comment.
Mr. President, I would like to note there are parents with children, so I will be calling them first and then proceed with the speakers in the order in which they registered. This hearing will conclude after the last person who has signed in to speak has spoken or at 4 p.m. whichever occurs first.

When called, please state your name. And, Mr. President, I will begin by calling the individuals with children, and we have Speaker Number 10, please --

PRESIDENT CLARK: Before you start with the first speaker, because we have quite a few people asking to speak and we want everyone to have an opportunity, I think it's extremely important that you be mindful of the two-minute time frame so everyone gets an opportunity to express their views and comments.

With that in mind, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

So Mr. President, I will proceed by calling please Speaker Number 10, Latoya Lark followed by Speaker 11, Thea Jones, Speaker 12, Rosalind Jackson, and Speaker 13, Lottie Steel.
And as they're approaching the podium, I would ask the speakers when I call your name if you can please stage to your left. Eric will be assisting you to place you in the order called.

MS. LARK: Good afternoon. Hello. My name is Latoya Lark. I am a mother of a CPS student.

According to the reports and from what I have seen in our neighborhood, CPS children are doing great in school. Test scores are up. Graduation rates are up, and more students are going to college.

This is not the time for Governor Rauner nor the state to cut or slow funding for our students. It's an outrage that Governor Rauner would wait until the middle of the school year and then drop a bomb, boom, and cut money from schools in the middle of the school year. Did he do that to maximize the harm to our kids? The Governor and state did not care about funding our kids. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Lark. Our next speaker, Thea Jones.

MS. JONES: Good afternoon. Hi. My name is
Thea Jones, and I am a mother of a CPS student. I am a graduate of CPS and I'm a taxpayer in the City of Chicago.

There is so much uncertainty in Washington, D.C., these days and no one knows what this new President is going to do to education. What if he cuts -- what if he makes cuts to education? Why would Governor Rauner slash 215 million of funding to Chicago Public Schools students, our children? Because he did not get his way in Springfield.

Governor Rauner is using our children and students for his own political agenda.

Governor Rauner needs to give our children their money back. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Next speaker,

Rosalind Jackson-Harvey.

MS. JACKSON-HARVEY: Good afternoon, everybody. Hello. My name is Rosalind Jackson-Harvey. I am a mother of a CPS student. I have -- I brought some of my children here with me. I am a graduate of CPS of the City of Chicago.

Governor Rauner has long promised to fully fund education, and by cutting CPS of 215 million,
he is breaking his promise. He needs to immediately give it back, the 215 million and cuts that he alone put on our children. The Governor's veto action was out of control and hurts not only our children and teachers, but parents who are asked to do more, just like President Trump. Governor Rauner has no clue about public education and nor does he care. Give us our $215 million back.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you,

Ms. Jackson-Harvey.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Ms. Jackson, I wouldn't want you mad at me.

MS. JACKSON-HARVEY: That's right.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I'm sure your message will be heard. Thank you so much.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker, please,

Lottie Steel.

MS. STEEL: Good afternoon, everybody. I am Lottie Steel. I, too, have a daughter at CPS, and I, too, graduated from CPS also.

Our students and teachers and family deserve to be treated equally. We have to fight our Governor. We will fight for our children and
our neighborhoods. Because Governor Rauner is poor -- because of Governor Rauner, our poor black and brown kids in Chicago get hundreds of millions less than children in the rest of the state. Why should our kids get three-quarters of every dollar that every children in Illinois, the rest of Illinois get? What kind of state are we living in that allows that? What kind of governor intentionally punish the poor to benefit the wealthy?

The answer is simple. Governor Rauner does not care about our kids in Chicago and public schools. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Steel.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you very much.
Mr. President, I will continue with Speaker Number 19, please, Iesha Yvette McReynolds, and then also Speaker 41, Celia Chavez.

MS. MCREYNOLDS: Good afternoon. How are you? I'm Iesha Yvette McReynolds. I'm from Oscar DePriest. I'm the LSC chairperson there. And from what I am seeing, Governor Rauner is dead wrong. These kids belong in school, and with the money that we're getting, it's not helping
none whatsoever. And my kids -- I've graduated from a public high school. I graduated from a public elementary school, and if we don't have any funds, then how can the teachers teach these kids? And I think that they deserve as much money as the kids in Oak Park get. And I feel that charter schools and all these other schools get more funding than we do and we have more students in our school than they do. And I don't think that that's right. And I think that everyone's voices should be heard.

Thank you, and you enjoy your evening.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. McReynolds.

Ms. Chavez.

MS. CHAVEZ: My name is Celia Chavez and I have two students in CPS. I'm here as a parent representative from the Local School Council at Blaine Elementary, and I'm representing the LSC to let the Board know that we have issues with the lack of transparency in how the formula was decided on these budget cuts.

I understand that a lot of blame shifting is going on between Governor Rauner and the issues.
are at the state level, and then, you know, the  
issues are at the CPS level, and we feel like we  
have been left out of those decision-making  
processes.  

LSCs are supposed to approve the state  
budget -- I'm sorry, the school budget, and with  
this mid year cut, we haven't been able to do that.  
We feel like that authority has been removed from  
our role.  

The cuts also don't take into account the  
existing contracts that schools may already have  
based on that initially decided budget. And so now  
schools are left to decide how we are going to  
maintain those contracts without breaching those  
contracts.  

We wonder also how this is impacting  
charter schools. Charter schools have a marketing  
budget. Has that been tapped at all before the  
public schools are having to see funds, you know,  
removed from their budgets? How have charter  
schools been affected? How have those marketing  
budgets been affected?  

And, lastly, with what authority have  
federal funds been frozen? Because typically when
federal funds are allocated, they're for a specific purpose. And so if those are being frozen, how else can CPS use that funding? If they're federal funds, how is that impacted with the cuts or the veto from Governor Rauner? So I know that maybe this is not the time where we will receive answers to that, but as a Board that has to respond to all of us here, we stand with all CPS schools.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Chavez.

MS. CHAVEZ: LSCs, and we expect answers to those questions.

PRESIDENT CLARK: CEO Claypool will respond to at least part of your question.

CEO CLAYPOOL: You asked very good questions, but I think you asked about ten of them. So I think you're right. The best thing we can do if we can get your contact information, we can go through each of those questions. There are answers to each one of those questions, but it's probably not the right forum to go through all of them. If you leave you contact information, anyone here, Ron Denard -- over there, thank you very much, Irma.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. President, I will
proceed with calling the speakers on the speaker list, and we'll call Speaker Number 1, please, Valencia Rias-Winstead followed by Speaker Number 2, Matthew Johnson, then we have Speaker Number 3, Donna Lewis, and Speaker Number 4, Sharon Baker.

Please state your name.


I first and foremost am always going to describe myself as a parent. I'm a graduate, yes, of CPS as well, but I raise -- I have four sons and a daughter who have also graduated and are adults gone on to college and everything else. I raised a total of seven boys in the City of Chicago, in tough neighborhoods, and through CPS's various schools. I'll put it that way. And I can say various schools because I both am a regular local traditional neighborhood school parent and I'm also and have been a college prep student, parent, Local School Council member, too, because I was on the LSC at all of those schools, and also seeing the various and different types of resources that are...
given to schools across the City of Chicago. 02:24:16

So I say, first and foremost, is that 02:24:18

Chicago Public Schools, you know, and being 02:24:20
transparent should definitely help us to make sure 02:24:23
that there are equitable resources throughout our 02:24:27
school throughout the city. I do not agree with 02:24:30
Governor Rauner not giving 215 million, but having 02:24:32
been in this fight for education and for funding 02:24:36
and for resources and for our youngest, most 02:24:38
precious assets, our children, for over 20 years, I 02:24:41
know that there's always more to it than what we 02:24:46
are told.

And so to that degree, I would like to say 02:24:48
that, first and foremost, having served on the LSC 02:24:49
right now at Bouchet, because even though my 02:24:52
children are gone, out of Chicago Public Schools, I 02:24:55
still serve as a community rep. I also sit as the 02:24:57
chairperson for the South Shore Community Action 02:24:59
Council, and we're involved in the schools in South 02:25:03
Shore. And I know that those cuts run deep. When 02:25:04
we don't get the resources or our children don't 02:25:07
get the resources, they resort to other things that 02:25:10
we usually end up seeing on TV. 02:25:12

And so me, as a parent especially of sons 02:25:15
who are, I call, an endangered species, I want to make sure that they're --
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Rias?
MS. RIAS-WINSTEAD: I'm going to conclude -- that they're safe.
And, lastly, where is the Governor? He should be at a hearing like this. He should be hearing what we have to say. And I'm hoping that you will take our testimonies from today and ask him to either listen and respond and come and -- come to Chicago. I don't want to keep going to Springfield. He needs to come to Chicago and hear what our parents want, what our parents need, and what our students are losing out on because of his lack of funding our schools equitably. I know about the pensions and all the other stuff. I can't talk about that now.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Rias.
MS. RIAS-WINSTEAD: Thank you so much.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Please state your name.
MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. My name is Matthew Johnson. My name is Matthew Johnson. I have four children that attend Chicago Public Schools. I stand here today as the Chair of the
PIAB Board, Parent Involvement Advisory Board, a parent of 11 parent members across the city advocating for parents while working with CPS as an advisory of Title I funds.

