

**For Labor Updates Website:
Recap on Public Bargaining Session on Green School Initiatives**

On June 14, 2024, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) held their first-ever public negotiation session. This was a historic moment of collaboration and transparency between the District and our labor partners.

The session focused on CTU's proposals around green school initiatives, with both CPS and CTU presenting information about green efforts and initiatives that are currently underway, along with investments that both parties agree are necessary for the future success of our District.

The biggest takeaway from this negotiation session was that CPS and CTU have many shared goals with regard to green initiatives, including the need to modernize facilities, improve school infrastructure, and enhance energy efficiency throughout the District.

Despite these shared goals, we must review the nuances of CTU's proposals in depth, particularly the cost they would present for the District. CPS and CTU will continue these discussions throughout the summer within their standing Green School/CTE Programs Committee. You can find CTU's specific proposals around green school initiatives [here](#).

The parties must confront the significant financial challenges currently facing CPS, including restrictions under Illinois law that curtail our ability to fund much of what we would like to accomplish in this area. As such, collaborating to find sustainable external funding sources for both green initiatives and critical facility needs will be essential. This effort should build on the grant funds CPS has previously received, and should involve close cooperation with our state and local leaders. Additionally, it is important that we join forces to advocate for dedicated funding sources from the federal government.

In recent years, the District has made strides in prioritizing investments aimed at fostering equitable access to high-quality learning environments. Building upon this commitment, we will continue to utilize the Equity Index as a valuable tool to identify disparities and prioritize resources for the schools with the greatest need.

We thank our labor partners for their collaboration during this first public bargaining session and look forward to creating a platform around our shared desire for sustainable green initiatives in our schools.