

CONFIDENTIAL

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF CHICAGO
AMENDED FY-2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
held on
November 28, 2016

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled matter at 42 West Madison Street, Garden Level Board Room, Chicago, Illinois, commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m., MR. FRANK CLARK, presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS:

MR. FRANK CLARK, President
MR. JAIME GUZMAN, Vice President
MR. MARK F. FURLONG
MS. GAIL D. WARD

ABSENT:

DR. MAHALIA A. HINES
REV. MICHAEL J. GARANZINI
MS. DOMINIQUE JORDAN TURNER

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

1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 MR. FORREST CLAYPOOL, Chief Executive
3 officer

4 DR. JANICE JACKSON, Chief Education
5 officer

6 MR. RONALD L. MARMER, General Counsel

7 MS. ESTELA G. BELTRAN, Secretary to the
8 Board

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1 (whereupon, the following
2 proceedings commenced at
3 3:30 o'clock p.m.)

4 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Before we begin, 03:29:24
5 Mr. President, Jadine Chou will read a safety 03:29:25
6 announcement for us. 03:29:28

7 MS. CHOU: Good afternoon, everyone. My name 03:29:29
8 is Jadine Chou. I am the Chief of Safety and 03:29:31
9 Security for Chicago Public Schools. On behalf of 03:29:34
10 all of us, we would like to welcome you today to 03:29:36
11 the 2017 Amended Budget Public Hearing. 03:29:38

12 I would like to quickly share some safety 03:29:42
13 announcements to assure the safety of all of our 03:29:45
14 attendees here today. In order to maintain a safe 03:29:47
15 environment, we ask that everyone keep all the 03:29:51
16 aisles and exits clear. The primary entrance and 03:29:52
17 exit are to my right. If you are leaving the room 03:29:54
18 as a matter of course, please use the exit to my 03:29:59
19 right. 03:30:02

20 In the event of an emergency and we need 03:30:02
21 to vacate the room, you will hear an alarm. Please 03:30:04
22 remain calm and promptly proceed to move to exit 03:30:08
23 the room. In addition to the primary exit, there 03:30:10
24 are also two additional exits for your use, one to 03:30:13

1	my left behind me and one to my right behind me.	03:30:15
2	During the meeting, if you should need any special	03:30:19
3	emergency assistance, please wave the attention of	03:30:21
4	one of our security officers and they will come to	03:30:24
5	your aid. We do have CPD and emergency responders	03:30:26
6	who will be available to assist us in the event of	03:30:29
7	an emergency.	03:30:32
8	At CPS, safety is always among our highest	03:30:33
9	priorities. I want to thank you again for joining	03:30:36
10	us today.	03:30:38
11	PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you. Good afternoon,	03:30:40
12	ladies and gentlemen. Welcome. I'm Frank Clark.	03:30:46
13	On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I want to	03:30:50
14	thank you for coming today. The purpose of this	03:30:53
15	hearing is compliance by the Board with the School	03:30:55
16	Code Provisions regarding amending the fiscal year	03:30:59
17	2017 budget.	03:31:07
18	Madam Secretary, please state for the	03:31:09
19	record the notice procedure for this hearing.	03:31:10
20	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President.	03:31:11
21	Notice of this public hearing was published in the	03:31:13
22	Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper of general	03:31:15
23	circulation in the City of Chicago, on November 21,	03:31:18
24	2016, and posted on the cpsboe.org web site on	03:31:21

1 November 17, 2016. The amended budget was posted 03:31:26
2 on the Board's web site on November 16, 2016, and 03:31:29
3 was further updated on November 21, 2016, in 03:31:32
4 accordance with the School Code. I will now read 03:31:35
5 into the record the public notice as published. 03:31:38

6 Notice, Public Hearings, FY-17 Amended 03:31:42
7 Budget, 2016 to 2017, Chicago Board of Education 03:31:46
8 commonly known as Chicago Public Schools. 03:31:50

9 To whom it may concern, public notice is 03:31:53
10 hereby given by the Chicago Board of Education that 03:31:55
11 it has prepared an FY-17 Amended Budget for the 03:31:59
12 2016-2017 fiscal year in tentative form and that 03:32:03
13 five copies thereof available for public inspection 03:32:07
14 have been filed and are now on file in the office 03:32:09
15 of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, 03:32:12
16 commonly known as Chicago Public Schools, One North 03:32:15
17 Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois, 03:32:19
18 60602, and available at www.cps.edu/budget, and 03:32:21
19 that said Board of Education will hold two public 03:32:29
20 hearings on said amended budget on the 28th day of 03:32:33
21 November, 2016, Chicago Public Schools Loop office, 03:32:35
22 42 West Madison Street, Garden Level, Board Room, 03:32:39
23 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. The first hearing, 03:32:42
24 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., registration from 2 to 3 p.m. 03:32:46