My message for Bruce Rauner, Mr. Rauner, we, the members of the PIAB, stand here today advocating for CPS parents and students across the city demanding adequate funding for all schools.

Mr. Rauner, we're asking you to make good on your campaign promises stating equality education for all children in the state, giving parents a choice.

Well, Mr. Rauner, we have a choice. Respect our choice to keep our children in Chicago Public Schools with adequate funding. Mr. Rauner, you have an opportunity to help change the struggles against discriminatory funding in education in the State of Illinois in which students' access to adequate funding for equality education is often denied, hurting minorities on the south and west side of Chicago the most.

Mr. Rauner, no parent should stand here and beg for adequate funding. Mr. Rauner, behind every door, every child matters. No matter what door, no matter what school, no matter what state
or what district, every child matters.  

Mr. Rauner, whether my son,  
Matthew Junior, attended Dewey Elementary School in  
Quincy, District 172, or Dewey Elementary School in  
Chicago, District 299, every child matters. Thank you.  

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.  

Our next speaker, please, Donna Lewis.  

MS. LEWIS: Good afternoon. Hello. My name is Donna Lewis. I'm a mother of a CPS student, and also I'm the president of Region 5.  

On behalf of Region 5, Title I parents, we would like to thank Chicago Public Schools for all you do. We do know the struggle is real, and we must continue to fight for our children. They are our future doctors, lawyers, teachers, and taxpayers. And, once again, I must say taxpayers. Region 5 Title I parents will continue to rally with Chicago Public Schools. We are asking Governor Rauner to support our schools with funding for District 299. Thank you.  

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you.  

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.  

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker, please,
Sharon Baker.

MS. BAKER: Hi. My name is Sharon Baker. I'm on the Illinois Delegate Steering Committee, Region 5, and also I'm at Dunbar High School as a PAC chair.

First and most of all, again, thank you, but, first, the message should go to him. Everything that we talk about, we need to think about our children. These kids here, we know in Chicago we got gang-bangers, we got people killing on the street. Without the education, they won't be able to get education like you have. They might want -- it depends on the money that needs to come into Chicago.

And Rahm Emanuel needs to be here, sitting here with us right now with us parents and all of the children that come down here. He might be doing -- it's excellent wherever he's at, but Illinois, Chicago need that money back now.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Baker. And our next speakers, Mr. President, will be Speaker Number 5, please, Roy Baldon followed by Speaker Number 6, Earlean Green followed by Speaker Number 7, Tracey Smith, and Speaker Number 8,
Richard Rzadzki.  

MR. BALDON: Good afternoon, President Clark, members of the Board. I'm here today to rally for the funding as well like most of my parents. We got these people -- we organized these people, got them together, and we're also prepared to get them organized and go down to Springfield, if need be, to speak on these fundings as well.

I'm a parent of two students at Marshall High School. I'm also the chairman and I'm also a member of the Executive Board for Region 5 as well. And I'm also a taxpayer.

Now what I want to say is Governor Rauner has failed us, and with the battle between him and Speaker Madigan, we can't continue to let them do that and keep our children in the midst of that because they're the ones that's hurting in the midst of all that fighting and the battling between each other.

With the $11 billion that he has in unpaid bills and two years without a full budget, come on now, this is getting ridiculous. So we need to have him to step up to the plate because they're not helping our communities doing what they're
doing. We need them to step up to the plate, fund these schools like they should so that our children can receive the adequate education that they need so they can be productive in society and perhaps sit on these boards like we're doing and rallying in support for funding.

When I was a student, we didn't know about all these issues, about all this fighting for funding. We had everything that we needed. I had a script prepared, but I'm speaking from my heart. We had all those tools and resources that we needed as students, and we didn't know anything about budget fights. We had books, textbooks. Now students have to use ditto paper or copy paper. They don't even have books nowadays. That's ridiculous.

And we're paying taxes for what purpose? And if these taxes are supposed to be to fund these schools, why isn't this money going to the schools like it should?

Like I said, if we need to go down with you guys to fight for the funding and speak on behalf of the district and these parents and our students, then we're prepared to do that and we'll
continue to rally all these parents and get them down there provided we have the transportation to get them there. Thanks.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Baldon.

Our next speaker, please, Earlean Green.

MS. GREEN: Good afternoon. My name is Earlean Green. I am parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent of students at Marshall High School and Al Raby.

I'm here to speak on behalf of the funding. For one thing, I'm a great-grandmother. I've been in the Chicago Public Schools for 66 years since I was in kindergarten. I'm 71 years old now. And I'd just like to say, in the day, as they say, everything we wanted we needed. There was no -- we didn't know anything about a budget, that you need money for this, you need more for that. All we know was that things was there at the school when we needed it. After-school programs, they had band. They had an orchestra. Just because you didn't play sports, that didn't mean there wasn't anything there for you to do. Now there's nothing -- there's something for these kids to do, but there's no money to
supply it. Then they tell us, Title I, No Child Left Behind. It seems like they're trying to leave us behind. We might be slow in getting there, but we won't be left behind.

So I just want you to know one thing, read the back of my shirt, and that's what I'm all about. Every child in these schools belong to me. I represent them all. And like I tell people, I can say what I want. You didn't hire me. You can't fire me. So I can speak on behalf of the students, the parents, and the community. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Green. Our next speaker, please, Tracey Smith.

MR. SMITH: Hello, Board. My name is Tracey Smith. I'm secretary of District 299. I'm a proud parent of five graduates from CPS. My mother sat on the PTA when I was at CPS.

I don't understand. It's simple. Are our kids at CPS not worth the investment to get them to the next level? CPS is turning out great kids. I mean, chefs, doctors, lawyers and everything else. What is Governor Rauner doing? I mean, Illinois
has problems. You can't find another way but
punish our kids? How can you do that? You don't
punish our kids. Our kids are trying to get an
education, the best education. We are entitled to
an education.

If you're doing it, find another way.

Find another way. Give us the $215 million. Find
another way. Because out of mind, it's a devil's
playground. And with everything going on in the
City of Chicago, you're telling me you can't give
us that money so our kids can have a safe place and
go to school and get an education to get to the
next level? I don't understand it. I don't
understand it.

why he ain't here? He's talking about
doing all of this and all that. It's not
happening. And our kids are an investment. We're
not going to stand for it. We are here to tell
him -- I can't say it like that -- doo-doo or get
off the pot.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Well said.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you. Our next
speaker, please, Richard Rzadzki.

MR. RZADZKI: Good afternoon. My name is
Rich Rzadzki. I'm father of five former CPS students. My remarks are directed towards the Governor, not yourselves.

I keep reading and hearing that the Governor wants to work together with Chicago on financial problems, but that has yet to have been seen. One wonders what it takes for him to put aside his pet business, reform agenda, and look to getting CPS, Chicago, and the state through their financial problems.

In this age spout bumper stickerisms but offer no leadership other than to come to heal to his agenda with nothing getting done for over two years. I watch and read the news every day. As of yet, I have not seen anything concrete from the government outlining his plans without his pet projects attached.

CPS students, their parents, teachers, and the rest of the city are being held hostage, twisting in the wind, over what? Workman's comp regulations? Term limits for elected officials? Really? A leader leads. He doesn't sit back and do nothing until he gets his way. He says, follow me, and he moves forward working to resolve
differences and issues with his opponents to come to a conclusion which we can all live with. A good businessman understands they don't get things their way all the time. There's as much give as there is take. Sadly, that has yet to be seen.

We, Chicagoans, send our taxes to Springfield, but what have we seen in return? What's our return on our investment? We've paid for this. We're not looking for hand-outs. It's high time the Governor understands his tactics have failed. The last election should have made that clear to him. Does he not understand that he can be pro business while being pro education at the same time?

I would venture to -- given the opportunity, many, many other governors would leap at the chance to have Chicago as their state's economic engine. In Chicago, he has a Ferrari for his economic engine --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Rzadzki?

MR. RZADZKI: Can I conclude?

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Sure.

