CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

FY 18 CAPITAL PLAN

Held on

August 21, 2017

At

6:00 o'clock p.m.

At

6325 West 56th Street

Chicago, Illinois

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

had in the above-entitled cause held at

John F. Kennedy High School, 6325 West 56th
Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Reported by: Tracy Jones, CSR, RPR, CLR

License No.: 084-004553
ATTENDEES:

MR. MICHAEL SITKOWSKI,
Assistant Budget Director

MS. BOGDANA CHKOUmBOVA,
Chief, Network 10

MS. CARMELITA AFFLALO,
Director of Finance
MS. CHKOUMBOVA: Bogdana Chkoumbova, the Chief of Schools for Network 10. And we're here to conduct the hearing for the FY 18 Capital Plan for Chicago Public Schools. The Capital Plan begins now, it is 6:05, and will end promptly at 8:05 or when the last speaker has concluded, whichever is earlier. All who signed up to speak will be given an opportunity to make a statement of up to two minutes until the meeting is adjourned. All those wishing to speak are asked to please sign in on the form right there at the table. The speaker sign-in sheet is at the entrance, the registration table, and each speaker will be given a number. Please note that no one will be able to sign up to speak after 6:30.

Speakers will be limited to addressing topics related to the Capital Plan. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to two minutes so that everyone that would like to speak will have an opportunity to do so. When multiple speakers from the same school or organization are listed, only one member per school or organization will be allowed to speak regarding
the same issue. If the speaker has a follow-up
question, we ask that you please speak to CPS
staff members, who will be outside to help you
to fill out a follow-up card.

The full Capital Plan is on the CPS
website. You can provide feedback or any
questions on the website as well. We will
respond to all questions on the website,
including any that we are unable to respond to
at this meeting. Visit cps.edu/capitalplan for
additional details.

Are there any questions on the
procedure?

(No response.)

MS. CHKOUNBOVA: Do we need translation in
Spanish?

(No response.)

MS. CHKOUNBOVA: All right. I will keep the
time for each speaker. I will give you -- Mike
has to do the presentation? Okay.

Well, anyway, when it's time for you to
speak I will give you a heads up when 20 seconds
are left and then when the time is up. This is
my role, and I want to make sure it's
well-covered.

Now I will turn it to Michael Sitkowski.

MR. SITKOWSKI: Thank you, everyone, for coming out tonight. My name is Mike Sitkowski. I'm the Assistant Budget Director for CPS, and I'm going to walk you through a presentation of the FY 18 Capital Plan.

CPS believes that all of our students in every part of the city deserve to learn in modern facilities that are welcoming, conducive to learning, and safe. Over the past six years, CPS has invested over $3.7 billion to build new schools across the city, to improve facilities and expand academic programs, to improve access to technology, to provide air conditioning and playgrounds in schools, and to repair and maintain our facilities, fixing roofs, boilers, and other mechanical systems.

So an overview of what the capital budget does. The capital budget -- The capital budget is different from the operating budget in that it funds long-term investments in the district. So the operating budget funds
day-to-day expenses like teachers and supplies and those sorts of things, whereas the capital budget funds investments in our buildings. It's mainly funded through bonds issued by the district that are funded by the district's -- the operating fund's debt service. This year's Capital Plan is funded by bonds, by proceeds from the sale of real estate, and from other funding from outside sources.

Last year, CPS had a Capital Plan that was $938 million. That was funded primarily through bonds issued against the new capital improvement tax authorized by the City Council. So this bond issuance did not impact the operating budget because we were able to use a different property tax levy that we were unable to use for capital purposes. We currently have capital projects going on at 140 schools across the city.

So the FY 18 capital budget includes $136 million for facility renovation and maintenance projects, IT investments, and school security equipment, and this plan builds on last year's nearly $1 billion dollar Capital Plan.
These projects will be funded by bonds, as we discussed before, the sale of real estate proceeds, and other outside sources.

A breakdown of the $136 million is included in this table. So $109 million is dedicated towards facility needs, 7 million is dedicated to IT and security investments, another 12.9 million is for program management and design, and then $7 million is for any projects that may materialize throughout the year that are funded by outside sources.

The facility needs projects break down into three different groups. So 73 million is dedicated towards priority roof, envelope, and mechanical projects. These would be roof replacements or boiler replacements in our buildings. 30 million is dedicated towards our emergency facility repairs, so if something breaks or if something fails that we weren't planning for, this bucket is dedicated to that -- to those projects. And then we have another $6 million dedicated towards our most urgent maintenance priorities within our buildings.
We also have $7 million that we're investing in our IT and security systems in the district. 5.3 million of this total is going towards some of our IT infrastructure and our information systems. So we're installing a new student information system that schools and central office use on a day-to-day basis. We're making critical upgrades to our accounts payable system and then replacing firewalls, upgrading servers, and implementing a disaster recovery project to backup our data. 2 million of this funding is going toward new and replacement school security equipment such as cameras, intercom phones, alarms, X-ray machines, and metal detectors to ensure student safety.

This map is a map of the FY 17 Capital Plan. So last year, we invested over -- around $938 million in capital projects. And as you can see, the projects are distributed across the city. And a large number of schools got investments from the projects that were funded by the capital improvement tax.