1	The second hearing, Chicago Public Schools	03:32:51
2	Loop office, 42 West Madison Street, Garden Level,	03:32:53
3	Board Room, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, the hearing	03:32:57
4	time 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and the registration	03:33:00
5	4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	03:33:03
6	Dated at Chicago, Illinois, November 16,	03:33:05
7	2016, Chicago Board of Education by Frank M. Clark,	03:33:08
8	President, and attest, Estela G. Beltran,	03:33:11
9	Secretary.	03:33:15
10	Mr. President, I would like to note for	03:33:15
11	the record the members that are present here today,	03:33:17
12	and we have Member Furlong?	03:33:19
13	MEMBER FURLONG: Present.	03:33:21
14	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Vice President Guzman?	03:33:23
15	VICE PRESIDENT GUZMAN: Present.	03:33:23
16	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Member Ward?	03:33:25
17	MEMBER WARD: Present.	03:33:25
18	SECRETARY BELTRAN: President Clark?	03:33:27
19	PRESIDENT CLARK: Present.	03:33:27
20	SECRETARY BELTRAN: We have four members	03:33:30
21	present. There is a quorum.	03:33:31
22	PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much,	03:33:33
23	Madam Secretary. Let's begin with the amended	03:33:34
24	budget presentation. Mr. Walter, I believe that	03:33:37

1 you're going to make that presentation. 03:33:39

2 MR. WALTER: Good afternoon. I'm going to run 03:34:02

3 through a brief presentation on the FY-2017 amended 03:34:24

4 operating budget and the amended capital budget 03:34:29

5 we're proposing. 03:34:33

6 I'll start with the operating budget. We 03:34:35

7 are proposing to increase appropriations by 03:34:37

8 \$55 million in the operating budget related to the 03:34:40

9 CTU or the pending CTU contract. This is largely 03:34:44

10 the result of the steps and lanes which is the 03:34:47

11 largest part of the 55 million along with several 03:34:50

12 other factors that I'll get into in just a minute. 03:34:53

13 The \$55 million in appropriation will be 03:34:55

14 paid for through additional TIF revenues above what 03:34:58

15 the original budget included. This will fully 03:35:01

16 balance the budget at \$5.514 billion, \$55 million 03:35:05

17 greater than the original approved budget of 03:35:11

18 \$5.459 billion. 03:35:16

19 The breakdown of the budget will be 03:35:19

20 identical to the original approved budget with the 03:35:20

21 exception of the \$55 million sliver for the CTU 03:35:24

22 contract which you can see on the far bottom right. 03:35:28

23 We continue to spend roughly 70 percent of our 03:35:30

24 appropriation on salaries and benefits that include 03:35:34

1	\$721 million for teachers' pension of which CPS is	03:35:37
2	the only district in the state required to pay our	03:35:41
3	legacy pension obligations.	03:35:43
4	of our 70 percent of the spend that's	03:35:47
5	related to personnel cost, roughly 97 percent of	03:35:49
6	that are related to teachers and other school	03:35:52
7	support personnel.	03:35:55
8	This slide includes a few details on the	03:35:59
9	\$55 million cost of the CTU contract. As I	03:36:02
10	mentioned, the largest portion of this cost is	03:36:07
11	related to steps and lanes which is \$45 million.	03:36:09
12	This brings teachers up to the step or lane that	03:36:12
13	they would have been had we allowed steps and lanes	03:36:15
14	last year.	03:36:19
15	In addition, there's a roughly \$7 million	03:36:21
16	cost associated with teacher -- reassigned teacher	03:36:24
17	pool. This is for teachers that are laid off. It	03:36:28
18	provides a benefit for up to ten months. There's a	03:36:30
19	charter proportionate share for these costs as well	03:36:33
20	as some other smaller costs including classroom	03:36:37
21	support for K through 12 -- K through 2 classes	03:36:40
22	that have over 32 students.	03:36:43
23	Partially offsetting these costs are about	03:36:45
24	\$11 million in estimated health care savings	03:36:47

1 related to switching health care plans, options for 03:36:50
2 employees. 03:36:54

3 Turning our attention to the capital 03:36:58
4 budget, we are proposing to amend the FY-2017 03:37:00
5 capital budget to include up to \$750 million in 03:37:04
6 capital projects. These will be backed by or paid 03:37:07
7 for with the bond issuance backed by the Capital 03:37:12
8 Improvement Tax. We will hold hearings shortly to 03:37:14
9 discuss the specific projects that will go into 03:37:18
10 this \$750 million, but this will give us the 03:37:20
11 appropriation authority. 03:37:23

12 That concludes my remarks for today. 03:37:25

13 PRESIDENT CLARK: Board members, questions? 03:37:27
14 Questions? 03:37:32

15 I have two. Go back to the second page I 03:37:33
16 believe -- no, the one -- come forward. Right 03:37:43
17 there, Page 4. The revised or amended budget of 03:37:47
18 \$5.514 million represents a 55 million increase 03:37:50
19 over the budget we voted on previously, and you 03:37:59
20 explained the component parts of that. That budget 03:38:01
21 assumes two things, one which I know the answer, 03:38:05
22 the other which the answer is pending. 03:38:09

23 One assumes that the \$300 million gap has 03:38:12
24 been completely closed. I know in talking to 03:38:16

1 CEO claypool that you and others have worked very 03:38:20
2 hard to come up with a viable way of doing that 03:38:23
3 that is as least disruptive as we could possibly be 03:38:33
4 but still with the \$300 million gap. 03:38:36
5 This budget also assumes, and I have great 03:38:39
6 hope, that the General Assembly and the Governor 03:38:45
7 will come to an agreement that would allow him -- 03:38:51
8 allow us to receive the \$215 million that was 03:38:56
9 conditional. So if there's a piece of that that's 03:39:00
10 got a question mark around it, I would say it's the 03:39:04
11 215 million, although, again, I expect that 03:39:07
12 Springfield will continue acting responsibly and 03:39:10
13 meeting their obligation. Is that your 03:39:15
14 understanding? 03:39:18
15 MR. WALTER: Yes, I would agree with your 03:39:18
16 statements. 03:39:20
17 PRESIDENT CLARK: Okay. If there are no other 03:39:20
18 questions, thank you very much. 03:39:23
19 MR. WALTER: Thank you. 03:39:25
20 PRESIDENT CLARK: Let's proceed with today's 03:39:30
21 public comment segment. Madam Secretary, please 03:39:31
22 share the rules for public comment. 03:39:34
23 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Mr. President. 03:39:36
24 For the record, I would like to note that 03:39:37