MR. RZADZKI: Couple more sentences -- one
which requires high octane fuel in the form of funding, and that one of the most important components to that engine is its public education system with the fuel of that engine being money and, without that engine, Chicago's county becomes just another county. The six-county metro area becomes just another six counties. And Illinois? Illinois becomes Indiana's kid brother.

Apparently, the Governor does not think so. He treats us not as a Ferrari but as a beat-up, dented up, rusty old '62 Vw bus. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Rzadzki.
PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. President, the next person I will call is Michael Brunson from the CTU, please, followed by Speaker Number 14, Jalessa Willis, then 15, Chanta Young, 16, Theresa Jefferson.

MR. BRUNSON: Hello, everyone. Do I just have two minutes because I got some --
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Yes.
MR. BRUNSON: -- good ideas for you if you would give me more time.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Two minutes. 02:38:25

PRESIDENT CLARK: You got two minutes here, but 02:38:26
you are welcome to come see me. 02:38:27

MR. BRUNSON: All right then. I'm going to cut 02:38:29
straight to the chase.

You're all dealing with another round of 02:38:33
cuts and this revenue crisis. You ignore 02:38:34
progressive revenue options such as reinstate an 02:38:37
employer's expense tax which is a head tax and 02:38:42
would bring in a potential of $94 million. It 02:38:44
would reinstate, increase, and streamline the 02:38:47
collection of the employer's expense tax at four 02:38:50
times the previous level, okay.

Secondly, we can bring in a personal 02:38:55
property lease transaction tax which has a 02:38:58
potential of bringing in $35 million. That would 02:39:01
increase the personal property lease tax rate from 02:39:04
9 percent to 11 percent. Who would pay it? This 02:39:07
impacts vehicle renters who are mostly visitors to 02:39:11
our city as well as businesses that lease computer 02:39:14
software and hardware.

Finally, an additional TIF surplus which 02:39:18
has a potential of $100 million. That would -- 02:39:21
what it would do is freeze and defer future TIF 02:39:25
projects and dedicate full surplus to the CPS. 02:39:28

Now these are just a few ideas. If I had 02:39:32
more time, I would give you even more, but the 02:39:34
bottom line is, you don't have to keep cutting from 02:39:37
our schools. There is money. You need to go to 02:39:40
the right place. You cannot squeeze water from a 02:39:43
rock. You're not -- and tell the Mayor, he's not 02:39:45
going to fund this city with these stoplight 02:39:48
cameras and speeding cameras and fees and fines and 02:39:50
all of that. Go to where the money is. 02:39:53

I've given you a list of three things. I 02:39:56
can give you a list of even more. If you want to 02:39:58
have a meeting with me, I'm all for that, but let's 02:40:00
stop cutting these classes because this hurts our 02:40:03
children. This is not just about our members, but 02:40:06
you need to know that teaching conditions are 02:40:11
learning conditions. Stop shutting down these 02:40:14
schools, okay?

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Michael. 02:40:16

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Brunson. 02:40:17

Our next speaker, please, Jalessa Willis. 02:40:18

MS. WILLIS: Good afternoon. My name is 02:40:21
Jalessa Willis. I am a parent and a former student 02:40:26
of CPS.
I have three boys that attend John M. Smith Elementary Magnet IB World School. The reason I say the entire name is because we used to just call it Smith School. And it's much more than that to us, the entire community. It's much more than just Smith School. I have three boys that attend there with all promising futures. And it upsets me to know that there's $2.15 million taken away from the school budget, and it's sickening because our kids need something to do while they're in school instead of just looking at a brick wall and hearing someone talking. They need to be understanding what is really going on in the world.

So we want to ask Governor Rauner to please step up to the plate because we need the funding back here at Smith School. We have accounts that has been frozen, and we need that money back. That's all.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Willis. Our next speaker, please, Chanta Young.

MS. YOUNG: Good evening. My name is Chanta Young. I am a mother of three Chicago
public students. I'm also a graduate of Chicago Public Schools. I'm also a taxpayer in the City of Chicago.

My thing is I don't understand how the government can cut $215 million, money from a school. I'm just not understanding that. I mean, we need more programs in the school to keep the students off the streets. And we can look at Chicago and see what's going on in the city, all the murderers, the killing, innocent children getting killed. We need that money up in the schools, to keep these schools with these programs for these kids so they won't be on the streets.

So all I'm asking is that they put the money back in the schools so we can get these kids the fair education that they need because every child matters. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Young. Our next speaker, please, Theresa Jefferson.

MS. JEFFERSON: Hello, once again. My name is Theresa Jefferson. I was at the last Board meeting. I'm going to speak from my heart. I am a former student at CPS. I have grandchildren at CPS currently. I still live on the west side of
Chicago. I grew up as a teen mom and I have a daughter who's now a CPS teacher. So the struggle as a single mom raising a young daughter, and she succeeded, went to Whitney Young High School, went to Dodge Elementary on the west side of Chicago and then went to Illinois State.

I say that because the money that's being cut, it's really -- it's really sad and that we need -- I think it's like we have to come together, not just the parents, the people in the community.

We're talking about CTU. Everybody is going to have to come together to fight this because this is not going to be a one-man fight. It's not going to happen. And not just Bruce Rauner, but also Mike Madigan. It's like they're playing games on behalf of our children. And something has to really be done about this.

If we really want some real result, organized people, some powerful people, we're going to have to come together to organize ourselves. Like someone spoke earlier, give and take. So even with the Board, even with -- you know, even with the Board, even with the parents, the community, we really have to come together to make a difference.
because it's not going to happen with one person. 02:44:22
It's just not. When I say one group, it's going to 02:44:24
have to be us get together to get this done and 02:44:27
look for other money that is out here and also 02:44:30
making sure people are accountable because I am a 02:44:32
taxpayer, I do work. 02:44:34
And, you know, so just saying that all 02:44:35
kids do matter and making sure that we do come 02:44:38
together to get it done because it's not going to 02:44:40
happen with just one group. It's just not. 02:44:42
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Jefferson. 02:44:45
PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Jefferson. I 02:44:47
appreciate -- you're very articulate and I 02:44:49
appreciate your passion. 02:44:51
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President. 02:44:53
Our next speakers will be Speaker Number 17, 02:44:54
please, Lisa Kulisek followed by Speaker 18, 02:44:57
Crystal Hoschett. We'll then have Speaker 20, 02:45:01
Darryl Triplett, and Speaker 21, Michelle 02:45:05
Dreczynski.
Lisa Kulisek, please. Please state your 02:45:11
name.
MS. KULISEK: Hello. My name is Lisa Kulisek. 02:45:17
I am the parent of two CPS students, ages 6 and 9,
and I have a vision to help Governor Rauner be the change I want to see in the world.

When I visit CPS schools across the city, I see a world-class school district suffering from the chronic underfunding the Governor's own commission recently reported. I see brilliant hard-working students learning to read, write, code, sing, be scientists, support one another, learning to be productive citizens and future leaders, learning about social justice and to call out injustice when they see it.

I see teachers giving their all day and in day out. I see principals finding creative ways to make two small budgets work, operating very efficiently, and wasting no opportunity on behalf of their students.

I see neighborhoods that embrace their schools as safe havens, centers of hope and happiness amidst upheavals of any and every kind.

I see Forrest Claypool and other school district administrators from Pena to Peoria doing everything they are supposed to do with connection, concern, and compassion.

When Governor Rauner vetoed a first step
toward equitable funding for CPS, he sent a message to all Illinois schools that his political agenda matters more than our children. But our nearly 2 million children are the real economic future of Illinois.

In my vision, leadership is stepping up to say simply, children matter more. Leadership is looking seriously at the commission's report and acknowledging that funding education adequately and equitably must be our state's first priority. Leadership is visiting our schools and listening to parents who have been advocating solutions since even before the Governor took office.

Instead of responding to our suggestions with stunning and prolonged silence or dismissive insults, leadership is asking us what is working well and what do you need.

This Wednesday, when in my vision Governor Rauner stands up for our children and says, I will provide progressive, fair, and equitable funding of Illinois public schools because it is the right thing to do, because it will improve the lives of all Illinoisans and because that is what a leader is supposed to do,
then and only then will he gain the support of every public school parent in Illinois who will finally be able to say, here in Illinois, we proudly invest in public education because our children matter. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Kulisek.
PRESIDENT CLARK: That was really excellent, thoughtful, and frankly, I can speak for myself, but I think for the entire Board, there's no disagreement. We'll continue doing our part, pressing the issue, but that was extremely well said.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you. Please state your name.

MS. HOSCHETT: Good afternoon. My name is Crystal Hoschett. I'm just here to reiterate what everybody else is saying.

