

CHI CAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

held on
October 22, 2020

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
had in the above-entitled matter held via Zoom,
Chicago, Illinois, commencing at 6:05 p.m. and
concluding at 7:22 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI, Committee Chair
MR. MIGUEL del VALLE, President
MS. LUISIANA MELENDEZ
MS. AMY ROME
MS. ELIZABETH TODD-BRELAND
MR. LUCINO SOTELO
MR. DWAYNE TRUSS

Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR
License No.: 084-004072



1 (Whereupon, the following
2 proceedings commenced at
3 6:05 p.m.)

4 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Good evening,
5 everyone. Welcome to the Chicago Board of
6 Education Finance and Audit Committee meeting.
7 Today is Thursday, October 22nd, 2020. We are
8 holding this meeting electronically via Zoom.
9 Please know that Spanish translation services
10 are available. The icon is at the bottom of
11 your Zoom window, and it looks like a globe next
12 to the hand for raising.

13 I am Sendhil Revuluri, Chair of this
14 Committee. I'd like to acknowledge my fellow
15 Board members who are joining us tonight, Miguel
16 del Valle, Amy Rome, Elizabeth Todd-Breland,
17 Dwayne Truss and Luisiana Melendez. And to all
18 of you joining, on behalf of my fellow Board
19 members, welcome and thank you for being with us
20 this evening.

21 The notice of this meeting was posted
22 on October 14th, 2020, at least 14 -- 48 hours
23 before this meeting on the cpsboe.org and
24 cps.edu websites and the lobby at 42 West

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1 Madison. And I wanted to just say before we get 18:06:15
2 started a few words about why we're here. 18:06:17

3 I believe public schools belong to all 18:06:20
4 of us. They're a crucial driver for our kids' 18:06:22
5 learning and for their future opportunity. The 18:06:25
6 CPS five-year vision lays out a path for more of 18:06:27
7 our students to learn and to succeed, and part 18:06:32
8 of that vision is financial equity, that's what 18:06:34
9 we're here to discuss tonight. 18:06:37

10 Meanwhile, I want to acknowledge that 18:06:39
11 there are surely many, many other topics on 18:06:43
12 everyone's mind right now, remote learning and 18:06:46
13 its challenges, the surge in COVID infections, 18:06:48
14 the safety of our students and our staff, both 18:06:51
15 in schools and when learning at home, and how 18:06:53
16 all these affect our phase reopening plan. Not 18:06:56
17 to mention the city budget, plans for federal 18:07:00
18 relief, upcoming elections and so much more. 18:07:03
19 Through all of this, our students have kept 18:07:08
20 learning, families are pushing through and so 18:07:10
21 many district and school staff have been working 18:07:13
22 incredibly hard to figure out what's possible 18:07:15
23 and what's most beneficial for all of our 18:07:19
24 students, centering their learning and 18:07:21



1 prioritizing equity, all as the facts keep
2 changing under our feet.

3 But even at an unprecedented time like
4 this, we are focused on sustainably ensuring
5 that all our students learn. And our budget is
6 crucial to achieve all of our goals, especially
7 because CPS is not yet equitably or adequately
8 funded. So tonight's meeting will focus on our
9 budget and on building our readiness for longer
10 term planning and advocacy.

11 The core purpose of all the Board of
12 Education Committees, including those that my
13 fellow Board members chair, is to engage the
14 public to help inform policy and
15 decision-making. Today's meeting is important
16 to build public understanding of the budget and
17 to help us as a board hear more public voices to
18 inform our policy and our budget decisions. We
19 know this is a large and diverse group, you are
20 students, parents, educators, members of
21 community organizations and not-for-profits, and
22 you're joining us from all over our city. What
23 you all have in common is like the members of
24 this Committee and the staff of the district,

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1 you are all here because you have an interest in 18:08:35
2 the district's finances. Many of you have been 18:08:37
3 allies and advocates for CPS students for years 18:08:39
4 or even decades, we thank you for your interest, 18:08:43
5 your partnership and your work. 18:08:45

6 We're here tonight to share with you 18:08:48
7 the great work our team has done to make the 18:08:50
8 budget more digestible and some tools we have 18:08:53
9 created to hopefully make it easier for you to 18:08:56
10 have conversations about the budget with others 18:08:59
11 as well as to hear from you. 18:09:01

12 The five goals of today's meeting are 18:09:02
13 to further build understanding of the current 18:09:04
14 year's budget, both where CPS's funding comes 18:09:07
15 from and how we use it. 18:09:10

16 Second, to further build public 18:09:12
17 understanding of how the work of the School 18:09:13
18 Funding Working Group informed this year's 18:09:15
19 budget. 18:09:18

20 Third, to build public understanding of 18:09:19
21 the sources of funding that are consistent and 18:09:21
22 those that might change from year to year. 18:09:23

23 Work to surface questions and diverse 18:09:28
24 perspectives on the district's future budget and 18:09:31



1 planning decisions. 18:09:33

2 And finally, to support you, as our 18:09:34
3 allies, in ensuring an excellent education for 18:09:36
4 CPS students by providing you with tools to help 18:09:39
5 advocate for more equitable funding. 18:09:42

6 With that, I'd like to introduce 18:09:46
7 Heather Wendell, the CPS Budget director, 18:09:47
8 Miroslava Krug, the CPS Chief Financial Officer, 18:09:51
9 and Arnie Rivera, the CPS Chief Operating 18:09:56
10 Officer. Thanks for joining us tonight. And 18:10:00
11 I'll now pass the baton to Heather for the 18:10:02
12 presentation. 18:10:05

13 MS. WENDELL: Thank you very much, Vice 18:10:07
14 President Revuluri. As he mentioned, my name is 18:10:11
15 Heather Wendell, and I'm the Budget Director 18:10:15
16 here at CPS. I'm so pleased to be here with you 18:10:17
17 this evening tonight to present to you an 18:10:20
18 overview of the 2021 Resident's Guide to the 18:10:22
19 Budget. 18:10:25

20 As Vice President Revuluri mentioned, 18:10:26
21 this is a document that we have designed with 18:10:29
22 you in mind, and we are excited to be able to 18:10:30
23 share this information with you today. 18:10:33
24 Additional items on the agenda include a video 18:10:35



