

May 14, 2025, Agenda Review Committee Written Comments
Received between Monday, May 12th and Thursday, May 15th Submitted via
Written Comments Form

1	I support the constant monitoring to charter schools and make officials accountable for resources used to help students and parents.
2	<p>Dear CPS Board Members,</p> <p>Our schools must prioritize students over profits. Unfortunately, Acero's actions have shown how charter networks can misuse our trust and resources. We can't let it happen again.</p> <p>That's why I support Resolution 25-0424-RS6 – ensuring stricter oversight of charter schools. This is not about opposing charter networks—it's about holding them accountable. Those doing the right thing have nothing to worry about.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and commitment to our students.</p>

Attachments

Delivered to the Chicago Board of Education- 5.14.25

Good morning. I am Mariel Laureano, proud former principal of Prieto Math and Science Academy. I currently serve as a director at The Chicago Public Education Fund.

As a Principal, I led through 5 budget cycles with an overall deficit. Over 60% of current principals have never had that experience. In addition to engaging in this process for the first time, they will do it during a CPS superintendent leadership change.

I am respectfully asking you to consider three actions today:

1. **Implement a budget that maximizes available resources for students while minimizing long-term harm to the families of the future.**

I led through years with revenue expectations that didn't materialize, which meant cutting staff mid-year. I also experienced short-term borrowing to close gaps, which meant bigger cuts for students down the road. There are ways to avoid both, but they will require pragmatic leadership and negotiations at every level.

2. **Communicate the implications of decisions to school communities and be clear about trade-offs.**

Release school-level numbers as soon as a realistic plan is complete. Clarify the assumptions being made for principals and LSCs. Be transparent about the repercussions for schools if those assumptions change. Central cost savings that create school resource gaps must be named now so principals can plan around them.

3. **Please sustain and support local control and autonomy.**

If school-level cuts must be made, provide maximum flexibility. Ensure allocated positions can be converted to flexible funds and other positions as principals and LSCs see fit. Be sure communities have the support to craft and communicate budgets that meet student needs, while acknowledging constrained resources.

You are facing tough decisions, with no easy solutions. For our part, the Fund will deepen its support for budget creation, contingency planning, and communication strategies for principals and LSCs in partnership with those who share our commitment to the work. We will roll out resources by the end of this week.

Because to be clear: On August 18th, over 600 school teams will open their doors and welcome 325,000 students back from summer break—just 13 weeks away.

We must continue to work together to ensure that welcome is one that our students deserve.

Thank you.

Mariel Laureano

Director of Educator Supports - The Chicago Public Education Fund

May 12, 2025

Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education,

I am submitting written comments for formal review and inclusion in the public record of the May 14, 2025 CPS Board Meeting.

As a parent of a student at The Chicago Academy, I write to express deep concern about the ongoing construction activity at the school, particularly in the wake of the recent fire incident that occurred during the early morning hours of May 8, 2025. While I appreciate the prompt response by CPS representatives and confirmation that leadership has been briefed, key safety questions and documentation requests remain unanswered as of Monday May 12, 2025 at 10:54am.

Given the gravity of this situation, I am formally requesting the following be addressed immediately and communicated transparently to the school community:

1. The confirmed or suspected cause of the fire.
2. The name of the construction company contracted for the work.
3. A list of safety measures implemented since the incident.
4. Confirmation that an OSHA complaint has been filed, and a summary of any preliminary findings or citations, or a clear explanation if none were issued.
5. A timeline for releasing a comprehensive safety plan to families.
6. The current construction schedule and associated risk mitigation protocols.

These are standard requirements for any responsibly managed construction site, especially in an environment serving children and staff. Vague assurances do not substitute for factual clarity and public accountability.

I also urge CPS to immediately **pause all on-site construction until the school year concludes**. With only a few weeks remaining, this is a prudent and low-disruption action that would reflect CPS's commitment to safety and demonstrate responsiveness to valid community concerns.

I respectfully request this letter be acknowledged in the meeting and that an update on these issues be included in the Board's public discussion or follow-up materials. Families deserve timely, accurate, and complete information, not delayed or partial responses.

Thank you for your time, and I trust the Board will act in accordance with its duty to prioritize the safety and well-being of students, educators, and school communities.