I'm a mother of seven. So far, six have been through CPS. I'm a big advocate of CPS. I love what the core of CPS stands for; but, lately, over the years, from -- my oldest is 17 to my youngest is 3, over the years, even when I was going to school as a CPS student, like they said, the resources was there. We can go on field trips
that enhance our education as far as arts and science and whatever else that you're learning in school. It was enhanced outside because we had the resources.

Now all the resources is being taken away, for what? For what? Because nobody can communicate. Nobody can see a common ground. Nobody understands that these kids are our future. This is not their future, the stripes on my shirt. It's not their future. The future lies in our hands, in our hands. We need to sit down. We need to have the politicians. I'm with them. I'm tired of going to Springfield. I want everybody to come to a common ground. We can meet, CTU, CEOs from CPS, everybody, Madigan, state legislators, they're right around the corner from us, we need to come to a common ground.

I don't want to see CPS fail. I believe in the system. My kids are all coming through the system, and I would love to see my three-year-old daughter come through this system. But without education comes a lack of understanding, and we're not understanding of getting these kids where they need to be.
PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Hoschett.

Our next speaker, please, Darryl Bright-Triplett.

MR. TRIPLETT: Hello, everybody. I'm a single father. This is my son right here. I'm going to try a couple topics before my two minutes are up.

I'm here about diverse learning, about cutting this budget. Somebody is not thinking about diverse learning children. This is my son here. He's an A and B student, but he's not getting the service because they have been cut.

The teachers who is supposed to be serving diverse learners, they are in the classroom helping other teachers, doing recess, doing this, doing that.

Who is watching diverse learners? Who is making sure our children are meeting their IEPs, meeting their 504s? Who's watching them?

And the reason why I say that because my son been in school for seven years. Each year, there's always something going on. He achieved cooking class in kindergarten. He achieved Chi S&E which is a pre-college science engineer and currently still in the program. He also had the
Lego technology. Each year, he's getting cut because you all cutting service. Every time.
This is how we keep the children in school so when they get out of school, they can look forward going to college and doing something.
I read an article saying that you want to know where 100 and some thousand kids are at.
Well, they are in the streets because services are cut. After-school program is cut. If we implant and empower them with this at the young age, this makes them grow up and want to make choice of their own and be somebody. Right now the streets got them.
I want to let you know, this is A and B. As long as you keep money out of the school program, keep the service for our children, we have a chance to save our own children. And that's all I'm asking. That money need to come back to 299. It need to come back to our children. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker, please, Michelle Dreczynski, last call.

Moving on to the next speaker, we will
have Speaker Number 22, please, Maria Isabel Santos, followed by Speaker 23, Ronald Lawless, Speaker 24, Michael Neal, and Speaker 25, David Tilson.

MS. SANTOS: (Through interpreter) My name is Maria Isabel Santos. I represent the voice of many Greeley Elementary parents worried about the opportunity of education.

Governor Rauner is talking about highways. What I need, myself, the parents, we want highway for our children to go to college. We want -- I want from my daughter a teacher, more programs. I don't want a policeman waiting for her when she's on the street like many others because she doesn't have opportunities.

We can't pay for a private school, but she makes an effort from 8 to 5 taking advantage of the after-school opportunities. Because all of the problems -- still with the problems, she is an A student and she wants to go to a selective school. We want to fight with you for the budget, for the 215 million. As a parent going to the Parent University, you, CPS, gave me the chance to learn how to work and teach my daughter. So I am
calling you to get together to fight for our
children because they deserve and they have the
right to that money, the money the Governor is
cutting from our budget.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you. Our next
speaker, please, Ronald Lawless.

MR. LAWLESS: Good afternoon. My name is Ron Lawless. I'm a graduate of CPS.

I want to start off by saying that every
resident of Illinois has an abiding interest in
fair and equitable support for public education.

Businesses suffer when poorly funded schools cannot
provide an adaptable work force as well as civic
participation and activities. Even more
importantly, we have recently seen the impact on
communities of families when our educational system
fails the children of Chicago because of the lack
of funding from the state that has the primary
responsibility for financing the system of public
education.

CPS is in a uniquely difficult financial
situation. It is the only school district in
Illinois that is required to support its pension
system independently of state revenues. In
contrast, pension plans outside of CPS who are part of the State Teacher Retirement System are funded by the Illinois government through taxes including those paid by Chicago taxpayers. Citizens of Chicago are asked to pay twice. We are subject to the double taxation. This is an abuse that no other citizens of Illinois must suffer. We must all work together to change this discriminatory policy and practice.

It is the General Assembly whose duty it is to make the laws that conform to the Constitution. We must remind the Governor that it is the constitutional responsibility of the state and not only the residents of Chicago to fund education. Let's not be confused. We have two issues here, pension reform and the responsibility of a state to fund education. One should have noting to do with the other. Let us deal with the pension issue by changing the law that has Chicago residents paying for both CPS teachers pension and the pensions of others. And let Chicago schools receive appropriate and equitable resources as required by the state Constitution.

We all should be asking the Governor and
the legislators to do right by the parents and children of CPS --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Lawless?

MR. LAWLESS: Just about finished -- by releasing the funds that the Governor has vetoed. The financial crisis faced by CPS is not our children's doing. Do not punish the children for the mistake of others, Governor Rauner.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Lawless.

PASTOR NEAL: My name is Pastor Michael Neal. I'm a CPS graduate and the father of two CPS graduates who are now in college.

A society will be judged based -- on the basis of how it treats those who are the weakest and most vulnerable. Time and time again, we find ourselves at a crossroads of deciding if we, as a community, a city, a state, and a nation will do the right thing as it relates to proper funding and support to our students.

I implore this body and all others who have influence to stop giving a false narrative of what can't be done, but, instead, a sharper focus of what needs to be done. The term cost is often utilized when a desire to make something happen is
not strong, but often we use the word or the term invest when there is strong will. I am asking that we begin to start thinking of investment regardless of what's happening in Springfield as we have already been shown that Springfield is not concerned about Chicago. So now that this current Governor has shown us who he is, let us move forward and begin to see what we can do as a city. My hope is this body will begin to embrace the value of investing because we know what happens when we don't invest properly, especially those who are most vulnerable and our youngest. We see it every night on the news. We can turn this around if we begin to invest and embrace the needs to educate our young people. Thank you very much.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Neal. Our next speaker, please. David Tilson.

MR. TILSON: Yes. Good afternoon, President Clark, Board of Education, Mr. Claypool. My name is Dave Tilson. I have a first grader and fourth grader at Helen C. Peirce Elementary School in the Edgewater neighborhood. I'm also president
of Friends of Peirce, a nonprofit organization made up of dedicated parents and community volunteers to help raise funds to support much needed educational programs and help provide our students a world-class education.

While I don't condone the actions of Springfield, I was disappointed to see how Mr. Claypool characterized the current budget situation that CPS is once again faced with. His tone of blaming others, politicizing these challenges, and fanning the flames of today's divisive political discourse is, at best, inappropriate and not the message he and this Board should be sending to people expecting his leadership and accountability. A CEO is to instill confidence that he, his staff, and this Board has a plan, the resolve, and capability to overcome these challenges.

The financial situation has resulted in fear, uncertainty, and doubt for the neighborhood schools that already have to fight for public funding against powerful, privately-owned charter schools. The first budget cut this year created uncertainty resulting in our school losing fed-up
families, teachers, and staff to other districts creating instability and what should be the foundation and bedrock of our diverse and fragile community. Increased class sizes further our risk to future instability.

I suggest we stop blaming others for problems past and present governors, legislators, executives, boards, and mayors have created and get to work creating sustainable solutions to the structural and financial challenges of our communities and within CPS.

With one eye on Springfield, why not control what we can control? I'll give you a few ideas. Instill confidence from parents, administrators, teachers, and staff and perhaps Springfield by creating and admitting a culture of operational excellence, organizational alignment, and financial responsibility and transparency. A less bureaucratic, efficient, and well-run school district could better absorb the challenges we face.

For instance, introducing a midyear cut as drastic as this one creates additional uncertainty, tensions, and stress --
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Tilson?

MR. TILSON: -- on people responsible for educating our children. Their job is hard enough. While we plead with Springfield to create more equity in school funding, this Board has a lot of work to do to get its own house in order. It's likely that in making these improvements, CPS will instill confidence in Springfield and taxpayers. Understanding it's easier said than done, I suggest we get to work.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Tilson.

Our next speakers will be Speaker Number 26, Tenisha Jones followed by Speaker 27, Vanessa Richardson, Speaker 28, Esperanza Nieves, and Speaker 29, Roger Post.