1 registration for the public hearing was held 03:39:39
2 between the hours of 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., and we are 03:39:41
3 still taking individuals who show up to address the 03:39:44
4 Board, Mr. President. Individuals who register to 03:39:49
5 speak will have two minutes to comment and I will 03:39:51
6 call speakers in the order of registration. This 03:39:54
7 hearing will conclude after the last person who has 03:39:57
8 signed in to speak has spoken or at 5:30, whichever 03:40:00
9 occurs first. 03:40:04

10 When called, please state your name, and I 03:40:05
11 will proceed by calling the first speaker, and we 03:40:08
12 have Speaker Number 1, please, Pamela Witmer. 03:40:10

13 MS. WITMER: Good afternoon. My name is 03:40:28
14 Pam Witmer. I'm the senior policy manager at the 03:40:30
15 Illinois Network of Charter Schools. Thank you for 03:40:33
16 your time today. 03:40:34

17 I'm here to encourage you, the Board of 03:40:37
18 Education, to treat all of your public school 03:40:39
19 students equitably by distributing the proposed 03:40:42
20 additional funds in the Amended FY-17 Budget to all 03:40:45
21 of the students in the district, including the 03:40:48
22 district students enrolled in charter public 03:40:50
23 schools. 03:40:52
24 Chicago and its students have made 03:40:54

1	tremendous progress over the past several years.	03:40:56
2	Charter schools have been part of the story of	03:40:59
3	success in the district. As the percentage of	03:41:01
4	charter public schools in CPS has increased, so has	03:41:03
5	the district's average ACT scores, freshman on	03:41:06
6	track rates, graduation rates, and college	03:41:09
7	enrollment rates.	03:41:12
8	Beyond outcomes and data, we all know that	03:41:14
9	no child in CPS is worth less than any other child.	03:41:16
10	We know that students enrolled in charter public	03:41:21
11	schools are not lesser than students enrolled in	03:41:23
12	district-run schools, and CPS's and the Board's	03:41:27
13	practices must reflect this belief.	03:41:30
14	As a reminder, charter public schools are	03:41:33
15	public schools, and 96 percent of charter public	03:41:35
16	school students are African-American or Hispanic.	03:41:40
17	88 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch, and	03:41:42
18	charters serve the same proportion of students with	03:41:45
19	special education needs as district-run schools.	03:41:48
20	So when CPS is considering how to disburse	03:41:50
21	its new funds from the TIF dollars and other	03:41:53
22	dollars to help low enrolled schools, please commit	03:41:56
23	to ensuring that every student, no matter the type	03:41:59
24	of school that they attend, receives the resources	03:42:02

1	needed to fulfill the promise of a public	03:42:04
2	education. Thank you.	03:42:07
3	PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.	03:42:08
4	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Witmer.	03:42:09
5	And our next speaker, Mr. President, is	03:42:11
6	Speaker Number 2, please, Catherine Henchek.	03:42:12
7	MS. HENCHEK: Good afternoon. My name is	03:42:20
8	Catherine Henchek, and I'm the parent of a special	03:42:23
9	needs student at Vaughn Occupational High School	03:42:25
10	and a member of Parents for Teachers. My son is	03:42:30
11	cognitively impaired, but is doing really well, but	03:42:33
12	that's just thanks to all the support he's had.	03:42:34
13	And I'm very worried that unless we change the way	03:42:37
14	that we are financing the schools, his supports are	03:42:39
15	not going to be there.	03:42:43
16	CPS has already cut 85 million from the	03:42:44
17	special ed services which is the paraprofessionals,	03:42:47
18	SECAs, psychologists, teachers, therapists, nurses.	03:42:50
19	Those are the people that children like mine need	03:42:54
20	to survive in school. The commingling of special	03:42:57
21	ed and general ed budgets is really pitting parents	03:43:00
22	against each other and pitting students against	03:43:03
23	each other.	03:43:07
24	I just don't see how this amended budget	03:43:08

1	is going to solve the problem. We're still relying	03:43:10
2	on money from Springfield which we mentioned which,	03:43:13
3	I mean, I don't think it's going to be there. And	03:43:15
4	we need to commit to other revenue sources. We've	03:43:19
5	got the TIF reform bill that's just sitting there	03:43:24
6	in the committee. That would bring us another	03:43:26
7	hundred million dollars and give us an ongoing	03:43:28
8	source of funding.	03:43:31
9	This budget looks, especially if we don't	03:43:32
10	get that money from Springfield, like we're going	03:43:34
11	to have more cuts midway through the year, and	03:43:36
12	parents and students and teachers just can't take	03:43:39
13	anymore. We need a budget that properly funds our	03:43:42
14	schools and allows all children, both special	03:43:44
15	education and general education, to get what they	03:43:48
16	deserve and what they need. Thank you.	03:43:50
17	PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much.	03:43:53
18	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, Ms. Henchek, for	03:43:54
19	your comments. Mr. President, I have no further	03:43:55
20	speakers that have registered to address the Board.	03:43:59
21	So this concludes the public segment comment.	03:44:02
22	PRESIDENT CLARK: Board Members, any questions	03:44:05
23	or comments on the presentation, on the remarks	03:44:07
24	during public participation?	03:44:11

