

**September 10, 2025, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, September 8th and Thursday, September 11th
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Board Members,</p> <p>Please provide help to persuade the CPS LSC Relations in providing immediate oversight and action with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Urgent Concern Regarding Inactivity of Steinmetz College Prep Local School Council <p>I am posting today to express serious concern regarding the Local School Council (LSC) at Steinmetz College Prep. The council has not held a regular meeting since June 11, 2025, and failed to reach quorum on both Organizational meetings on July 7 and July 17, 2025. Additionally, no meetings have been scheduled for August or September 2025.</p> <p>This extended period of inactivity is deeply troubling. Without regular meetings and proper organization, the LSC cannot fulfill its core responsibilities — including budget approvals, principal evaluations, and community engagement. The absence of quorum and failure to schedule meetings undermines transparency, accountability, and the voice of the school community.</p> <p>I respectfully urge CPS to investigate the current status of the Steinmetz College Prep LSC and take appropriate corrective action. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Facilitating the overdue annual organizational meeting- Providing targeted support or training to council members- Filling vacant seats to ensure quorum- Appointing an interim facilitator if necessary- Issuing guidance on compliance with the Open Meetings Act <p>Steinmetz students, families, staff, and community deserve a functioning and responsive LSC that reflects the values of shared leadership and community oversight. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to seeing steps taken to restore proper governance at Steinmetz College Prep.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Walter Brzeski Community Member</p>
2	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I write to you today as both a concerned taxpayer and a mother whose family has deep roots in this neighborhood. My own educational journey began at Immaculate Conception school, where I first learned the value of community safety under the watchful eyes of dedicated crossing guards, a service that has protected me since 1990. Today, as the mother of four children who follow in my footsteps at the same school, I am compelled to address a critical safety issue that threatens our community's most precious assets: our children.</p>

	<p>The recent elimination of crossing guards at the Talcott & Harlem and Talcott & Oconto intersections has created an alarming situation that demands immediate attention. These busy intersections have transformed from safely navigated pathways into treacherous zones where our children, many of whom walk to school accompanied by older siblings while parents fulfill work obligations, face unnecessary and unacceptable risks.</p> <p>Having personally witnessed the effectiveness of crossing guard services for over three decades, I can attest to their vital role in maintaining child safety. The current absence of these trained professionals has left a dangerous void. Traffic continues to flow at dangerous speeds through intersections where children must cross daily, creating conditions that no parent should have to accept as normal.</p> <p>Many families in our neighborhood, including my own, depend on the ability for children to walk safely to school. This independence is not just convenient—it's essential for working parents and helps build responsibility in our children. However, this tradition of neighborhood school attendance is now jeopardized by inadequate safety measures.</p> <p>The responsibility to protect our children extends beyond individual families to our community leaders. When basic safety infrastructure is removed without adequate replacement, it sends a troubling message about priorities and values. Our children deserve better than to serve as test subjects for cost-cutting measures.</p> <p>I urge you to act swiftly to restore crossing guard services at these critical intersections or implement alternative safety solutions that provide equivalent protection. The safety of Immaculate Conception students and all neighborhood children should not be compromised for any reason.</p> <p>Our community has entrusted you with the responsibility of safeguarding our children's welfare. I hope you will honor that trust with decisive action.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Kelly Gillespie</p>
3	<p>Dear Members of the Board,</p> <p>I am writing as a Chicago taxpayer and a mother to express my deep concern regarding the recent removal of crossing guards at the intersections of Talcott & Northwest Highway and Talcott & Oconto.</p> <p>Since the guards were removed, crossing at these intersections has become incredibly dangerous for children attending Immaculate Conception as well as for other families and pedestrians in the community. The traffic volume and speed on these streets create a serious hazard, and without the presence of trained crossing guards, I fear it is only a matter of time before a child is injured or worse.</p> <p>As parents, we do our best to teach our children how to cross safely, but they still rely on the protection and authority of crossing guards to navigate busy intersections. The absence of guards undermines not only student safety but also community trust in the city's commitment to protecting its youngest residents.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the Board to take immediate action to reinstate crossing guards at these intersections or provide another form of safety measure to ensure that children can get to and from school safely.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the safety of Chicago's children.</p> <p>Michelle Malloy</p>
4	<p>The Chicago Board of Education is in charge of crossing guards. Sounds like that would make sense, but it doesn't. It was better run by the CPD Office of Public Safety. The department for our children doesn't seem to actually care about our children. If you did, you would not have laid off and cut your crossing guards. How dare you take away such vital positions? How dare you put our kids lives at risk every morning and every afternoon? How dare you just take away this service and leave our children alone crossing HUGE intersections like the one at Harlem and</p>