1 version of the Resident's Guide, an opportunity 18:10:39
2 for future engagements, additional resources on 18:10:41
3 the 2021 Budget, time for the Q and A and then 18:10:45
4 public participation at the end of the meeting. 18:10:50

5 Since we are all virtual, we'd like to 18:10:54
6 take a minute to get a sense of who is in the 18:10:56
7 room and joining us on the meeting tonight. 18:10:58
8 Utilizing the interactive survey platform in 18:11:00
9 Zoom, we'd ask that you complete the brief 18:11:04
10 survey question to let us know what best 18:11:06
11 describes your role. 18:11:09

12 Student, pre-K or post-secondary 18:11:14

13 Parent 18:11:17

14 CPS Educator 18:11:18

15 Higher Education 18:11:20

16 Not-for-profit 18:11:22

17 Community Organization 18:11:24

18 or 18:11:24

19 Other 18:11:26

20 I ask that you please take a moment to 18:11:29
21 make your selection in the Zoom. 18:11:31

22 It looks like we may have the majority 18:11:50
23 of respondents. So it looks like the majority 18:11:52
24 of the room tonight is parents at 37 percent, 18:12:01



1 but there's also a mix of students, CPS 18:12:03
2 educators, not-for-profit, community 18:12:06
3 organization and other. We're glad to have you 18:12:08
4 all here this evening to be part of this 18:12:10
5 conversation. 18:12:13

6 As Vice President Revuluri mentioned, 18:12:16
7 we are pleased to share with you the Resident's 18:12:18
8 Guide to the FY2021 Budget, and we're going to 18:12:21
9 be utilizing this polling feature throughout the 18:12:24
10 walk-through to make this as interactive as 18:12:27
11 possible. You can participate on each survey 18:12:29
12 question by responding directly into the Zoom 18:12:31
13 meeting as we go. Let's dive in. 18:12:34

14 Question No. 1: What is the total CPS 18:12:38
15 budget for 20 -- FY2021? 18:12:41

16 Is it: 18:12:44

17 A: 3.4 billion 18:12:44

18 B: 5.4 billion 18:12:48

19 C: 8.4 billion 18:12:51

20 or 18:12:53

21 D: 10.4 billion 18:12:54

22 You can make a selection directly into 18:13:00
23 the Zoom. All right. We can have the answer -- 18:13:03
24 I'm sorry, reveal the audience poll. Thank you. 18:13:13



1 So it looks like the majority of the audience, 18:13:17
2 50 percent of the respondents selected 8.4 18:13:20
3 billion, followed by 5.4 and 3.4 billion. The 18:13:23
4 correct answer here is 8.4 billion. 18:13:28

5 Our Resident's Guide to the budget 18:13:31
6 FY2021 highlights the fact that our overall CPS 18:13:33
7 budget is 8.4 billion. This is comprised of 18:13:38
8 three different parts of which the largest is 18:13:42
9 the Operating Budget at 6.92 billion. The 18:13:44
10 Operating Budget is the budget that most people 18:13:48
11 are familiar with, and this represents the funds 18:13:50
12 allocated to operate the day-to-day activities 18:13:52
13 of our schools. 18:13:54

14 If you look to the bottom corner you'll 18:13:56
15 also see the dollar bill. The dollar bill 18:13:59
16 represents how each dollar goes directly into 18:14:02
17 schools or is used elsewhere in the district. 18:14:06
18 Fifty cents is going directly into schools, 18:14:08
19 while another 36 cents provides direct support 18:14:11
20 for schools. That's the majority of the dollar 18:14:15
21 with the other 5 percent remaining for Central 18:14:17
22 Office and Network activities. 18:14:20

23 Question No. 2: What percentage of the 18:14:21
24 Operating Budget comes from state funding? 18:14:27



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Is it:
A: 91 percent
B: 62 percent
C: 43 percent
or
D: 27 percent

Let's see what the majority of the respondents say. The majority of respondents at 38 percent say 27 percent of the budget comes from state, 26 percent think it is 43, followed by 29 percent with 62 percent. The correct answer is D, which is 27 percent of the budget comes from state funding. 27 percent of our budget this year represents three -- I'm sorry, \$1.8 billion coming from state revenue. The largest driver of our funding is local revenue at 3.8 billion, which represents 54 percent of the overall budget, followed by federal revenues, which represent 19 percent of the budget this year at 1.3 billion.

Question No. 3: What percentage of the nearly 40,000 CPS employees are school-based or city-wide staff assigned to schools?

Is it:

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A: 63 percent
B: 33 percent
C: 89 percent
or
D: 96 percent -- I'm sorry, 97 percent

You can reveal what the audience has said. It looks like the majority think either 77 percent or 89 percent. The answer here is actually 97, 96 rounded up. And so we'll talk a little bit here around the composition of what those dollars are. So when we look at our overall Operating Budget, personnel costs makeup 4.56 billion of that \$6.92 billion. As mentioned in the quiz question, 84 percent of the CPS employees are school-based and another 13 percent are city-wide, for a total of 97 percent of our staff that are working in schools directly on a daily basis. The remaining 34 percent of the Operating Budget goes largely for non-personnel costs at \$2.36 billion. This is 34 percent of the budget and reflects services such as transportation, food services and payments to charter schools.

Question No. 4: What is the total

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1 Capital Budget for FY2021? 18:17:16

2 Is it: 18:17:20

3 A: 638 million 18:17:21

4 B: 758 million 18:17:25

5 C: 832 million 18:17:28

6 or 18:17:29

7 D: 925 million 18:17:30

8 Take a moment to make your response. 18:17:37

9 All right. The majority of the audience thinks 18:17:48

10 C, 832 million is the correct amount for the 18:17:52

11 Capital Budget, followed by 758, 925 and then 18:17:56

12 638. The correct answer here is actually \$758 18:18:01

13 million is the total capital investment for this 18:18:06

14 year. 18:18:08

15 If we look at a little bit around what 18:18:09

16 those dollars are going to, you can see that 306 18:18:13

17 million or the largest category of our \$758 18:18:16

18 million Capital Budget is going for priority 18:18:19

19 needs at neighborhood schools. This includes 18:18:22

20 priority work on roofs, envelopes and mechanical 18:18:24

21 projects, as well as other maintenance projects. 18:18:26

22 The second largest group is \$139 18:18:30

23 million worth of investments for programmatic 18:18:34

24 and technology to build on school success. This 18:18:36



1 includes both the installation and upgrades of 18:18:40
2 science and STEM labs, as well as increase 18:18:42
3 technology for computing devices and additional 18:18:45
4 improvement in our Network infrastructure. 18:18:48