1 I will make just one observation. I 03:44:17
2 frankly am perhaps more optimistic than others that 03:44:20
3 Springfield will meet its responsibility. They 03:44:27
4 certainly stepped up to the plate at the end of 03:44:30
5 their session and, in fact, we did receive very, 03:44:35
6 very meaningful financial support that frankly we 03:44:38
7 should receive. So I will assume that good 03:44:42
8 government will continue. We shall see. 03:44:47

9 And with that, if there are no other 03:44:51
10 questions, this concludes our amended budget 03:44:52
11 hearing. We'll be back in the next session at 6. 03:44:58

12 SECRETARY BELTRAN: That is correct. The next 03:45:03
13 hearing is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and registration 03:45:04
14 for public participation is between the hours of 03:45:07
15 4:30 p.m. and 5:30, Mr. President. 03:45:10

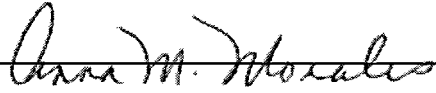
16 PRESIDENT CLARK: Thank you very much. This 03:45:14
17 hearing is concluded. 03:45:15

18 (whereupon, the public hearing
19 adjourned at 3:45 o'clock p.m.)
20
21
22
23
24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF W I L L)
4

5 ANNA M. MORALES, as an officer of the
6 Court, says that she is a shorthand reporter doing
7 business in the State of Illinois; that she
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
9 Public Hearing, and that the foregoing is a true
10 and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
11 taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
12 given at said Public Hearing.

13 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set
14 my verified digital signature this 30th day of
15 November, 2016.
16
17

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19
20 
21 Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter
22
23
24



