

CPS Continuous Improvement and Data Transparency  
**Data Transparency Stakeholder Advisory Group**  
Meeting #2 Summary

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Bethel New Life, 1150 N Lamon Ave, Chicago, IL 60651

September 4 | 4:30-7:30pm

**ATTENDEES:**

**Facilitators & Presenters:** Felipe Perez (Facilitator), Jill Gottfred Sohoni (Facilitator), Jeff Broom (CPS), Alejandra Sanchez (coordinator)

**Committee Members:** Heidy Moran (Principal), Jaqueline Vargas (Parent), Jasmine L. Thurmond (CPS Exec), James Patrick (CAC), Maurice Miles (Parent), Sarah Amouipour (Teacher), Bernadette Glover (Principal), and Erika Gonzalez (Parent). Ricardo Trujillo (CPS Exec), Grace Chan McKibben (Community)

**Members not in attendance:** Ileana Inseri (LSC), Chay King (Teacher), Lynda Smith (LSC), Leonor Torres Whitt (CTU), Orlando Montoya (Student), Claiborne Wade (Parent), Berenice Pond (CPS Exec), Marcelina Pedraza (CPS), Lucy Ogbedie (Student), Andrea Orozco (Student), Ryan Belville (CPAA), Marcus Flenaugh (CAC), Melissa Sweazy (Principal), Michelle Velez (Teacher), Otis Dunson (Principal), Perriyana Clay (CAC).

**MEETING MATERIALS**

[Session 2: SQRP Review & Lessons Learned Meeting Deck](#)

[Meeting Deck \(Spanish\)](#)

**AGENDA**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting commenced with a welcome from Felipe Perez and Jill Gottfred Sohoni, who reiterated the committee's purpose and outlined the agenda for the evening. Felipe introduced the facilitators and emphasized the importance of "moving at the speed of trust," a foundational value of the committee's work, ensuring that every voice and perspective is respected.

Attendees were invited to reintroduce themselves, followed by a community-building activity led by Jill, where participants shared their most memorable experiences in K-12 education. These stories reflected the diverse backgrounds and shared commitment of the group, ranging from positive experiences to more challenging moments that had shaped their educational journeys.

### **Committee Questions from the Last Meeting**

Felipe revisited the questions that had been raised during the previous meeting, acknowledging that time had run out before all concerns were addressed. He presented a Transparency Committee FAQ document that captured key inquiries and the responses provided by CPS leadership. The questions covered a range of topics, including the overall transparency of the committee's process, the alignment of new metrics with state and district accountability frameworks, and how to ensure the work remains usable and equitable for all stakeholders.

Committee members were given time to review the FAQ in small groups, after which they shared whether they found the responses satisfactory or if new questions had arisen. This discussion reinforced the committee's commitment to documenting and addressing every concern, emphasizing a process of continuous learning and accountability.

### **Community Agreements**

Jill introduced the draft Community Agreements based on committee feedback and input during meeting #1. The seven proposed agreements included commitments to equity of voice, plain communication, embracing discomfort, and focusing on solutions. Jill highlighted the importance of these agreements in creating a safe and inclusive space where all members could engage in open and honest dialogue.

Participants broke into groups to review and discuss the agreements, with each group providing feedback. A key theme from the discussions was the need for mutual accountability, with several members emphasizing that holding each other to these standards would be essential for productive collaboration. Members completed and submitted individual worksheets to communicate overall agreement/ disagreement with these principles, plus any specific feedback.

### **Committee Transparency**

One follow-up topic was the level of transparency the committee should adopt. Jill

outlined various options, ranging from fully transparent live-streamed meetings with public participation, to more closed-door sessions with posted agendas and meeting notes. The group was encouraged to weigh the pros and cons of each approach.

A parent raised concerns about time management and the risk of public participation derailing the meeting agenda, particularly if outside observers were given too much influence during discussions. A community representative and others suggested a hybrid model, where meetings could be observed online, but only committee members would participate in the room. Jeff Broom provided clarity on the committee's advisory role, noting that it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because it is not a decision-making body but rather a group developing recommendations for CPS. This allowed the committee some flexibility in determining the appropriate level of transparency.

Ultimately, the group leaned toward a "middle ground" approach, where meeting agendas and notes would be publicly posted, observers could attend virtually, and time would be set aside at the end of each meeting for public comment. This compromise balanced the need for openness with the desire to maintain a focused and productive working environment.

### **Dinner & Community Builder**

Following the transparency discussion, participants enjoyed a break for dinner, catered by a local chef from North Lawndale.