5 Question No. 5: What is the total Debt 18:18:52
6 Service Budget for FY2021? 18:18:56

7 Is it: 18:18:59

8 A: 156 million 18:19:00

9 B: 426 million 18:19:02

10 C: 711 million 18:19:05

11 or 18:19:07

12 D: 588 (sic) million 18:19:08

13 Let's see what the respondents said. 18:19:27

14 The majority answer here is B, \$426 million. 18:19:31

15 The actual Debt Service Budget for FY2021 is 18:19:36

16 \$711 million. The Debt Service Budget is the 18:19:40

17 third component to our overall \$8.4 billion 18:19:44

18 budget. The Operating Budget, the Capital 18:19:49

19 Budget at 758, and then the Debt Service Budget 18:19:51

20 at 711. 18:19:55

21 In terms of the Debt Service Budget, 18:19:56

22 this is primarily the principle and interest 18:19:58

23 payments on the district debt. And the 2021 18:20:02

24 Budget includes the total appropriations of 18:20:04



1 approximately 711 for those payments. The
2 district issues the debt to fund the district's
3 capital plan and related investments. And as of
4 June 30th, 2020, the Board of Education had
5 approximately 8.1 billion in outstanding
6 long-term debt and about 500 million of
7 outstanding short-term debt.

8 Moving on to question 6: Talking a
9 little bit more about school funding here
10 specifically, how many schools are there in CPS
11 as of the school year 2021?

12 A: 548 -- I'm sorry, 458

13 B: 532

14 C: 638

15 or

16 D: 750

17 How many schools are there at CPS this
18 year? Let's see what the respondents say. C,
19 638. That is the correct answer. 638 schools
20 is the correct number of schools in the district
21 for 2021. This is comprised of 499 traditional
22 district schools, as well as 139 charter,
23 contract, specialty and option schools. These
24 nontraditional schools are -- include the



1 contract and specialty schools which serve
2 nontraditional student populations, including
3 students with diverse learning needs, early
4 childhood learners or students that have dropped
5 out or at risk of dropping out. Given the
6 unique nature of these schools, they receive
7 their funding tied specifically to their
8 programs and the students they serve rather than
9 the actual enrollment of the schools themselves.

10 Question No. 7: School by school
11 funding is provided based on which of the
12 following:

13 A: The number of students at the
14 school.

15 B: The specific needs of the students.

16 C: Both A and B

17 or

18 D: None of the above

19 We're speaking specifically here of
20 traditional district schools. School by school
21 funding is provided based on which of the
22 following. Can we see the respondents answers
23 please? Both A and B, the number of students at
24 the school and the specific needs of the

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1 students. That is correct. Money is 18:22:47
2 distributed to the school through school by 18:22:56
3 school funding, and in order to distribute the 18:22:58
4 funds there is a metric that is -- includes the 18:23:01
5 number of students at the school plus the 18:23:04
6 specific needs of the students. This -- schools 18:23:06
7 receive their funding primarily through the SBB, 18:23:11
8 as well as additional foundation positions, one 18:23:13
9 principal, one counselor and one clerk per 18:23:16
10 district-run school. 18:23:19

11 Beyond SBB and foundation positions, 18:23:21
12 schools also receive additional positions and 18:23:24
13 resources to serve special education students, 18:23:26
14 students with limited English language 18:23:30
15 proficiency and based on the percentage of 18:23:32
16 students in free and reduced priced lunch. 18:23:35
17 These all result in additional dollars from 18:23:37
18 either the state or the federal government for 18:23:40
19 schools to use at their discretion to serve 18:23:42
20 those populations. 18:23:45

21 When we think about the school funding, 18:23:47
22 several of the elements on this slide highlight 18:23:49
23 these additional resources. There's \$97 million 18:23:52
24 in the FY2021 budget related to special 18:23:55



1 education funding that advances equity and meets 18:23:58
2 student needs. Additionally, dollars were 18:24:01
3 rolled out under the equity brand of 44 million 18:24:04
4 using a high needs school metrics to ensure that 18:24:08
5 all students are able to access high-quality 18:24:10
6 education. These are dollars that are part of 18:24:13
7 those SBB and needs based formulas that I 18:24:15
8 discussed on the previous slide. 18:24:17

9 Additional investments in schools come 18:24:19
10 out of some of our city-wide dollars. These 18:24:21
11 include 13 million in additional funding for 18:24:24
12 nurse, social work and case manager staffing 18:24:27
13 levels, which bring these to an all-time high in 18:24:29
14 the district. \$5 million to provide students in 18:24:32
15 neighborhood schools with access to programs 18:24:35
16 that will help promote college and career 18:24:37
17 readiness. And an additional \$18 million to 18:24:38
18 expand access to full-day pre-K. Investments 18:24:41
19 highlighted here in the FY2021 budget reflect 18:24:44
20 some of the investments aligned to the 18:24:48
21 district's five-year vision that Vice President 18:24:49
22 Revuluri spoke of earlier. 18:24:53

23 Question No. 8: Public feedback on how 18:24:58
24 to make the school budgets more equitable was 18:25:01



1 incorporated into the 2021 Budget process, true
2 or false?

3 Let's see what the answer is here. The
4 majority of the respondents indicated true.

5 This was a component of our 2021 Budget process.

6 The answer here is true. We were very pleased
7 and proud to begin a multi-year commitment to
8 ongoing public engagement around school funding.