<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>above-entitled 1:8 ABSENT 1:17 ACT 12:5 acting 10:12 addition 3:23 8:15 additional 3:24 7:14 11:20 address 11:3 14:20 adjourned 15:19 aforesaid 16:11 African-American 12:16 afternoon 3:7 4:11 7:2 11:13 13:7 agree 10:15 agreement 10:7 aid 4:5 aisles 3:16 alarm 3:21 allow 10:7,8 allowed 8:13 allows 14:14 amend 9:4 amended 1:3 3:11 5:1,6,11,20 6:23 7:3,4 9:17 11:20 13:24 15:10 amending 4:16 Anna 1:23 16:5 announcement 3:6 announcements 3:13 answer 9:21,22 anymore 14:13 appropriation 7:13,24 9:11 appropriations 7:7 approved 7:17,20 Assembly 10:6 assist 4:6 assistance 4:3 associated 8:16 assume 15:7 assumes</p>	<p>9:21,23 10:5 assure 3:13 attend 12:24 attendees 3:14 attention 4:3 9:3 attest 6:8 authority 9:11 available 4:6 5:13,18 average 12:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 9:15 15:11 backed 9:6,7 balance 7:16 behalf 3:9 4:13 belief 12:13 believe 6:24 9:16 Beltran 2:7 3:4 4:20 6:8,14,16 6:18,20 10:23 13:4 14:18 15:12 benefit 8:18 benefits 7:24 Beyond 12:8 bill 14:5 billion 7:16,18 Board 1:1,9,12 2:8 4:13,15 5:7,10,15,19,22 6:3,7 9:13 11:4,17 14:20 14:22 Board's 5:2 12:12 bond 9:7 bottom 7:22 breakdown 7:19 brief 7:3 bring 14:6 brings 8:12 budget 1:3 3:11 4:17 5:1,7,11 5:20 6:24 7:4,4,6,8 7:15,16,17,19,20 9:4 9:5,17,19,20 10:5 11:20 13:24 14:9,13 15:10 budgets 13:21 business</p>	<p>16:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>call 11:6 called 11:10 calling 11:11 calm 3:22 capital 7:4 9:3,5,6,7 care 8:24 9:1 Catherine 13:6,8 CEO 10:1 certainly 15:4 Certified 16:21 change 13:13 charter 8:19 11:15,22 12:2,4 12:10,14,15 charters 12:18 Chicago 1:2,9 3:9 4:22,23 5:7,8 5:10,15,16,17,21,23 6:1,3,6,7 11:24 Chief 2:2,4 3:8 child 12:9,9 children 13:19 14:14 Chou 3:5,7,8 circulation 4:23 City 1:2 4:23 5:15 Clark 1:10,13 4:11,12 6:7,18 6:19,22 9:13 10:17 10:20 13:3 14:17,22 15:16 classes 8:21 classroom 8:20 Claypool 2:2 10:1 clear 3:16 closed 9:24 Code 4:16 5:4 cognitively 13:11 college 12:6 come 4:4 9:16 10:2,7 coming 4:14 commenced 3:2 commencing</p>	<p>1:10 comment 10:21,22 11:5 14:21 comments 14:19,23 commingling 13:20 commit 12:22 14:4 committee 14:6 commonly 5:8,16 completely 9:24 compliance 4:15 component 9:20 concern 5:9 conclude 11:7 concluded 15:17 concludes 9:12 14:21 15:10 conditional 10:9 considering 12:20 contains 16:11 continue 7:23 10:12 15:8 contract 7:9,22 8:9 copies 5:13 correct 15:12 16:10 cost 8:5,9,10,16 costs 8:19,20,23 Counsel 2:6 COUNTY 16:3 course 3:18 Court 16:6 CPD 4:5 CPS 4:8 8:1 12:4,9,20 13:16 CPS's 12:12 cpsboe.org 4:24 CSR 1:23 CTU 7:9,9,21 8:9 cut 13:16 cuts 14:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>D 1:16 data</p>	<p>12:8 Dated 6:6 day 5:20 16:14 Dearborn 5:17 deserve 14:16 details 8:8 digital 16:14 disburse 12:20 discuss 9:9 disruptive 10:3 distributing 11:19 district 8:2 11:21,22 12:3 district's 12:5 district-run 12:12,19 doing 10:2 13:11 16:6 dollars 12:21,22 14:7 DOMINIQUE 1:20 DR 1:18 2:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>ed 13:17,21,21 education 1:1 2:4 5:7,10,15,19 6:7 11:18 12:19 13:2 14:15,15 emergency 3:20 4:3,5,7 employees 9:2 encourage 11:17 enrolled 11:22 12:10,11,22 enrollment 12:7 ensuring 12:23 entrance 3:16 environment 3:15 equitably 11:19 especially 14:9 Estela 2:7 6:8 estimated 8:24 event 3:20 4:6 exception 7:21 Executive 2:2 exit</p>	<p>3:17,18,22,23 exits 3:16,24 expect 10:11 explained 9:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>F 1:15 fact 15:5 factors 7:12 far 7:22 fellow 4:13 file 5:14 filed 5:14 financial 15:6 financing 13:14 first 5:23 11:9,11 fiscal 4:16 5:12 five 5:13 following 3:1 foregoing 16:9 form 5:12 FORREST 2:2 forward 9:16 four 6:20 Frank 1:10,13 4:12 6:7 frankly 15:2,6 free 12:17 freshman 12:5 fulfill 13:1 fully 7:15 funding 14:8 funds 11:20 12:21 14:13 Furlong 1:15 6:12,13 further 5:3 14:19 FY-17 5:6,11 11:20 FY-2017 1:3 7:3 9:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>G 2:7 6:8 GAIL</p>