### **SQRP Review & Discussion**

The second half of the meeting focused on a review of the School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP), the CPS system for evaluating school performance from 2013 to 2023. Felipe guided the committee through the history and goals of SQRP, explaining how it was used to communicate school quality to parents, set goals for schools, and guide district decisions around school interventions. He pointed out that while SQRP had ended in 2023 (and hadn't been reported since 2019), it still loomed large in the committee's work, and the lessons learned from its implementation could help inform CIDT implementation.

Felipe asked participants to rate their understanding of SQRP on a scale of 0 to 5, with many members indicating they had a moderate understanding. He then walked through key elements of SQRP, including its focus on student outcomes such as attendance, test scores, and school climate. Members were invited to

reflect on both the benefits and burdens of SQRP from their personal and professional perspectives.

During small group discussions, several themes emerged. Parents expressed concerns that the focus on test scores often failed to account for the complex realities students faced outside of school, such as family instability or emotional distress. Principals and teachers highlighted how the lack of context in SQRP rankings could unfairly penalize schools serving high-mobility or under-resourced populations. Despite these critiques, some members acknowledged that SQRP provided valuable data that helped schools identify areas for improvement. The group agreed that future frameworks should aim to retain the useful aspects of SQRP while addressing its shortcomings, particularly by incorporating more nuanced measures of school success.

### **Co-Creating Guiding Principles for Decision-Making**

The final major agenda item involved brainstorming guiding principles to ensure that the new Continuous Improvement and Data Transparency (CIDT) framework would be accessible, usable, and actionable. Jill presented a few initial criteria for the group's consideration, such as ensuring that all data visuals are written at or below a 5th-grade reading level and translated into multiple languages.

Participants discussed how to balance the need for clear, digestible data with the importance of providing context, especially for schools serving diverse or vulnerable populations. Some members emphasized the need for real-life examples to accompany data, making it easier for parents and community members to understand how the information could be used to take action. The committee also touched on the importance of digital equity, with suggestions to provide both online and paper versions of the data to ensure broad accessibility.

The group agreed that these guiding principles would be essential as they move forward with reviewing 25 metrics across 18 indicators. The discussion underscored the committee's commitment to creating a framework that is not only transparent but also practical and meaningful for all stakeholders.

### **Next Steps & Closeout**

Felipe concluded the meeting by highlighting the values in tension—such as transparency vs. confidentiality and accountability vs. support—that the committee would need to navigate in future discussions. He encouraged members to reflect on how the community agreements and guiding principles developed

during the meeting would help resolve these tensions.

Before adjourning, Felipe and Jill reminded participants to complete the exit survey and review the upcoming meeting schedule. They thanked everyone for their time and commitment, noting that the next meeting would focus on diving deeper into the CIDT framework and beginning the review of specific metrics.

**Action Items:**

- Alejandra to send calendar invites for future meetings by Thursday, September 7.
- Participants to complete the feedback survey by the end of the week.
- Facilitators to compile and share additional questions from the discussion in the next meeting's materials.
- Committee to prepare for the next meeting by reviewing the guiding criteria developed for decision-making.

## Appendix 1: AGENDA

By the end of our discussion, Transparency Committee will:

- grow trust with fellow committee members, facilitators and/or CPS staff responsible for project
- learn a common fact base for the group, including the history of school accountability policies at CPS
- understand the benefits and burdens of SQRP and that CPS is taking responsibility for the harm it has caused
- share about how SQRP has impacted them personally and/or professionally
- Co-create guiding frameworks that will help the group make decisions together

Welcome + Introductions	15 min
Community Builder	10 min
Session 1 Follow-Ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Questions - 15 min</li> <li>• Community Agreements - 15 min</li> <li>• Committee Transparency - 15 min</li> <li>• Share out - 5 min</li> </ul>	50 min
Dinner & Community Builder	30 mins (545)
SQRP Review (15 min) & Discussion (15 min)	30 mins
Co-create Guiding Principles for Decision Making	40 min
Next Steps & Closeout	5 min

## Appendix 2: Make Up Meeting Materials

Via zoom

September 17th | 12pm-1pm

### ATTENDEES:

**Facilitators & Presenters:** Felipe Perez (Facilitator), Jill Gottfred Sohoni (Facilitator), Alejandra Sanchez (Coordinator)

**Committee Members:** Marcus Flenaugh (CAC), Ryan Belville (CPAA), Michelle Velez (Teacher), and Perriyana Clay (CAC).

### AGENDA:

Welcome + Introductions	5 min
Community Builder	5 min
Session 1 Follow-Ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Committee Questions</li><li>● Community Agreements</li><li>● Committee Transparency</li></ul>	15 min
SQRP Review	15 mins
Co-create Guiding Principles for Decision Making	15 min
Next Steps & Closeout	5 min

### MEETING DECK

[HERE](#)