MS. JONES: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts about the most recent budget cuts. My name is Tenisha Jones. I'm the Director of Education with the Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation, a community-based organization located on the far south side of Chicago who works with local schools to provide social supports and wrap-around services to ensure our students and our schools thrive.
These are particularly challenging times for the City of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools. These problems are not new. However, the impact of continuous budget cuts has had a profound and devastating impact on the most vulnerable, our children. We know that high quality education requires a lot of financial and human resources. Without them, students suffer. We have to be bold and steadfast about protecting the resources we know our children need to thrive. This is an emergency, as we cannot sit back and allow generations of children to continue to fail.

In closing, I would like to read a statement from one of the principals that I work extremely closely with in Auburn-Gresham.

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts about the most recent budget cuts, but, first, I must tell you all about the great things happening at our school.

Our student growth is trending up. We changed levels in one year growing from 2 to 2 plus. Though working with our community partners, we have been able to secure two main resources at
our school site this year, a satellite school-based health center and a green school yard. We have also had the blessings of working with Chicago Care to step up and help us beautify and maintaining our school building.

When it comes to what we receive from CPS, it is minimal. My teachers are tenured, thus the funds that we receive mainly pay for positions. The minimal amount that we have left pays for supplies, copy machine maintenance, and small emergencies. My teachers don't get paid for attending before and after-school meetings --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Jones?

MS. JONES: Real quickly, I just want to really represent my colleagues today.

I just want to say that it's really been hard to handle this. We have a cluster program. We don't have enough funds for the students, and we just really need to work on trying to support the schools and the principals that work inside of our schools every day. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you. Next speaker, please, Vanessa Richardson.

MS. RICHARDSON: Good afternoon. My name is
Vanessa Richardson, and I represent a PAC member, LSC chair, CAC member, and also the Illinois PTA. I can stand up here -- I had a speech prepared to talk about, oh, please, Governor Rauner, let's work with us, but obviously that's useless. He's heard it all before.

We know, as parents and community members, just as well educators and Board members, it's tight everywhere. I can stand up here and talk to you about, oh, we need more funding for schools, but you all know it just as well as we do.

But what I can tell you is, representing the Illinois PTA today, we are the only parent voice at the state level. Right now, there are 12 to 13 organizations that make up education in Illinois, and we are the only group right now with a voice in Springfield.

I'm not here to ask the Governor for more money. I'm here to demand money from the state. We can do as many fundraisers, we can get as much money from corporations, but that's still not going to fix the deficit in CPS. District 299 is the third largest school district in the United States outside of
Puerto Rico. There's no reason for Illinois to be ranked 50th out of 50 states with education funding.

As of the last ten or so years, the PTA has been known as a fund-raising organization to help offset the cost, but I'm here to let you know today, we are no longer doing that. We are now -- as far as Chicago region, yes, we will raise funds, but we're going back to our core beliefs, demanding and being advocates for our children.

If the Governor is not with us, by definition he's against us, and I want you all with me.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Richardson.
Next speaker, please, Esperanza Nieves.

MS. NIEVES: Good afternoon. I am a parent from Kelvyn Park High School. I'm here representing my parents, my children. I have a college graduate, one in the middle, and one in the high school level.

The impact that's going on with everything around us with these freezes and changes and with everybody that I have heard before that came up here before me, I think we do have a certain
solution we can prove that we can all work together and try to figure out, instead of the blaming here and there, there's always a fix for something instead of just cutting and deleting, and at the end, it's going to have to work out, but we have to all work together at the same time and be committed and follow through just like we're all here committed standing here trying to learn from each other, at the same time, to make us more bonded and more like a family with the communities and with our administrators and with our teachers and also with you. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Nieves.

MR. POST: Good afternoon. My name is Roger Post. I am a parent of a CPS graduate. I help run a business on Chicago's west side that employs over 400 people. I'm a property taxpayer. I have a stake in the success of our schools, and I am mad that we find ourselves once again begging the Illinois legislature and the Governor to do what they were elected to do, what they have a legal obligation to do, adequately fund the education of our children.

I am also mad that as Chicagoans we can't
seem to come together to create a consistent educational funding system. As we each know, as parents, teachers, administrators, business owners and politicians that education is vital for creating a successful city. Without education, we lose opportunities. Families uproot and come apart. Communities unravel. Businesses look elsewhere for the people they need to win in the marketplace.

But instead of channeling our energies towards improving the education our children we receive, we squander them on the politics of right and left, never solving the underlying and essential funding of our schools.

I can't say I'm happy that the Mayor increased the taxes that I pay, over 35 percent on my own home and 43 percent on the business that I help run, but it was a right thing to do for our children and our city. But enough is enough. I heard a speaker earlier talk about increasing taxes like the head tax, like the lease tax. I'm in a competitive business, and every one of my competitors outside the city does not suffer those same taxes and it makes it harder and harder for us
to employ the 400 people that we do employ in the city. 80 percent of our employees are residents of the City of Chicago and 60 percent of them have children in these schools.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Post, can you please conclude?

MR. POST: Okay. I want to reiterate my support for what most of the speakers today have said, but I do not support reaching back and finding additional taxes on the cities that employ the people who are parents in these schools and who -- the businesses that will provide jobs for these children when they leave the schools. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Post. Our next speaker, Vice President Guzman, will be Speaker Number 30, Jasmine Cabrales, followed by Speaker 31, Darlene O'Banner-Suttle followed by 32, Martin Ritter, and Number 33, please, Margaret Tower. Please state your name.

MS. CABRALES: My name is Jasmine Cabrales. I'm here just to speak to you guys as a single mother of three. They all attend CPS schools, and to inform you guys that I understand that CPS has
done and continues to do as much as they can for our children. I was brought up in CPS, and I could testify that from the time that I was in CPS to the time that my children have started in school, there's a big change, and it's because we work together and we got them there.

I could give you an example. When I was in school and I attended first grade, it was just to kind of get into the school rhythm. There was no actual academic structure. My daughter was in first grade. She left first grade reading. So there has been an improvement.

It gets me mad that they want to cut budgets when we already reach a success point. We need to continue funding our education, not cutting. You want an answer for the crime that we have in Chicago? It's because we've cut our education. It's because we cheated the most important part of our children. It's to raise them, to educate them, that there's more out there. There's work. There's work that makes you feel successful and give you a better opportunity in life. Let's give them that opportunity.

People talk about increasing property
taxes. I'm a single mother of three. I just recently purchased my home a year ago. It's hard. It's hard. If you want to increase -- they have already done it. Emanuel has done it, and I'm all for it. If it comes to education, let's do it. But enough is enough. We want better for our children. The state needs to help us. Our Governor needs to do what he needs to do. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Cabrales. Please state your name.

MS. O'BANNER-SUTTLE: Good afternoon. My name is Darlene O'Banner. I'm from the Englewood community, Earle STEM. I'm on the Local School Council, PAC. I'm here to support Mr. Claypool, so whatever you need. I don't have a whole big speech. Everybody know it's wrong what the Governor has done. Trust me. He's almost out of there. This is his last year, and we will vote him out of there.

But I'm here to let Mr. Claypool know that we do support you, and if we do need to go, what we need to go to Springfield, we support, and whatever
you need us to do, we will be with you.

And also speaking for Local School Council, Mr. Ron, the budget, he did a PowerPoint there, is that being shared with the Local School Councils? Because I know they brought all the principals to a meeting last week and they did something with the budget. They had to freeze stuff here and there. Is that being shared with the Local School Councils? Because I would like to have that PowerPoint because those two figures, it wasn't much in the difference, and what you started and what you're going to submit, and I feel like when the principals come downtown or they go on 47th Street, the Local School Council should be in some of those meetings when they're talking to the principals.

And I know each school got to give up something. I don't have a problem with that because I support CPS, but just be a little bit more transparent with the Local School Council so we know what's going on at the school level. Thank you.

Mr. Claypool, we support you, and I'm ready to go to Springfield.
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. O'Banner.  

MR. RITTER: Good afternoon. My name is Martin Ritter. I'm an organizer for the Chicago Teachers Union. 

A copy of this letter was provided to President Clark, Dr. Jackson, and CEO Claypool when I came downstairs. There's not enough for everybody. 

While we do have a serious budget problem and we need revenue from Springfield and the city, a certain network of charter schools is trying to exploit this situation. The Noble Street Charter Network is trying to expand very quickly on the northwest side by buying another building and adding potentially up to a thousand more students further thinning the pie. This would be at the Noble ITW Spear Charter High School across the street from Prosser serving the Belmont-Cragin area. 