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1:16 gap 9:23 10:4 GARANZINI 1:19 Garden 1:9 5:22 6:2 general 2:6 4:22 10:6 13:21 14:15 gentlemen 4:12 give 9:10 14:7 given 5:10 16:12 go 9:9,15 going 7:1,2 13:15 14:1,3,10 good 3:7 4:11 7:2 11:13 13:7 15:7 government 15:8 Governor 10:6 graduation 12:6 great 10:5 greater 7:17 Guzman 1:14 6:14,15	<hr/> I <hr/> identical 7:20 Illinois 1:9 5:17,23 6:3,6 11:15 16:1,7,21 impaired 13:11 Improvement 9:8 include 7:24 9:5 included 7:15 includes 8:8 including 8:20 11:21 increase 7:7 9:18 increased 12:4 individuals 11:3,4 inspection 5:13 issuance 9:7	4:1 legacy 8:3 lesser 12:11 Let's 6:23 10:20 Level 1:9 5:22 6:2 License 1:24 looks 14:9 Loop 5:21 6:2 low 12:22 lunch 12:17	1:23 16:5 move 3:22	<hr/> N <hr/> name 3:7 11:10,13 13:7 need 3:20 4:2 13:19 14:4,13 14:16 needed 13:1 needs 12:19 13:9 Network 11:15 new 12:21 newspaper 4:22 North 5:16 note 6:10 10:24 notes 16:10 notice 4:19,21 5:5,6,9 November 1:5 4:23 5:1,2,3,21 6:6 16:15 Number 11:12 13:6 nurses 13:18	<hr/> P <hr/> p.m 1:10 3:3 5:24,24,24 6:4 6:4,5,5 11:2,2 15:13 15:13,15,19 page 9:15,17 paid 7:14 9:6 Pam 11:14 Pamela 11:12 paraprofessionals 13:17 parent 13:8 parents 13:10,21 14:12 part 7:11 12:2 Partially 8:23 participation 14:24 15:14 parts 9:20 pay 8:2 pending 7:9 9:22 pension 8:1,3 people 13:19 percent 7:23 8:4,5 12:15,17 percentage 12:3 person 11:7 personnel 8:5,7 piece 10:9 pitting 13:21,22 plans 9:1 plate 15:4 please 3:18,21 4:3,18 10:21 11:10,12 12:22 13:6 policy 11:14 pool 8:17 portion 8:10 possibly 10:3 posted 4:24 5:1 practices 12:13 prepared 5:11 present 2:1 6:11,13,15,17,19,21 presentation 6:24 7:1,3 14:23 President 1:13,14 3:5 4:11,20 6:8	6:10,14,15,18,19,22 9:13 10:17,20,23 11:4 13:3,5 14:17,19 14:22 15:15,16 presiding 1:11 previously 9:19 primary 3:16,23 priorities 4:9 problem 14:1 procedure 4:19 proceed 3:22 10:20 11:11 proceedings 1:7 3:2 16:8,11 progress 12:1 projects 9:6,9 promise 13:1 promptly 3:22 properly 14:13 proportion 12:18 proportionate 8:19 proposed 11:19 proposing 7:5,7 9:4 provides 8:18 Provisions 4:16 psychologists 13:18 public 1:3 3:9,11 4:21 5:5,6,8 5:9,13,16,19,21 6:1 10:21,22 11:1,18,22 12:4,10,14,15,15 13:1 14:21,24 15:14 15:18 16:9,12 published 4:21 5:5 purpose 4:14			
<hr/> H <hr/> hard 10:2 health 8:24 9:1 hear 3:21 hearing 1:3 3:11 4:15,19,21 5:23 6:1,3 11:1,7 15:11,13,17,18 16:9 16:12 hearings 5:6,20 9:8 held 1:4 11:1 help 12:22 Henchek 13:6,7,8 14:18 hereunto 16:13 High 13:9 highest 4:8 HINES 1:18 Hispanic 12:16 hold 5:19 9:8 hope 10:6 hours 11:2 15:14 hundred 14:7	<hr/> J <hr/> J 1:19 JACKSON 2:4 Jadine 3:5,8 JAIME 1:14 JANICE 2:4 joining 4:9 JORDAN 1:20	<hr/> M <hr/> M 1:23 6:7 16:5 Madam 4:18 6:23 10:21 Madison 1:8 5:22 6:2 MAHALIA 1:18 maintain 3:14 manager 11:14 mark 1:15 10:10 MARMER 2:6 matter 1:8 3:18 12:23 mean 14:3 meaningful 15:6 meet 15:3 meeting 4:2 10:13 member 6:12,13,16,17 13:10 members 1:12 4:13 6:11,20 9:13 14:22 mentioned 8:10 14:2 MICHAEL 1:19 midway 14:11 million 7:8,11,13,16,21 8:1,9 8:11,15,24 9:5,10,18 9:18,23 10:4,8,11 13:16 14:7 mine 13:19 minute 7:12 minutes 11:5 money 14:2,10 months 8:18 Morales	<hr/> O <hr/> o'clock 1:10 3:3 15:19 obligation 10:13 obligations 8:3 observation 15:1 Occupational 13:9 occurs 11:9 office 5:14,21 6:2 Officer 2:3,5 16:5 officers 4:4 offsetting 8:23 Okay 10:17 ongoing 14:7 operating 7:4,6,8 optimistic 15:2 options 9:1 order 3:14 11:6 original 7:15,17,20 outcomes 12:8	<hr/> K <hr/> K 8:21,21 keep 3:15 know 9:21,24 12:8,10 known 5:8,16	<hr/> L <hr/> L 2:6 16:3,3 ladies 4:12 laid 8:17 lane 8:12 lanes 7:10 8:11,13 largely 7:9 largest 7:11 8:10 leaving 3:17 left	<hr/> N <hr/> North 5:16 note 6:10 10:24 notes 16:10 notice 4:19,21 5:5,6,9 November 1:5 4:23 5:1,2,3,21 6:6 16:15 Number 11:12 13:6 nurses 13:18	<hr/> O <hr/> o'clock 1:10 3:3 15:19 obligation 10:13 obligations 8:3 observation 15:1 Occupational 13:9 occurs 11:9 office 5:14,21 6:2 Officer 2:3,5 16:5 officers 4:4 offsetting 8:23 Okay 10:17 ongoing 14:7 operating 7:4,6,8 optimistic 15:2 options 9:1 order 3:14 11:6 original 7:15,17,20 outcomes 12:8	<hr/> P <hr/> p.m 1:10 3:3 5:24,24,24 6:4 6:4,5,5 11:2,2 15:13 15:13,15,19 page 9:15,17 paid 7:14 9:6 Pam 11:14 Pamela 11:12 paraprofessionals 13:17 parent 13:8 parents 13:10,21 14:12 part 7:11 12:2 Partially 8:23 participation 14:24 15:14 parts 9:20 pay 8:2 pending 7:9 9:22 pension 8:1,3 people 13:19 percent 7:23 8:4,5 12:15,17 percentage 12:3 person 11:7 personnel 8:5,7 piece 10:9 pitting 13:21,22 plans 9:1 plate 15:4 please 3:18,21 4:3,18 10:21 11:10,12 12:22 13:6 policy 11:14 pool 8:17 portion 8:10 possibly 10:3 posted 4:24 5:1 practices 12:13 prepared 5:11 present 2:1 6:11,13,15,17,19,21 presentation 6:24 7:1,3 14:23 President 1:13,14 3:5 4:11,20 6:8	<hr/> Q <hr/> qualify 12:17 question 10:10 questions 9:13,14 10:18 14:22 15:10 quickly 3:12 quorum 6:21
<hr/> R <hr/> rates 12:6,6,7 read 3:5 5:4	<hr/> R <hr/> rates 12:6,6,7 read 3:5 5:4								