9 Aligned really to the five-year success starts

10 here district vision and plan, the district is

11 and committed and completed the first round of

12 this engagement last calendar year and into

13 earlier spring to help inform the 2021 Budget

14 process. This phase one report that the working

15 group issued in spring had a significant impact

16 on several elements of the 2021 Budget. For

17 example, we used the inputs and the feedback

18 from the public forum and the ongoing work from

19 the working group to help refine methodologies

20 related to equity and sustainability. This

21 resulted in the increase in the equity grant in

22 FY21 to 44 million to include an additional

23 allocation of \$100,000 to every neighborhood

24 schools -- school in the city's most

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1 economically disadvantaged areas and to -- 18:26:39
2 special focus on empowering principals and LSCs 18:26:44
3 to maximize their resources. This was another 18:26:47
4 area of great interest in the public forums, not 18:26:49
5 only around allocations provided to schools, but 18:26:52
6 how we support school staffs to make best use of 18:26:55
7 every dollar that they have. Part of this 18:26:59
8 effort included support for new principals with 18:27:01
9 individual strategy sessions around resource 18:27:03
10 allocation and budgeting best practices. 18:27:04

11 As you can see there's an ongoing 18:27:07
12 commitment through several other phases of this 18:27:08
13 work, and we envision that the school funding 18:27:11
14 working group, as well as the ongoing public 18:27:13
15 engagement is -- will become part of the annual 18:27:15
16 budgeting process. Our phase two commitments 18:27:19
17 include ongoing customer -- I'm sorry, ongoing 18:27:21
18 stakeholder engagement, as well as additional 18:27:25
19 focus on providing transparent budget data to 18:27:28
20 LSCs and school communities. We'll also be 18:27:30
21 continuing to look at individual school level 18:27:33
22 adequacy targets for school which were 18:27:35
23 introduced as part of our first phase of the 18:27:39
24 work and continued advocacy for more state, 18:27:41



1 federal and city funding. 18:27:44

2 The Resident's Guide as shared is being 18:27:48
3 translated and will be posted and available on 18:27:51
4 the website in multiple languages. In addition 18:27:53
5 to the Resident's Guide, which is based on the 18:27:57
6 overall 2021 Budget, we are pleased to also 18:27:59
7 share video versions of the Resident's Guide 18:28:02
8 with you this evening. These were done in 18:28:05
9 partnership with our partners in this work at 18:28:08
10 the Chicago Public Education fund, and they run 18:28:11
11 about 4 minutes each. We will be showing both 18:28:13
12 the English version and the Spanish version with 18:28:16
13 you this evening. 18:28:20

14 (Whereupon, the video was shown 18:28:20
15 in English.) 18:28:20

16 (Whereupon, the video was shown 18:28:20
17 in Spanish.) 18:37:07

18 MS. WENDELL: Thank you very much. 18:37:07

19 So as mentioned by both Vice President 18:37:08
20 Revuluri and highlighted in this year's version 18:37:13
21 of the Resident's Guide, we endeavor to keep 18:37:14
22 doing future engagement and can only really do 18:37:18
23 this work as shaped by stakeholder engagement 18:37:21
24 and ongoing feedback from you. Future 18:37:25



1 opportunities include the next iteration of the 18:37:28
2 School Funding Working Group, which we expect to 18:37:30
3 convene by the end of the calendar year, and 18:37:33
4 then the next version of the public forums, 18:37:36
5 which we anticipate to happen after the 1st of 18:37:38
6 the next calendar year. Both of these forums 18:37:41
7 will be essential to helping build on the 18:37:44
8 progress that we made in the first round and 18:37:47
9 continue to evolve in -- I'm sorry, influence 18:37:50
10 the FY22 Budget as we move forward. 18:37:53

11 Additional opportunities include LSC 18:37:56
12 elections and participation at the local school 18:37:59
13 level. Future Finance and Audit Committee 18:38:01
14 meetings like this one this evening. And 18:38:04
15 ongoing Board meetings which occur monthly. 18:38:07

16 The Resident's Guide to the budget and 18:38:10
17 all other budget information can be found at the 18:38:12
18 cps.edu website. This includes both the 18:38:14
19 interactive budget reports, historical budget 18:38:19
20 information, the Resident's Guide for 2021, as 18:38:21
21 well as the FY20 and FY19. We're proud to say 18:38:24
22 that we've been publishing the Resident's Guide 18:38:28
23 for the past three years, and all of those are 18:38:31
24 available in English and Spanish on the website. 18:38:33



1 We'll also ensure that everyone has access to
2 the video links in both English and Spanish and
3 encourage you to share the information broadly
4 and widely. Additional information around the
5 school funding forums and public engagement
6 sessions will also be made available through the
7 budget website in subsequent weeks and months.

8 Thanks so much for your time and active
9 participation in the presentation portion of
10 this. Now I'm going to turn it back over to
11 Vice President Revuluri.

12 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you,
13 Heather, for that presentation and for all the
14 work you've done to not just make the budget but
15 also make it more understandable for all of us.
16 Those questions, the Resident's Guide and those
17 videos were great. And I would echo what
18 Heather mentioned, we do encourage you to share
19 those widely. The more folks understand the
20 budget, the better the decisions we're going to
21 make.

22 We'll now open the chat function for
23 the Q and A portion of the meeting. We'd like
24 to hear any questions you may have, and we'll

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1 use the chat function to help facilitate that. 18:39:39
2 If you haven't used the chat function in Zoom 18:39:42
3 before, you can find the icon near the bottom of 18:39:45
4 your screen. We have a lot of folks in 18:39:48
5 attendance tonight, and we may not get to all of 18:39:49
6 your questions in the 20 minutes that we have 18:39:53
7 scheduled for the Q and A, but please know that 18:39:55
8 we will compile the Frequently Asked Questions 18:39:59
9 and post them in our website at cpsboe.org. And 18:40:03
10 so when you ask those questions we'll capture 18:40:08
11 everyone. Your participation and the questions 18:40:11
12 you ask will be extremely helpful as we continue 18:40:14
13 with this work. 18:40:18

14 Before I go on, I just want to 18:40:19
15 acknowledge that fellow Board Member Lucino 18:40:22
16 Sotelo was with us. It seems like he has 18:40:27
17 dropped again, but hopefully he'll be back. 18:40:31

18 And with that I'm seeing the questions 18:40:36
19 starting to come through in the chat, please 18:40:39
20 keep those coming. And I'm going to pass this 18:40:41
21 back to Heather and to Mike for responses to 18:40:45
22 make us all a bit more informed. 18:40:51