As you can see in this letter, a coalition of elected officials including 29th Ward Alderman Chris Taliaferro, 30th Ward Alderman Ariel Reboyras, 31st Ward Alderman Milly Santiago, 35th Ward Alderman Carlos Rosa, 36th Ward Alderman
Gilbert Villegas, State Senator of the 2nd District 03:15:36
Omar Aquino, and Cook County Assessor and Chair of 03:15:37
the Cook County Democratic Party Joseph Berrios in 03:15:39
addition to numerous community organization leaders 03:15:42
have all signed a letter opposing the expansion of 03:15:44
Noble Street Charter School at the ITW Spear 03:15:46
campus.
03:15:49
We do not need to expand this charter
school right now. Prosser, Steinmetz, Foreman,
Schurz, Taft, Chicago Academy, Orr, Austin all need
money. They all have had millions cut from their
budgets over the last few years. They need every
dollar they can get. We don't need to thin out the
pie anymore.
03:15:59
Please do not expand the Noble Street
Charter School. Do not allow some simple loophole
in the collective bargaining agreement with the
Chicago Teachers Union on charter school expansion
be exploited by a very politically connected
network of charter schools. Thank you.
03:16:12
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Ritter. Our
next speaker, please. As she approaches the
podium, the next speakers will be Speaker 34,
Cheryl Bolden followed by Speaker 35, Christine
03:16:21
Palmieri, and Speaker 36, Joan Motton.

Please state your name.

MS. TOWER: I'm Margaret Tower. I retired after 39 years, the last 17 was at Foreman High School, and I have seven children.

I'm just amazed by a man who talked me before, Ronald Lawless, when he said the pension costs for the whole state are borne by Chicago. That seems so unfair to me that Chicago has to pay for the pensions of the whole state and guiltless. I mean, there's no feeling of guilt at all in the towns that are benefiting from this? I think it's appalling.

In my experience in the public schools in Chicago, I think we have the best school system in the world.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Let me interrupt you. I'm sorry, I don't normally this while a person is speaking, but I think that the statement you made, I don't know who made it. Did someone actually say that?

MS. TOWER: He said it, Ronald Lawless.

CEO JACKSON: He was making the case that Chicago taxpayers pay twice because they pay and
support part of the pension statewide but also in Chicago.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I don't want to be promoting any misconception or a completely wrong statement. Chicago doesn't pay the pensions for everybody in the state. That's --

MS. TOWER: Who do they pay the money for for the pensions?

PRESIDENT CLARK: I think the response that you just got from Dr. Jackson is much more -- is an accurate representation. Go ahead.

CEO CLAYPOOL: I think the way to phrase it is Chicagoans support the downstate and suburban pension funds with their income taxes. So a portion of their income taxes on a proportional basis, just like with the rest of the state, goes to fund the downstate and suburban teacher pensions, and if Chicago is a third of the state, then a third of the funding comes from Chicago taxpayers through their income taxes; but then they get double taxed. Then they have to go to their property taxes, the same people who have paid their income taxes to support downstate and suburbs, have to pay from -- their property taxes are raised to
pay the Chicago teacher pension.  
So you're correct and Mr. Lawless, was it, was correct that Chicago taxpayers are the only ones who have to pay twice to support teacher pensions. And as we know, the state doesn't give us a dime in support for our teacher pensions and they pay for the pensions of every other school district in the state.

MS. TOWER: Yeah, to me, that's appalling. Also I have seven children who have gone to public, private, and Catholic schools, and I'm wondering when is the whole country going to feel the results of the law? When is the whole country going to have the charter schools and -- I wonder. Anybody up there know when? I mean, why is it just the big cities in the nation are suffering from that law? How about the rest of the country starting in that, finding out that they have to get their high schools cut in half or in quarters. When is that going to happen? Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Tower. Our next speaker, please, Cheryl Bolden. Last call. Moving on to the next speaker, Speaker 35, Christine Palmieri.
MS. PALMIERI: Hello. My name is Christine Palmieri, and I am a parent to a third greater with autism.

As you know, my son was delayed half a school year in getting SECA support due to the new policies intended to delay and deny costly special education services. Time was also wasted going through the special education budget appeal process only to be denied access to the 4 percent holdback which we now know is actually a guised reduction in funding.

Principals were told to fund all IEPs while you simultaneously cut their budget and ability to do so. So my child's federally mandated access to a free and appropriate public education declines with each budget cut.

So I don't want a letter home placing blame elsewhere. I want action. Special education is costly. It is expensive. It's also an investment with ample returns.

So I'm asking this Board to reject the incorrect narrative that we're overspending and that we're over identifying our diverse learners. I'd rather fight harder to secure proper federally
mandated special education funding. And what I would give to have the platform that you have as perhaps an elected, you know, CPS Board member, I would not sit idly by while our most vulnerable children pay the price of politics that have gone awry.

So there is action that this Board can take today by protecting the little special education funding that we do have. So instead of muddling the budget transparency moving forward, can we please commit to reversal of the commingling of the special education and the general education budgets and take a stand and promise that special education budget cuts are off limits moving forward?

And as I'm under on time, can we get a commitment to moving forward that we will look into reversing the commingling of the special education and general education budgets?

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Palmieri. Our next speaker, Joan Motton. Last call.

Moving on to the next speakers, please, Speaker 37 Wendy Katten followed by Speaker 38, Sarah Hainds. Then we have Speaker 39,
Cherale Tyson, and Speaker 40, Mary Sherrod. 03:22:21

MS. KATTEN: Good afternoon. I am Wendy 03:22:26
Katten. I'm a parent of an eighth grader and I'm 03:22:28
speaking on behalf of Raise Your Hand. 03:22:31

So my group had some questions about the 03:22:33
choices CPS made in terms of where to cut, and I'm 03:22:36
not surprised that there was almost no information 03:22:41
presented, but when I met with principals, we found 03:22:44
out that you decided to cut Title I and SGSA funds. 03:22:47
So schools like mine that are very middle income 03:22:51
and have almost no low-income, maybe 20 percent, 03:22:54
were barely cut. 03:22:56

Somehow you had the resources to organize 03:22:58
parents who are outside who told me they didn't 03:23:00
know how these decisions were made. And so, yes, 03:23:04
we need pension parity. My group, as you might 03:23:08
know, has gone to Governor Rauner's block to knock 03:23:13
doors. So let's get people to do that. But let's 03:23:15
not continue with some of the same kind inequitable 03:23:17
practices. 03:23:21

The parents who you brought here and you 03:23:23
pay -- I don't know who -- the PACs organized them 03:23:25
they told me. Their kids are going to lose 03:23:29
after-school programs. Is Rauner going to come 03:23:31
through with the money? We don't know. Why don't you make some other choices?

We have a list. Why don't you trim the $37 million network office? Why don't you trim the $7 million phase office? And I'm sorry, I like the people who work there. We don't want anyone to lose their jobs. They can find another job. The kids who are here, they're not going to have opportunities that they need when you cut their after-school programs and everything else.

Why don't you trim the 4.4 -- or the 4.9 million in innovation and incubation. We don't need more schools right now. Why don't you look at the 15.8 million that's going to Clout Consulting, Jacobs Project Management that the Sun-Times even called a Clout contractor in 2014. How can you persist with some of these things and do what you did today? It's really one of the most cynical things I have observed --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Katten?

MS. KATTEN: -- since I've been around which has been a while. Don't do that to parents. Don't cut from Title I to try to make some statement to Rauner. We'll all go to Springfield, but don't do
that to parents.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Katten.

MS. HAINDS: I'm Sarah Hains from Chicago Teachers Union, and I'm also a parent of a CPS child.

So everyone here today or most of the people here today keep talking about revenue options, and we get a whole bunch of blank stares coming from you guys up there. The CTU proposed almost $500 million in additional revenue last year with our revenue package, and we didn't hear anything back.

We've been fighting for TIF funds for years, and we're glad that we got a little bit of it last year; but you keep blaming Rauner, and you're not doing anything to change the revenue at all. And we don't even know what you're doing to fix the funding formula in Springfield. You're not being open and transparent with us with whatever lobbying you're doing and whoever you're trying to push to get more money.

I was on the truancy task force two years ago, and it was based on a whole bunch of research and best practices around the country. It would
pay for itself if we funded a truancy program. And right now, 30,000 children are not being paid for every year which you know it's in the CAFR, just came out two weeks ago. We're not getting revenue, $450 million for 30,000 kids who are not in school because they have health issues and other barriers to coming. And all we're doing is cutting our clinician services and wrap-around services, and we're not helping these kids get to school.

In addition to all the other revenue packages that the CTU keeps putting forth, which is all based on research -- and I don't understand why you don't address it, like right now. I mean, you don't -- you're just staring at me. No one is ever addressing the other funding opportunities. I mean, LA, New York, other districts have come up with all kinds of creative options. Other states have come up with creative options, and we just keep saying that we're broke and we keep hurting the most vulnerable children.

You don't have anything to say?

CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you.