really 13:11,21	run 7:2	13:10	teachers 8:6,12,17 13:10,18	9:19	03:29:47
reassigned 8:16		source 14:8	14:12	<hr/> W <hr/>	3:14
receive 10:8 15:5,7	<hr/> S <hr/>	sources 14:4	teachers' 8:1	W 16:3	03:29:51
receives 12:24	safe 3:14	speaker 11:5,8	ten 8:18	Walter 6:24 7:2 10:15,19	3:15
record 4:19 5:5 6:11 10:24	safety 3:5,8,12,13 4:8	speaker 11:11,12 13:5,6	tentative 5:12	want 4:9,13	03:29:52
reduced 12:17	salaries 7:24	speakers 11:6 14:20	TESTIMONY 16:13	Ward 1:16 6:16,17	3:16
reflect 12:13	savings 8:24	special 4:2 12:19 13:8,17,20	thank 4:9,11,14,20 6:22	wave 4:3	03:29:54
reform 14:5	says 16:6	specific 9:9	10:18,19,23 11:15	way 10:2 13:13	3:17
regarding 4:16	school 4:15 5:4 8:6 11:18	spend 7:23 8:4	13:2,3,4 14:16,17,18	We'll 15:11	03:30:02
register 11:4	12:16,24 13:9,20	spoken 11:8	15:16	we're 7:5 14:1,10	3:19,20
registered 14:20	schools 3:9 5:8,16,21 6:1 11:15	Springfield 10:12 14:2,10 15:3	thanks 13:12	We've 14:4	03:30:04
registration 5:24 6:4 11:1,6 15:13	11:23 12:2,4,11,12	SS 16:2	therapists 13:18	Web 4:24 5:2	03:30:08
related 7:8 8:5,6,11 9:1	12:14,15,19,22 13:14	start 7:6	thereof 5:13	welcome 3:10 4:12	3:22
relying 14:1	14:14	state 4:18 8:2 11:10 16:1,7	things 9:21	West 1:8 5:22 6:2	03:30:10
remain 3:22	scores 12:5	statements 10:16	think 14:3	WHEREOF 16:13	3:23
remarks 9:12 14:23	SECAs 13:18	STENOGRAPHIC 1:7	TIF 7:14 12:21 14:5	whichever 11:8	03:30:13
reminder 12:14	second 6:1 9:15	step 8:12	time 6:4 11:16	Witmer 11:12,13,14 13:4	3:24
REPORT 1:7	Secretary 2:7 3:4 4:18,20 6:9,14	stepped 15:4	today 3:10,14 4:10,14 6:11	worked 10:1	03:30:15
reported 1:23 16:8	6:16,18,20,23 10:21	steps 7:10 8:11,13	9:12 11:16	worried 13:13	4:1
reporter 16:6,21	10:23 13:4 14:18	story 12:2	today's 10:20	worth 12:9	03:30:19
represents 9:18	15:12	Street 1:9 5:17,22 6:2	track 12:6	www.cps.edu/budget 5:18	4:2
required 8:2	security 3:9 4:4	student 12:23 13:9	treat 16:10	<hr/> X <hr/>	03:30:21
resources 12:24	see 7:22 13:24 15:8	students 8:22 11:19,21,22,24	tremendous 12:1	<hr/> Y <hr/>	4:3
responders 4:5	segment 10:21 14:21	12:10,11,16,18 13:22	turning 9:3	year 4:16 5:12 8:14 14:11	03:30:24
responsibility 15:3	senior 11:14	14:12	two 3:24 5:19 9:15,21 11:5	years 12:1	4:4
responsibly 10:12	serve 12:18	success 12:3	type 12:23	<hr/> Z <hr/>	03:30:26
result 7:10	services 13:17	Suite 5:17	<hr/> U <hr/>	0 <hr/>	4:5
REV 1:19	session 15:5,11	Sun-Times 4:22	understanding 10:14	03:29:24	03:30:29
revenue 14:4	set 16:13	support 8:7,21 13:12 15:6	updated 5:3	3:4	4:6
revenues 7:14	share 3:12 8:19 10:22	supports 13:14	use 3:18,24	03:29:25	03:30:33
revised 9:17	shorthand 16:6,8,10,21	survive 13:20	<hr/> V <hr/>	3:5	4:8
right 3:17,19 4:1 7:22 9:16	signed 11:8	switching 9:1	vacate 3:21	03:29:28	03:30:36
RMR 1:23	site 4:24 5:2	<hr/> T <hr/>	Vaughn 13:9	3:6	4:9
RONALD 2:6	sitting 14:5	take 14:12	verified 16:14	03:29:29	03:30:38
room 1:9 3:17,21,23 5:22 6:3	slide 8:8	taken 16:11	viable 10:2	3:7	03:31:07
roughly 7:23 8:5,15	sliver 7:21	talking 9:24	Vice 1:14 6:14,15	03:29:31	4:11
rules 10:22	smaller 8:20	Tax 9:8	voted	3:8	03:30:40
	solve 14:1	teacher 8:16,16		03:29:33	4:12
	son			3:9	03:30:50
				03:29:36	4:13
				3:10	03:30:53
				03:29:38	4:14
				3:11	03:30:55
				03:29:42	4:15
				3:12	03:30:59
				03:29:45	4:16
				3:13	03:31:07
					4:17
					03:31:09
					4:18
					03:31:10
					4:19
					03:31:11
					4:20
					03:31:13
					4:21
					03:31:15
					4:22
					03:31:18
					4:23
					03:31:21
					4:24
					03:31:26
					5:1
					03:31:29
					5:2
					03:31:32
					5:3