23 MS. WENDELL: Thanks, Vice President 18:40:56
24 Revuluri. And as mentioned we'll endeavor to 18:40:58



1 address as many of the questions as we can this 18:41:00
2 evening. And in the event that something is 18:41:02
3 specific or requires some additional follow-up, 18:41:04
4 we will be posting an FAQ as a follow-up to this 18:41:08
5 meeting this evening as well. Feel free to 18:41:13
6 utilize the chat feature for questions that 18:41:15
7 are -- that you may have. 18:41:19

8 MR. SITKOWSKI: The first question that 18:41:29
9 we have in here is did CPS increase the SBB per 18:41:31
10 pupil spending? And if so, by how much? 18:41:34

11 So in the FY21 Budget the SBB rate 18:41:39
12 increased by 3 percent overall. And this was to 18:41:43
13 patch the cost-of-living adjustments in the 18:41:46
14 contract with the Chicago Teachers Union. So 18:41:49
15 every student received a 3 percent additional 18:41:51
16 funding in FY21. Thank you for the question. 18:41:55

17 MS. WENDELL: I see a question in here 18:42:00
18 around the specific changes that came from the 18:42:01
19 public input for FY21. The specific changes 18:42:03
20 around the FY21 budget that were informed by the 18:42:07
21 public engagement included the differentiated 18:42:10
22 metric for equity. So rather than just 18:42:14
23 utilizing internal school-driven metrics for the 18:42:16
24 equity grants as we had in the prior years, we 18:42:20



1 utilized the economic hardship index from UIC to 18:42:22
2 identify neighborhood schools throughout the 18:42:27
3 city that by community region had some economic 18:42:31
4 hardship and used that as a metric for \$100,000 18:42:35
5 allocation to each of those schools to provide 18:42:38
6 them some additional supports in a way that was 18:42:41
7 contextual and relevant to their individual 18:42:44
8 schools, so allowed them the flexibility to work 18:42:46
9 with their LSCs and school communities on those 18:42:48
10 dollars. 18:42:51

11 A second piece that came directly from 18:42:52
12 the public input was the idea of not only 18:42:54
13 providing equitable allocations to the extent 18:42:57
14 possible, but supporting schools and school 18:43:00
15 communities and school leaders around making 18:43:03
16 best use of those resources. And a specific 18:43:05
17 area that was surfaced by the working group, as 18:43:08
18 well as through the public forums, was new 18:43:11
19 principals. And so we provided additional 18:43:13
20 supports and one-on-one time for principals who 18:43:16
21 were developing budgets for the first time this 18:43:19
22 year and taking those through the strategic 18:43:21
23 planning and the LSC approval process. Thank 18:43:23
24 you very much for that question. 18:43:26



1 MR. SITKOWSKI: We're seeing a few 18:43:33
2 questions here about the equity grants that were 18:43:36
3 funded in the FY21 Budget about the methodology 18:43:39
4 and the recipients. We will be publishing -- 18:43:44
5 the methodology is available on our website, but 18:43:47
6 we'll also be publishing this as part of the FAQ 18:43:51
7 in response to this. So as we share that out, 18:43:55
8 we'll have the full methodology and how the 18:43:57
9 equity grants were allocated in this year's 18:44:00
10 budget as part of the -- as part of the FAQ 18:44:02
11 follow-up to this. 18:44:06

12 MS. WENDELL: Thanks for that, Mike. 18:44:08

13 And I see a question about links to the 18:44:09
14 resources. And so because we were wanting to 18:44:11
15 ensure that this was new information and new 18:44:14
16 presentation material for this meeting this 18:44:17
17 evening, the full text of the Resident's Guide 18:44:19
18 as shared in the slides is not yet posted to the 18:44:22
19 website. Both the Spanish version and the 18:44:25
20 English version are waiting in cue and will be 18:44:28
21 available on the cps.edu/budget page shortly. 18:44:31
22 But we purposely sort of wanted to do the 18:44:36
23 walk-through tonight and provide those as new 18:44:39
24 tools moving forward. Both those and the videos 18:44:41



1 will be available. Right now there is a one
2 pager version that's sort of the flyer version
3 of or Resident's Guide, which is the initial
4 graphic that includes the dollar bill. However,
5 we will absolutely make sure that those links
6 are updated. And we thank you for your
7 immediate interest in going right out to the
8 website.

9 I see a question related to diverse
10 learner funding. And so on the page within the
11 Resident's Guide and in some of the other
12 metrics, one of the pieces to highlight here is
13 that the FY2021 Budget reflects \$97 million
14 increase to special education funding for
15 teachers and paraprofessionals out in schools,
16 that's the single largest investment increase in
17 special education funding year over year.

18 Additionally, dollars that continue the
19 increase of head count for case managers, nurses
20 and social workers were allocated. There was an
21 additional \$13 million in the FY21 Budget to
22 support those positions that support both
23 diverse learners and all students.

24 In terms of some of the specific

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1 questions, as mentioned things that are of 18:46:09
2 general interest but more detailed than we're 18:46:12
3 able to pull, you know, real-time information 18:46:16
4 for or answers for this evening, we will be 18:46:18
5 providing a follow-up FAQ that will be posted as 18:46:20
6 well to the website to try and address some of 18:46:25
7 the more specific questions that are coming up 18:46:28
8 in the chat. 18:46:29

9 I see some general notes around ongoing 18:46:38
10 engagement and commitment around equity and 18:46:40
11 ensuring, you know, neighborhood representation 18:46:43
12 and things. Certainly the first round of the 18:46:46
13 public forums that we engaged in we endeavored 18:46:49
14 to ensure that we were geographically 18:46:53
15 represented through the -- as we think about 18:46:56
16 what the next round looks like in providing a 18:46:59
17 mixture of those access points and things, 18:47:02
18 certainly that engagement and that feedback will 18:47:04
19 be paramount to us continuing to refine our 18:47:07
20 school methodologies. And the commitment in 18:47:10
21 that public work is to continue to investigate 18:47:13
22 whether there is an opportunity to do things 18:47:14
23 more equitably. And so look forward to 18:47:16
24 continuing that engagement and that partnership 18:47:19



1 with Dr. Swinney in the Equity Office, who is a 18:47:22
2 champion in the public engagement work in the 18:47:26
3 first round as we work to collect further 18:47:28
4 feedback and public engagement, you know, in the 18:47:31
5 second round. So thank you for those questions 18:47:33
6 and for that interest. 18:47:36