CEO CLAYPOOL: Sure, I'll say something. I think you heard a couple of people here say that,
you know, Chicagoans -- Chicago taxpayers and businesses have been hit with about a billion dollars in new taxes in the last year or two to pay for pensions. We paid -- our taxpayers pay twice, their income taxes and their property taxes to fund pensions, the only one in the state.

The answer -- the problem is not the Chicago taxpayers and homeowners and businesses are undertaxed. The problem is that the State of Illinois deliberately and through racial discrimination against our kids gives Chicago a fraction of the dollars that are given to everyone else in the state. That is the issue. Hundreds and hundreds -- you want to know where the money is? Hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars of unequal treatment --

MS. HAINDS: I'm aware of the discrepancy. What are you doing about it?

CEO CLAYPOOL: There were hundreds, hundreds upon hundreds and hundreds of parents last year with principals and community leaders and activists that fought and worked and went to Springfield and won. And then Governor Rauner came in here -- it wasn't a complete victory, but it was a big step
forward. It was hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue. And then in one stroke of the pen in the middle of the school year, Governor Rauner pulled the rug out from it and said, I didn't mean what I said, I'm going to hold the Chicago kids hostage even as the taxes of every Chicago business and every Chicago homeowner going up, up, up to pay for their share and their part, even though they're double taxed, I'm going to take away the state's money and bring us right back where we started where your kids get three-quarters of the support of every other school district in the state.

That is wrong. It's unequal. It's racial discrimination on a grand scale against some of the most vulnerable kids in the state. So let's take the fight where it belongs which is Governor Rauner and Springfield because until our kids get equal funding, we'll be here every year, we'll be having this debate.

MS. HAINDS: But we don't know what you're doing in Springfield. That was a one-day bus trip. I remember it. It was well-publicized.

CEO CLAYPOOL: That was the culmination of months of work. Months of meeting with state
MS. HAINDS: I'm a parent. You're not communicating that with us.

CEO CLAYPOOL: Social media. I mean, it was a huge grass roots movement. I'm sorry you missed it. It was 20 for 20. It worked. It was successful. If it wasn't for the Governor, we would be on our way forward. Instead we're on our way backwards, and we have to reverse that again.

So once again, I hate to say it, we have to go back to the same parents, the same community leaders and ask them, once again, because of Governor Rauner, we have to fight again. We have to organize again. We have to organize a grass roots effort between now and the end of the session to get the basic fundamental equality that our kids deserve.

A VOICE: You closed half these schools and opened God knows how many charters before Rauner ever came in.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Our next speaker, please Cherale Tyson. Cherale Tyson. Last call.

Moving on to the next speaker,

Mary Sherrod.
MS. SHERROD: Good afternoon and thank you so much for listening to my testimony. Hello. My name is Mary Sherrod, and I am a representative of District 299, parent community general assembly, and I represent the Clara Barton community. And Line 3 on my real estate taxes say that I have confirmed that I have a right to be here today and to be able to speak to you.

How do you eat an elephant is what I've always heard, and I'm told that you eat it one bite at a time. Well, does this methodology apply to our children as well? Is this how we educate our children with that same one bite? So picking at their lives, making them less educated and criminals by holding the state funding.

And so I'm saying to you because you are part of our voice as we speak to you today, and we would like to say that it holds back our parents and community. Now old school, and I'm old school, says that romance without finance doesn't make any sense.

So I'm saying our schools are years behind in state funding, as you just said, and the state seems to think that's okay. Local and district
meetings have been held. We have been down to Springfield and Dr. Janice Jackson, and we met with others. We are parents. Many of us go to those same meetings. So we do this so that we can be able to stay abreast and educate our children.

Now I'm saying to you, as I close, that the Sherrod family is a recipient of Chicago Public Schools. I'm a retired crossing guard. I have a daughter that's a Chicago Police officer and another daughter that's a professor down in Decatur and they all graduated. So I'm saying to you, it's our money, and we want it now. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Sherrod.

Our next speakers will be Speaker Number 42, Huu Nguyen followed by Speaker 43, Carol Hayse, Speaker 44, Tasha Robinson, 45, Chirag Mehta, 46, Yvette Reed, and then the last speaker, Speaker 47, Christopher Behrend.

Please state your name.

MS. NGUYEN: Hi. My name is Huu Nguyen. I'm an LSC parent rep at Goethe Elementary, and our school experienced a freeze of nearly $100,000. I'm thankful that our principal is savvy enough, and so we were able to maneuver this without losing
any teaching positions, but this freeze has resulted in depleting entirely all the funds that were put away for curriculum, resources in every subject area, and there is no money left for after-school programming or staff development.

I agree that the state legislators and the Governor needs to do their fair share, but I also find it audacious that you, Mr. Claypool, and Dr. Jackson, you can send letters to our families and say, "Governor Rauner, just like the President, has decided to today attack those who need the most help." But how can you say that and see those actions in others and not in yourselves?

We don't have to worry about President Number 45 and the Governor attacking our families because our own CEO, our own Board are doing the job for them. I mean, how can you mandate and freeze $49 million of school funds that include federal Title I funds and SGSA funds? Is that even legal?

What is undeniable is that the schools that continue to be hit the hardest are -- with all these cuts, the freezes, are the Title I schools; and the children who attend these schools are the
ones, as you point out, the ones who need the most help, right.

So can we just stop using this language of racial coding, of underprivileged, underserved, vulnerable communities, the ones who need the most help? Because really what this coded language means among those in power is that these communities are considered disposable. It is only when you see these children and families considered disposable is that when you can actually give out millions of dollars worth of contracts to nonessential central office departments and prioritize those needs over our classroom and students' immediate needs.

So profit over --

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Ms. Nguyen?

MS. NGUYEN: -- it's a systemic disease that has taken over our government. You are a part of it, and it has infected this district for decades, and you are merely vectors.

So you've asked us to sacrifice and cut so much from our students and our schools. I'm just asking you what are you willing to sacrifice and cut from your bureaucracy?
SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Nguyen. Our next speaker, please.

MS. HAYSE: My name is Carol Hayse. I am a retired CPS social worker. I came prepared with some insight into the kind of suffering that your decisions cause to special education students, to parents, and to communities. However, I may not have time for that.

So I'm going to go right to the most important point which is that CPS is full of morally numb leadership. I hope that you will not continue to be among the morally numb. I hope that you will listen to all the suggestions that have been made for alternative sources of income for the schools.

You cannot blame this crisis on Rauner. You closed 50 schools and opened God knows how many charters before Rauner was ever in office. So that is a convenient thing for you to say, but it is a misstatement, at best, to blame this current situation on Rauner.

Mr. Claypool, in an apparently heartfelt way, you mentioned all the taxes that are coming on the middle class folks and so on. What you left
out of what you said is that there could be a possibility, and it's been done in different parts of the country, of a millionaire's tax, of taxes that would not affect struggling middle income families and working class families. So I encourage you to rethink your approach to this to no longer be an individual who is morally numb. Listen to the parents. Listen to the individuals who have suggested alternative sources of income and really accept your responsibility for the suffering you're causing in the public schools.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Hayse.

Our next speaker, please, Tasha Robinson.

MS. ROBINSON: Hello. Thank you. My name is Tasha Robinson. I'm with SkyArt. We provide visual art services to youth. We have a 15-year history of successful visual arts programming in CPS schools in some of the most underserved neighborhoods in the City of Chicago. We have worked with over 20 schools every year reaching hundreds of students every week. Many of the schools and the students that we work with have no other access to visual arts.
programming or instruction in their schools. These school funds allow SkyArt and other partnering organizations to fill this gap and provide essential services that many of these schools are otherwise unable to provide.

Currently, SkyArt has outstanding contracts for services and programming that's either in progress or already completed totaling over $60,000. These funds are vital to the continued success of our organization as well as our ability to continue to provide services to these schools and these students.

We now have a very real concern as to whether or not these contracts and these commitments will be honored. We also have a real concern as to whether or not the needs of these schools and these students will continue to be met. We're asking now that our schools continue to be supported and funded so that these vital services and these partnerships can continue and that our youth can thrive. Thank you.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Robinson.

Our next speaker, please, Chirag Mehta.

MR. MEHTA: Good afternoon. My name is
Chirag Mehta, and I'm a CPS dad of a third grader and a kindergartner at Agassiz Elementary.

I'm here, though, on behalf of Parents for Teachers to express our opposition to the ongoing cuts to CPS schools. I think the reality from our standpoint is that the cuts to our schools have happened even before Governor Rauner's veto of the $215 million that are owed to CPS. And from our perspective, the cuts always seem to never be the last resort, that there's a multiple of options to avoid cuts to our schools, but those options are never taken, before the veto and even after.

We all know that the State of Illinois does not provide CPS nearly anywhere near the level of funding that they should be providing and anything close to fair. Also Governor Rauner's decision to eliminate the $215 million to further an ideological agenda was a slap in the face to parents. We all know that.