	<p>Talcott! HARLEM AVENUE???!!! One of the busiest and most congested streets in the city. Not to mention Talcott and Oconto! That stop sign is IGNORED by drivers DAILY! DAILY! Harlem is a scary street to cross when you're 3 feet tall and cars can't see in front of them. Or when you're a 5'5" mother crossing them and cars see you and still don't stop. This is absolutely insane! Groups of kids walk across Harlem in the 14 seconds they have on the flashing timed walk light. 30 kids crossing in 14 seconds while angry drivers are trying to turn right and honk their horns or get road rage and just go! I've witness it! Our families witness this DAILY!! But still...you think there is no need for a crossing guard. I don't understand it one bit. What is it going to take? A child getting hit and injured or hit and killed??? It's too late then! Do something now! We pay taxes for services like this. We have innocent children who put their life's trust in obeying the walk sign - even though drivers don't! We need crossing guards and we need them now.</p>
5	<p>I'm expressing great concern regarding the removal of the crossing guards at both the Harlem/Talcott and Olcott/Talcott intersections. Since the start of school, I have volunteered on my Monday day off to act as a crossing guard at Harlem/Talcott. In this short time span, I have observed upwards of 15 cars blow through the red light, a car blowing out their tire after hitting the curb so hard on a sharp turn and a small car accident caused by anxious drivers attempting to beat the turn. All of this in the time span of 4 days for approximately 25 minutes per day. It is imperative that a crossing guard be assigned to this area. The children in this city should feel safe walking to school WHERE-EVER they live. Taking away crossing guards in an area where the residents pay some of the highest property taxes in this city seems extremely targeted. How were the crossing guard cuts decided? Why are our neighborhood residents deemed not as important as others? Why is our safety not as concerning? This issue needs to be addressed and a resolution absolutely needs to be made . Thank you for your time.</p>
6	<p>Dear Members of the Board,</p> <p>As a Chicago taxpayer and the mother of two young children, I am writing to express my deep concern about the recent removal of crossing guards at the intersections of Talcott & Harlem and Talcott & Oconto.</p> <p>Since their removal, these crossings have become extremely hazardous for children attending Immaculate Conception, as well as for other families and pedestrians in our community. The high traffic volume and speed on these streets create significant danger, and without trained crossing guards, the risk of a serious accident is alarmingly high.</p> <p>Parents do everything we can to teach our children safe habits, but they still depend on the authority and guidance of crossing guards to navigate busy intersections. Their absence jeopardizes student safety and undermines community trust in the city's commitment to protecting its youngest residents.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the Board to act swiftly to reinstate crossing guards at these intersections or implement another effective safety measure to ensure children can travel to and from school without fear of harm.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the safety of Chicago's children.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bridget McDonald</p>
7	<p>Request the reinstatement of a crossing guard at Harlem and Talcott Avenues in Chicago. There is a huge risk of a student being injured in traffic at this busy intersection.</p>
8	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I'm reaching out as a concerned parent and Chicago resident regarding a serious safety issue near Immaculate Conception School on Talcott Avenue. The intersection at Talcott and Oconto has become extremely hazardous for children crossing to and from school ever since the crossing guard was removed.</p>

This area sees heavy traffic during school hours, and without anyone managing the crosswalk, it's become chaotic and dangerous. I recently saw a student nearly hit while trying to cross on his bike — the driver, frustrated by traffic, made an impulsive move that could have ended in tragedy. There is no traffic light at this intersection, so without a crossing guard, cars and children are left to navigate the situation on their own. It's a disaster waiting to happen.

What's especially frustrating is that just one block over — at an intersection with a stoplight — a crossing guard is still present. That area is far more controlled already, yet the more dangerous location has been left unstaffed. It makes no sense and leaves families at IC School feeling overlooked.

Many students at IC come from families of first responders — police officers, firefighters, and other essential workers. They deserve the same level of safety and support as students at public schools. Catholic school families are already shouldering the double financial burden of high property taxes and private tuition. The removal of basic safety measures like a crossing guard feels unfair and irresponsible.

We understand the city is facing financial challenges, but this is not the place to cut corners. Please reconsider and reinstate the crossing guard at Talcott and Oconto before someone gets hurt. The safety of our children must come first.