7 So I see a question around particular 18:47:55
8 enrollment metrics for this year as it relates 18:47:59
9 to budget. And so one thing that I want to make 18:48:02
10 sure to address with regards to that is budget 18:48:05
11 metric and the way that we rolled out budgets in 18:48:10
12 spring allowed for schools to have their budget 18:48:14
13 for FY21 be based on their enrollment count from 18:48:17
14 last fall. And so we did have schools that went 18:48:22
15 up for their enrollment count this fall as of 18:48:25
16 the tenth day, and those schools received 18:48:29
17 monetary recesses in the SBB. I believe there 18:48:31
18 was somewhere north of a hundred schools that 18:48:36
19 received SBB increases, and it was a total of 18:48:38
20 around, and Mike I'm going to ask you to make 18:48:42
21 sure that scope and scale here I'm correct, but 18:48:43
22 it was around \$14 million in additional SBB 18:48:48
23 funding that went out. And so no one lost 18:48:51
24 funding this fall related to any type of 18:48:54



1 population or enrollment decrease, and that's 18:48:56
2 been part of the budget model that we've 18:48:59
3 utilized over the last few years. But we did 18:49:00
4 increase budgets if school's actual enrollment 18:49:02
5 this fall was higher than their enrollment last 18:49:05
6 fall. 18:49:08

7 MR. SITKOWSKI: That's correct, 18:49:08
8 Heather. There was \$14 million at 127 schools. 18:49:09

9 MS. WENDELL: Perfect. Thank you for 18:49:14
10 clarifying that. 18:49:16

11 I know that there's been a couple of 18:49:28
12 questions around methodology for the equity 18:49:30
13 grant, and as Mike pointed out, the full text of 18:49:32
14 the budget guide publishes that. We will also 18:49:35
15 pull that information over in a more detailed 18:49:39
16 format into the FAQ from here. But in terms of 18:49:40
17 the methodology, the economic hardship index 18:49:43
18 uses the code in neighborhood areas. So the 18:49:47
19 application of the equity index that we used 18:49:50
20 align to that metric within the formula aligned 18:49:52
21 to that data point from UIC. And so we 18:49:56
22 certainly within the FAQ will pull over some 18:50:02
23 more detailed information to that very good 18:50:06
24 question as well. 18:50:08



1 MS. STOCKDALE: Hey, Heather, there are 18:50:29
2 a couple of questions in the chat. I know 18:50:30
3 you're trying to filter through them and it's 18:50:32
4 hard to see all of them about the budget and how 18:50:33
5 it's tied to basically our recent decline in 18:50:34
6 enrollment and COVID expenses and just generally 18:50:37
7 talking through that. 18:50:40

8 MS. WENDELL: Sure. Thanks, Sadie. 18:50:45

9 So certainly in the FY2021 Budget as it 18:50:46
10 was approved in August and as the Resident's 18:50:50
11 Guide is based on and the videos as well, we 18:50:52
12 allocated \$75 million to support various 18:50:55
13 versions of school operations, reopening, COVID 18:50:59
14 related expenses and things of that sort. And 18:51:03
15 so understanding that the landscape is different 18:51:06
16 than it has been, we wanted to acknowledge and 18:51:09
17 with the Board's support making sure that we 18:51:13
18 were well-positioned for costs that may need to 18:51:16
19 be incurred that were out of the ordinary 18:51:19
20 related to COVID and are moving through various 18:51:21
21 instructional models. 18:51:23

22 You know, in terms of overall budget 18:51:24
23 constraints and drivers, you know, as we had 18:51:27
24 laid out in the budget, obviously the budget as 18:51:30



1 passed in August is a balance of revenues and 18:51:34
2 expenses, and we continue to work from that 18:51:38
3 balanced budget in August with the understanding 18:51:40
4 that we are moving through various models and 18:51:42
5 cost drivers in that sense. And obviously the 18:51:45
6 eye continues to remain on ensuring schools are 18:51:50
7 supported regardless of what it is that we're 18:51:54
8 asking them to do. So the budget as we have 18:51:56
9 passed it in August accounts for some of that 18:51:58
10 uncertainty, and we'll continue to support 18:52:01
11 schools moving forward through various models, 18:52:05
12 both within the dollars they have and what we 18:52:06
13 have budgeted centrally. 18:52:08

14 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Heather, if I 18:52:27
15 could -- 18:52:27

16 MS. WENDELL: So -- 18:52:27

17 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Oh, go ahead. 18:52:28

18 MS. WENDELL: No, go ahead, Sendhil. 18:52:29

19 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Would you be 18:52:32
20 able to say a little bit about the possibility 18:52:33
21 of changes in state and federal revenue, whether 18:52:35
22 it's related to COVID relief or the possibility 18:52:37
23 of the state going to graduated income tax? 18:52:43

24 MS. WENDELL: Yeah. So the graduated 18:52:47



1 income tax piece that is, you know -- is of top 18:52:50
2 of mind for folks is something that obviously 18:52:57
3 would be for future revenue. So there isn't 18:53:02
4 anything in that in particular that would impact 18:53:04
5 our '21 budget. But obviously depending on how 18:53:06
6 that goes we would have more clarity on what 18:53:09
7 that could mean for our state revenue in FY22 18:53:13
8 and moving into those out years. 18:53:16

9 In terms of federal revenues, you know, 18:53:18
10 obviously the budget as we passed it in August 18:53:20
11 included the first round of the CARES stimulus 18:53:23
12 money, as well as an assumption around 18:53:26
13 additional federal support. And while we 18:53:29
14 certainly believe that legislators will come 18:53:31
15 through and do what's necessary to support 18:53:34
16 states and local school districts and make good 18:53:36
17 on their obligation to do so, we have, you know, 18:53:39
18 plans in place if we would need to move in 18:53:43
19 another direction in terms of budget options in 18:53:49
20 that regard. But also we fully believe, as we 18:53:51
21 did in August, that federal funding will come 18:53:55
22 through to provide support necessary for us all 18:53:57
23 to do the work that we do and for students and 18:54:00
24 families to continue to be supported as we move 18:54:02



1 through various phases of the pandemic and
2 various versions of instructional models and
3 reopening.