But to put all the blame on Governor Rauner for CPS's cuts is the definition of passing the buck. When considered in the context of how much money CPS wastes due to mismanagement or as a matter of policy, the cuts that we're facing now
are utterly galling. 2 million was paid by CPS to 03:39:00
settle misconduct claims against CPD officers in 03:39:06
the schools. Just this morning, there's a report 03:39:07
out that CPS has overpaid for-profit alternative 03:39:09
schools by $10 million. Then there's the hundreds 03:39:12
of millions of dollars lost because of outsourcing 03:39:14
everything from cleaning services to food services 03:39:16
to the schools themselves. 03:39:19

I could go on and on about the funds that 03:39:20
CPS has lost or given away, but you get the idea. 03:39:23
Some of these millions that are lost are due to 03:39:25
policy. Some are due to mismanagement, but any way 03:39:28
you look at it, it's unacceptable. 03:39:30

The Board should immediately unfreeze the 03:39:32
$45 million in discretionary funds. They should 03:39:34
reverse the teacher furlough days. They should 03:39:37
reverse the cuts to special ed that have been 03:39:39
happening before the loss of 215 million. They 03:39:41
should pay for this fiscal year's budget gap by 03:39:45
recouping funds lost due to outsourcing and 03:39:48
mismanagement and join parents and teachers to call 03:39:51
on the city to -- 03:39:54

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Mehta? 03:39:54

MR. MEHTA: -- release additional TIF dollars 03:39:55
to fill the remaining gap for this year. TIFs, and this has not even been mentioned, but people that are concerned about property taxes, we're paying more property taxes because there's a TIF fund -- because of the TIF funds that are taken away, siphoned off from the schools and given away to corporations and big businesses that don't need the money.

We should all be calling for TIF -- for TIF funds to be released and ongoing TIF reform to lower our property taxes and make sure our schools are funded.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you.

Our next speaker, please, Yvette Reed.

MS. REED: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Yvette Reed. My husband, Sherman Reed. We are parents of -- well, we're actually parents of students who actually attended the Chicago Public Schools System. We're also now grandparents of students who are attending the Chicago Public School System.

My husband and I have volunteered. We have served on the LSC. We served -- we're right now serving on the CAC board to help support and
secure that our schools, our community are open and safe and thriving.

We're here to declare, claim, and demand that Governor Rauner release the funds that is due to our Chicago Public School System. The school is not broken. It just needs money. It needs the money to run. It needs the money to support our children, to be all that they can be.

Now, mind you, we have eight children, amen. We have eight children, one who is right now in Norfolk, Virginia, on a ship on her way back to Norfolk from the Chicago Public School System. We have a daughter who has graduated from Lewis University, Dominican, with a master's and a bachelor's who is right now in psychology who has came through the Chicago Public School System. We have two daughters who drive the CTA train, who operates the train, who have gotten those jobs through the Chicago Public School System. We have a son who work at Chase. We have a 19-year-old who came out of the Chicago Public School System.

The system is not broken. It just needs money. And now we have grandchildren that we're hoping to support and be able to be grandparents,
to volunteer, to support the school system and to
tell them and recommend them that they're doing a
great job because we can see it through our own
children. Now what the system needs is to help
boost our children up, give them the resources that
they need in order for them to go further.

How many more minutes I got? Another
thing is that I understand Rauner is having some
really big issues in Springfield with Madigan and
Cullerton. Unfortunately, they're causing his
hairs to rise up on his back and he's not able to
move forward and do some of the things that he
needs to do.

But in addition to that, he shouldn't take
it out on the Chicago Public School System
children. They need their money. They need the
money to go and be doctors and be lawyers and go to
the Army and be psychologists and go work at a
Chase Bank and be a banker or do some of the other
opportunities that have allowed my children to
receive. Thank you so much.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Reed.

And the last speaker, Mr. President,
Christopher Baehrend, please.
MR. BAEHRENDE: Hello there. I am Chris Baehrend. I'm the president of Chicago ACTS, the union for charter teachers in Chicago. We represent 32 of the 125 charter schools in Chicago. And, yeah, I did an informal survey of a few members who are special ed teachers. So I'm here to speak against the latest cuts and especially the special education cuts. We've got 32 schools. I'm not sure exactly how many special ed students, but I calculated about a hundred thousand minutes are not being met. That's like four years of school for the students who need it the most.

If you need someone to help you figure out how to factor, if that person is not there, you're not learning that skill, and that's like a real handicap going forward, right. You only got one shot through eighth grade or you should only have one shot. It's imperative.

Here's what you can do. First of all, stop commingling funds for special education. You're just shifting the responsibility somewhere else. It's unconscionable.

Two, stop charter expansion. The schools
-- we got 32 schools. The majority of the schools are facing lower enrollment. They're facing budget cuts. We've had layoffs at the majority of our schools. (Unintelligible) Academy has had four rounds of layoffs in the past two years. They do awesome work. I encourage you to come learn about them. And also these four private option schools are just destroying alternative education.

More schools means less money per school. It's simple math. I could teach it to you, even though I'm not a math teacher.

Also progressive revenue. I think people already talked about -- you know what's out there. You don't have to tax the working families more. You can tax the wealthy people in Chicago. They got lots of money. I don't know -- Ken Griffin has got a gilded statue of victory. Let's sell it.

And then I think, Mr. Claypool, you mentioned that, you know, there's just no money, but the city has found money to pay the police contract, pay fire, pay for a Red Line extension. This is crucial. These kids, it's desperate.

I just like to ask a question as it ends here. How are these charter cuts coming? Are they
coming in student-based budgeting? Are they coming 03:45:25
through -- because like you factored out per 03:45:28
school -- 03:45:29

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Mr. Baehrend? 03:45:29

MR. BAEHREND: Anyway, I would like to know. I 03:45:30
got a lot of members who would like to know. Does 03:45:32
anyone have an answer for that?

CEO CLAYPOOL: Give your card to Matt Walters. 03:45:36

MR. BAEHREND: Sure. 03:45:40

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. Baehrend. 03:45:40
Mr. President, this concludes the public 03:45:42
segment.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Board Members, are there any 03:45:45
questions or comments?

REV. GARANZINI: I have a question. I wonder 03:45:48
if there's some misunderstanding about Title I 03:45:51
funds? If someone could address that issue?

CEO CLAYPOOL: Ron or Janice? Ron, do you want 03:45:53
to go first and Janice maybe embellish?

MR. DENARD: The Title I funds, let me repeat 03:46:00
this, Title I funds are not being frozen. Schools 03:46:04
are being encouraged to use Title I funds; but, 03:46:13
again, as a part of our freeze of nonpersonnel 03:46:17
expense, Title I funds are not being frozen. 03:46:20
PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you, Ron.

REV. GARANZINI: I thought there was some misunderstanding. I never heard it was frozen.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I hope everyone heard that. I hope -- excuse me, miss. I hope everyone heard that very explicit comment. It's okay if you don't believe it. It doesn't change --

MS. KATTEN: Show us where it's frozen. I don't care if you arrest me. I went and met with principals who pointed it out, Line 332, Line 225 --

PRESIDENT CLARK: We're happy to talk to you and take you aside and show it.

MS. KATTEN: You should tell the budget. I don't care about me.

PRESIDENT CLARK: Our budget gets posted on the web site.

MS. KATTEN: Give a presentation.

PRESIDENT CLARK: I appreciate -- well, you should care because you're not the only one here. Other people need to speak. You're being viewed by young people. You do want to care.

MS. KATTEN: You are being viewed by young people.
PRESIDENT CLARK: And I try to remember that.

03:47:22

MR. DENARD: I'll repeat it one more time.

03:47:25

PRESIDENT CLARK: Ron, you were succinct.

03:47:29

We're going to move on. You did answer the
question. I know that some of you have doubts.

03:47:29

But that was absolutely my understanding and you
affirmed it.

03:47:33

MS. KATTEN: You have shown nothing to the
public.

03:47:35

PRESIDENT CLARK: Board members, any other
questions? Having heard no other questions from
Board members, this concludes the amended budget
hearing.

03:47:40

Thank you all for participating. I thank
you for trying to conduct yourself in a
professional manner. I know that in this type of
environment, it gets to be very difficult to do.

03:47:42

(whereupon, the Budget Hearing
adjourned at 3:48 o'clock p.m.)

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STATE OF ILLINOIS )
 ) SS:
COUNTY OF WILL )

ANNA M. MORALES, as an Officer of the Court, says that she is a shorthand reporter doing business in the State of Illinois; that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of said Budget 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 Budget Hearing.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my verified digital signature this 20th day of February, 2017.

[Signature]
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