The FY 17 Capital Plan broke out into the following categories. So the plan included
$317 million of facility needs projects, which are investments in the physical buildings themselves; 266 million was dedicated towards annexes and modulars to relieve overcrowding in our buildings; $150 million went towards new school construction; 57 million went towards IT and other projects, like the security equipment. We did $35 million worth of site improvements and spent $27 million on air conditioning with another 23.9 million for program management and design.

These are some examples of the projects that were part of the FY 17 Capital Plan. So we built -- are in various stages of building four new schools throughout the city; we're building eight new annexes throughout the city to relieve overcrowding, and there are three schools that are going to receive new modulars to help relieve overcrowding.

We've also -- We have major facility renovation projects going on at 26 schools across the city. And the FY 17 Capital Plan included air conditioning at 61 -- 61 schools.

We have also invested in programmatic
improvements in our buildings such as new labs
and new CTE programs. And here's an example of
two that are being -- or eight schools where
it's undergoing right now, here's an example of
two.

We've also undergone site improvement
projects at 29 schools. So these are new turf
fields, new playgrounds, new campus parks, and
we have begun projects to install play lots at
13 new schools. And those will be completed
this summer.

So the FY 18 Capital Plan includes only
$136 million of investments, but if -- given the
uncertainty around CPS' funding right now, we
may decide to issue a supplemental Capital Plan
later in the year that allows us to invest more
in our buildings and our infrastructure. You
can see all the detail behind the FY 18 Capital
Plan, including an interactive budget feature,
at cps.edu/capitalplan. And as Bogdana
mentioned, you can leave feedback and ask
questions that we will respond to.

So that is the presentation portion of
the hearing.
Now we will begin the speakers. So speaker No. 1, you can come to the microphone. We'll take your questions.

MS. VELAZQUEZ: I am speaker No. 1, and we have a young person from Community Links, Jael, and she's speaker No. 2. And this is the same issue, but we want to do it together.

So my name is Maria Velazquez, and I'm the Executive Director for Telpochcalli Community Education Project. We are in Little Village. We're in the Marshall Boulevard section of the community. And back, like, almost two years ago, there was a colocation issue where CPS decided to -- they wanted to put Community Links inside of Saucedo. The community was not -- did not approve that. So when we saw that there was a lot of -- there were a lot of questions. So as an organization, we took initiative of organizing community to bring community together, parents, students, and teachers, for all of us to be the decision makers of how this would look like. So that's been almost two years.

We have a whole plan. We did a lot of
work with surveys, a lot of meetings with parents and youth and teachers. So there's a document, an 87-page document, where all our work has been documented. And I will be sending you -- I already got an e-mail from Donovan, and I will be sending you that link so you could see the plan and the goals that the community has decided. So they have embraced this process, and they have been the decision makers and the actors of this plan. Thank you.

And this is Jael. Jael is a student at Community Links High School.

MS. VELA: So my name is Jael, and I go to Community Links High School. It's a three-year high school. My experience has been really good. It has been a struggle, because we have -- we're borrowing the Boys and Girls Club and we have to use the lunchroom of Spry Elementary. And it's -- It puts a lot of pressure on us because the teachers complain that we don't get to the class on time. But it's because we have to walk back to the Boys and Girls Club. And we also use the auditorium from there.
And it's also sometimes hard to focus during the school day because since the windows are not in good condition, it gets really cold sometimes during winter, or it gets really hot in the summer. And we can't make decisions because it's not our space. It's the Boys and Girls Club, and only they can decide what to do with it.

And sometimes we can't use the gym because they do their own events. And it's really hard to go through and also trying to focus at the same time.

Also my experience at Telpochcalli, because I graduated from there for the mentoring, it was sometimes a hard experience too because we borrowed Saucedo gym, auditorium, and lunchroom. And sometimes I heard students complain, why do they need to let us borrow their space when it's theirs. And sometimes it would be hard because when the Telpochcalli kids go to Saucedo, Saucedo kids sometimes needed to go outside to use the gym because we were there. And the lunchroom would be overcrowded sometimes.
Thank you.

MS. VELAZQUEZ: So we're here because one of the goals that the community has decided is that Community Links needs their own space. So we're advocating for a new facility. There's a space where we're at, it's a huge parking lot. There was an ROTC building many years that was demolished back in 2006, 2007, and there's a space there to construct a new building. So that's one of the goals. That's why we're here. We are starting with the designs. We're working with Mode Architects and also with the Facilities Department of CPS to keep working on those designs.

So we started with three, and again, because of the community engagement, we're down to one. So now we selected one design, and we're working on the programming inside.

So thank you, and we hope that we get your support and that the students get your support. We're just wondering what other schools in the city children are going back and forth like they're doing. I don't know. I don't think there's another school that they're
doing that with the students. And they deserve
with dignity a good education in an adequate
space for their education.

    Thank you.

    MR. SITKOWSKI: Thank you for sharing your
concerns. We look forward to reading the
proposal. If you have a hard copy, we will take it.

    Do we have any more speakers?

    (No response.)

    MR. SITKOWSKI: Okay. Well, thank you
everyone for coming out tonight.

    This concludes the hearing on the FY 18
Capital Budget.

    (Whereupon, the Public Hearing
adjourned at 6:22 p.m.)
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
)                        
)  SS:                     
COUNTY OF COOK  
)                        

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

[Signature]

TRACY JONES, CSR, RPR, CLR
LIC. NO. 084-004553