4 I'm just trying to filter through.

5 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Heather and
6 Mike, there were a couple of questions about
7 unfilled positions and how those are reflected
8 in the budget. I'm not sure exactly what the
9 question was, it's been hard to keep up, but
10 could you say a little bit about how that works?
11 I know there was one specifically about those
12 four diverse learners.

13 MS. WENDELL: Yeah. How many positions
14 go unfilled I know I see and traditionally over
15 year. So the specifics of actual vacancy rates
16 and things are something that are sort of
17 outside of the scope of my expertise and
18 certainly could look back to see what we have
19 done historically and what is available there
20 and to be able to address in an FAQ. But, you
21 know, obviously I know that our Talent team has
22 endeavored and is from a fill rate perspective
23 continues to really work at providing, you know,
24 candidates, viable candidates for every

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1 available position that we have in the district. 18:55:47
2 Certainly there has been a renewed focus or a 18:55:50
3 heightened focus on special education, and those 18:55:53
4 clinical positions that we have done through the 18:55:57
5 expansions, case managers, social workers and 18:55:59
6 nurses. 18:56:01

7 Unfortunately, I can't speak to any of 18:56:01
8 those numbers from top of mind tonight, but 18:56:03
9 obviously I want to note the question and be 18:56:06
10 able to get back on some additional information 18:56:09
11 in that area. 18:56:11

12 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: So I know 18:56:34
13 there's a couple of questions about how things 18:56:35
14 work at the school level. I saw one about how 18:56:37
15 the LSC is involved in approving the budget and 18:56:41
16 if anyone else is reviewing or approving the 18:56:45
17 budget and also how the funds that may be raised 18:56:47
18 from other non-district sources may be accounted 18:56:53
19 for. 18:56:58

20 MS. WENDELL: Yeah. So in terms of the 18:56:59
21 local budgets, the LSC and whether or not budget 18:57:02
22 is reviewed by Central Office or any, you know, 18:57:06
23 Central Office for compliance and things, we 18:57:09
24 endeavor through my office and the other offices 18:57:12



1 to really support schools at the local level, to 18:57:14
2 work with their LSCs around what that is. 18:57:17
3 Certainly it aligns to the strategic planning 18:57:20
4 process and the primary support in terms of 18:57:22
5 additional work with the schools would fall to 18:57:25
6 the Network chiefs and providing that 18:57:27
7 instructional alignment and resource utilization 18:57:30
8 in that regard. Our office supports that 18:57:33
9 endeavor as well. And basically trying to 18:57:35
10 ensure that principals have the tools and the 18:57:38
11 resources necessary to make the connection point 18:57:41
12 between their budget and their CIWP strategic 18:57:45
13 planning so that when they are presenting to the 18:57:50
14 LSC there's a clear connection around those 18:57:52
15 priorities and how things are resourced. 18:57:54

16 We definitely can provide some 18:57:56
17 information in the FAQ that links back to LSC 18:57:58
18 procedures and approvals and, you know, just how 18:58:01
19 exactly that works depending on school status 18:58:04
20 and things of that element. 18:58:07

21 In terms of the friends of dollars and 18:58:08
22 anything that is raised locally at the school 18:58:13
23 level, we endeavor to try and work with 18:58:16
24 principals to make best use of those dollars and 18:58:18



1 reflect those source of funds, but those are 18:58:22
2 dollars that are managed locally at the school 18:58:23
3 level and are weighed in by the principal with 18:58:26
4 the LSC in terms of the use of those dollars. 18:58:28
5 And those will, as noted here, vary from school 18:58:30
6 to school in regard to those funds. 18:58:33

7 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thanks, 18:58:47
8 Heather. 18:58:48

9 I know there was a follow-up question 18:58:49
10 to something I mentioned a few minutes ago about 18:58:50
11 what the contingency plans are, is there 18:58:54
12 anything we can say about that at this point or 18:59:00
13 is it depends on what's coming? 18:59:03

14 MS. WENDELL: So certainly, you know, 18:59:06
15 the budget as passed in August assumes the 18:59:09
16 federal revenue, and we're now at the end of 18:59:12
17 first quarter and so while everyone in the world 18:59:14
18 knows what's happening two weeks out from now 18:59:18
19 and some checkpoints within this work and 18:59:20
20 things, so I think that we obviously continue to 18:59:23
21 hope and have a sense of like many, many, many 18:59:26
22 other school districts in the country that the 18:59:30
23 federal revenue it's not necessarily a matter of 18:59:32
24 if but a matter of when, and so we continue to 18:59:36



1 look at that and monitor that while also 18:59:39
2 supporting our schools and our local level 18:59:43
3 leaders to move through various return-to-school 18:59:46
4 models, again just as colleagues in other states 18:59:48
5 and cities are doing throughout the country. 18:59:51

6 So I think for now it is the next big 18:59:53
7 checkpoint and all of our work is really what 18:59:57
8 happens in the next couple of weeks and being 18:59:59
9 able to move forward from there as we look at 19:00:01
10 heading fully into second quarter financial 19:00:04
11 quarter that would be. So really looking 19:00:08
12 towards what happens between now and the end of 19:00:11
13 the calendar year. 19:00:13

14 I see a question here, and I know we're 19:00:36
15 maybe coming at time but, Sendhil, if I can take 19:00:38
16 one more. I think this one is an organizational 19:00:42
17 question, and I think that it's an interesting 19:00:44
18 one just in that folks don't necessarily know 19:00:46
19 how this works. So how many schools does each 19:00:49
20 Network chief support? 19:00:52

21 And so the schools as we mentioned 19:00:53
22 previously, the 499 traditional district schools 19:00:55
23 are zoned geographically by elementary and high 19:00:59
24 school. There are 13 networks for the 19:01:03



1 elementary schools and four for the high 19:01:06
2 schools. And so though the portfolio sizes for 19:01:10
3 the Network chiefs vary, in part based on the 19:01:13
4 geography that they're supporting, as well as 19:01:17
5 principal participation in our ISP program, 19:01:19
6 which is where principals are independent from 19:01:22
7 the traditional Network chief structure and 19:01:25
8 receive a little bit more autonomy in terms of 19:01:27
9 some of the normal regulations, professional 19:01:31
10 developments and things that they may be going 19:01:34
11 through. So all told the -- there are 17 19:01:36
12 geographic network chiefs, four for the high 19:01:40
13 school, 13 for the elementary and then a group 19:01:44
14 of independent school principals ISPs that are 19:01:47
15 also supported through the Network structure and 19:01:51
16 through the strategic budgeting process, you 19:01:54
17 know, my office partnering with them as well to 19:01:56
18 provide that level of support to schools and 19:01:58
19 chiefs. So thank you for that question. 19:02:01

20 I think that -- I really appreciate all 19:02:04
21 of the thoughtful pieces here. I know Vice 19:02:09
22 President Revuluri has some additional comments 19:02:14
23 and things. And anything that we do in terms of 19:02:16
24 FAQs and whatnot related to this, our intent is 19:02:18



1 to link everything through that easy to remember
2 cps.edu/budget page. So resources from this
3 evening both now and forthcoming will be able to
4 be linked that way.