03:31:35	03:33:31	03:36:07	03:38:12	03:40:30	03:42:08
5:4	6:21	8:10	9:23	11:14	13:3
03:31:38	03:33:33	03:36:09	03:38:16	03:40:33	03:42:09
5:5	6:22	8:11	9:24	11:15	13:4
03:31:42	03:33:34	03:36:12	03:38:20	03:40:34	03:42:11
5:6	6:23	8:12	10:1	11:16	13:5
03:31:46	03:33:37	03:36:15	03:38:23	03:40:37	03:42:12
5:7	6:24	8:13	10:2	11:17	13:6
03:31:50	03:33:39	03:36:19	03:38:33	03:40:39	03:42:20
5:8	7:1	8:14	10:3	11:18	13:7
03:31:53	03:34:02	03:36:21	03:38:36	03:40:42	03:42:23
5:9	7:2	8:15	10:4	11:19	13:8
03:31:55	03:34:24	03:36:24	03:38:39	03:40:45	03:42:25
5:10	7:3	8:16	10:5	11:20	13:9
03:31:59	03:34:29	03:36:28	03:38:45	03:40:48	03:42:30
5:11	7:4	8:17	10:6	11:21	13:10
03:32:03	03:34:33	03:36:30	03:38:51	03:40:50	03:42:33
5:12	7:5	8:18	10:7	11:22	13:11
03:32:07	03:34:35	03:36:33	03:38:56	03:40:52	03:42:34
5:13	7:6	8:19	10:8	11:23	13:12
03:32:09	03:34:37	03:36:37	03:39:00	03:40:54	03:42:37
5:14	7:7	8:20	10:9	11:24	13:13
03:32:12	03:34:40	03:36:40	03:39:04	03:40:56	03:42:39
5:15	7:8	8:21	10:10	12:1	13:14
03:32:15	03:34:44	03:36:43	03:39:07	03:40:59	03:42:43
5:16	7:9	8:22	10:11	12:2	13:15
03:32:19	03:34:47	03:36:45	03:39:10	03:41:01	03:42:44
5:17	7:10	8:23	10:12	12:3	13:16
03:32:21	03:34:50	03:36:47	03:39:15	03:41:03	03:42:47
5:18	7:11	8:24	10:13	12:4	13:17
03:32:29	03:34:53	03:36:50	03:39:18	03:41:06	03:42:50
5:19	7:12	9:1	10:14,15	12:5	13:18
03:32:33	03:34:55	03:36:54	03:39:20	03:41:09	03:42:54
5:20	7:13	9:2	10:16,17	12:6	13:19
03:32:35	03:34:58	03:36:58	03:39:23	03:41:12	03:42:57
5:21	7:14	9:3	10:18	12:7	13:20
03:32:39	03:35:01	03:37:00	03:39:25	03:41:14	03:43:00
5:22	7:15	9:4	10:19	12:8	13:21
03:32:42	03:35:05	03:37:04	03:39:30	03:41:16	03:43:03
5:23	7:16	9:5	10:20	12:9	13:22
03:32:46	03:35:11	03:37:07	03:39:31	03:41:21	03:43:07
5:24	7:17	9:6	10:21	12:10	13:23
03:32:51	03:35:16	03:37:12	03:39:34	03:41:23	03:43:08
6:1	7:18	9:7	10:22	12:11	13:24
03:32:53	03:35:19	03:37:14	03:39:36	03:41:27	03:43:10
6:2	7:19	9:8	10:23	12:12	14:1
03:32:57	03:35:20	03:37:18	03:39:37	03:41:30	03:43:13
6:3	7:20	9:9	10:24	12:13	14:2
03:33:00	03:35:24	03:37:20	03:39:39	03:41:33	03:43:15
6:4	7:21	9:10	11:1	12:14	14:3
03:33:03	03:35:28	03:37:23	03:39:41	03:41:35	03:43:19
6:5	7:22	9:11	11:2	12:15	14:4
03:33:05	03:35:30	03:37:25	03:39:44	03:41:40	03:43:24
6:6	7:23	9:12	11:3	12:16	14:5
03:33:08	03:35:34	03:37:27	03:39:49	03:41:42	03:43:26
6:7	7:24	9:13	11:4	12:17	14:6
03:33:11	03:35:37	03:37:32	03:39:51	03:41:45	03:43:28
6:8	8:1	9:14	11:5	12:18	14:7
03:33:15	03:35:41	03:37:33	03:39:54	03:41:48	03:43:31
6:9,10	8:2	9:15	11:6	12:19	14:8
03:33:17	03:35:43	03:37:43	03:39:57	03:41:50	03:43:32
6:11	8:3	9:16	11:7	12:20	14:9
03:33:19	03:35:47	03:37:47	03:40:00	03:41:53	03:43:34
6:12	8:4	9:17	11:8	12:21	14:10
03:33:21	03:35:49	03:37:50	03:40:04	03:41:56	03:43:36
6:13	8:5	9:18	11:9	12:22	14:11
03:33:23	03:35:52	03:37:59	03:40:05	03:41:59	03:43:39
6:14,15	8:6	9:19	11:10	12:23	14:12
03:33:25	03:35:55	03:38:01	03:40:08	03:42:02	03:43:42
6:16,17	8:7	9:20	11:11	12:24	14:13
03:33:27	03:35:59	03:38:05	03:40:10	03:42:04	03:43:44
6:18,19	8:8	9:21	11:12	13:1	14:14
03:33:30	03:36:02	03:38:09	03:40:28	03:42:07	03:43:48
6:20	8:9	9:22	11:13	13:2	14:15

03:43:50	5:12	5:17		
14:16	2017	96		
03:43:53	3:11 4:17 5:7	12:15		
14:17	21	97		
03:43:54	4:23 5:3	8:5		
14:18	215			
03:43:55	10:8,11			
14:19	28			
03:43:59	1:5			
14:20	28th			
03:44:02	5:20			
14:21				
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03:45:07	7:8,11,13,16,21 8:9			
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084-002854				
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2016				
1:5 4:24 5:1,2,3,7,21	<hr/> 9 <hr/>			
6:7 16:15	950			
2016-2017				