5 And so, Vice President Revuluri, thank
6 you for the time, and I'll toss it back to you.

7 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thanks so
8 much, Heather.

9 We do have a few more minutes before we
10 move on, and I just wanted to invite my fellow
11 Board members if there are any questions that
12 they would like to ask at this time.

13 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Thank you, Vice
14 President Revuluri and Chairman.

15 There was a question regarding
16 computers and distribution of computers. We
17 have completed that process, but there are still
18 individuals who are in need of a computer, is
19 that so?

20 MS. STOCKDALE: Hey, Arnie, do you want
21 to -- I mean, I can speak to this one. I
22 answered in the chat, I believe Ms. O'Banner
23 asked that question, but we're right now working
24 with individual schools to assess the needs to

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1 see if they need additional devices. 19:03:38

2 MR. RIVERA: Sure. I mean, along those 19:03:42
3 lines, I mean, we've distributed over 160,000 19:03:43
4 devices to district -- you know, to students in 19:03:47
5 district-run schools this year. And then 19:03:50
6 charter schools have obviously distributed, you 19:03:51
7 know, in partnership with us, you know, 19:03:54
8 additional devices to their students. You know, 19:03:55
9 certainly as we've said from the beginning, if 19:03:58
10 there is a need for a device, whether it's, you 19:03:59
11 know, a need that's new, whether it's a broken 19:04:03
12 device or, you know, for whatever reason 19:04:06
13 circumstances have changed so that individual is 19:04:10
14 in need of a device and did not require one 19:04:11
15 earlier, the first course of action is to reach 19:04:15
16 out to your school. And, you know, 99 times out 19:04:17
17 of a hundred, you know, those issues are able to 19:04:21
18 be resolved at the local school level. In the 19:04:23
19 event that a school does not have sufficient 19:04:26
20 devices, they do work closely with Central 19:04:29
21 Office to ensure that additional devices are 19:04:32
22 allocated for their use. 19:04:36

23 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Thank you. 19:04:50

24 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Okay. Thank 19:04:52



1 you, everyone, for your questions. I know we
2 did not get to all of them, we have saved them,
3 and they will be the raw material for the first
4 slice at the Frequently Asked Questions document
5 that we're going to add to our budget resources.
6 And as more questions come, please do share them
7 with us, and I'll give you specifics about how
8 to do that in a moment.

9 I just want to reiterate as we close
10 and before we go to public participation, as I
11 mentioned at the beginning, our goals for
12 tonight were to build understanding of this
13 year's budget. And I think the resources that
14 Heather and her team have created and that she
15 shared tonight have been really helpful in doing
16 so. As Heather mentioned to show how the School
17 Funding Working Group informed this budget. To
18 help all of us understand better our sources of
19 funding, which are more steady and which can
20 change. To surface your questions and
21 perspectives on our future budget decisions.
22 And you really came through for us, thank you
23 for all of these questions. And finally to give
24 you tools to help you advocate for more

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1 equi table funding to ensure an excellent 19:06:05
2 education for CPS students. And so thank you 19:06:07
3 for coming tonight, for participating and for 19:06:10
4 your questions. 19:06:13

5 And before we move on to public 19:06:14
6 participation, I just wanted to highlight two 19:06:16
7 themes from both the presentation and your 19:06:18
8 questions and also share some actions that each 19:06:22
9 of us can take. 19:06:25

10 The first, while the evidence-based 19:06:26
11 funding model and formula was a big improvement 19:06:30
12 over the state's previous funding model, CPS 19:06:34
13 remains woefully underfunded by nearly \$2 19:06:37
14 billion each year by the state's own estimate. 19:06:43
15 We have to use our resources prudently and 19:06:44
16 thoughtfully, but it's also essential that CPS 19:06:47
17 be adequately funded to give our kids the 19:06:50
18 education that they deserve. 19:06:52

19 Second, we've heard clearly through 19:06:53
20 some of your questions tonight but also through 19:06:55
21 many other venues that we must ensure the health 19:06:58
22 and safety of our students and staff. That's 19:07:00
23 why the district has invested millions of 19:07:03
24 dollars for tens of thousands of hand sanitizer 19:07:05



1 dispensers, containers of disinfectant wipes, 19:07:08
2 hiring 400 additional custodians to ensure that 19:07:12
3 a comprehensive cleaning is completed every day 19:07:16
4 and also having independent industrial 19:07:18
5 hygienists inspect every classroom in every 19:07:21
6 school to ensure proper ventilation and that it 19:07:24
7 all be done by early in November. And so the 19:07:27
8 same time that the pandemic and the associated 19:07:31
9 economic and other effects are having an impact 19:07:37
10 on our revenues, there are also things that we 19:07:39
11 have to manage just as President del Valle just 19:07:42
12 highlighted in terms of technology and in terms 19:07:47
13 of hygiene and cleanliness to make things safe 19:07:49
14 and to ensure that kids are continuing to learn. 19:07:52
15 So there's a lot going on right now. We know a 19:07:56
16 lot of issues are on everyone's mind, and we 19:07:58
17 appreciate you joining us today to help all of 19:08:02
18 us understand how these many pieces fit 19:08:06
19 together. 19:08:09

20 As the slide that just popped up shows, 19:08:10
21 we want to hear from you. We need your voice 19:08:14
22 and your perspectives to help us make effective 19:08:16
23 decisions. And so we would love for you to take 19:08:19
24 advantage of any of these ways to engage with 19:08:23



1 us.

2 You can contact this Committee by
3 e-mail boefac, Finance and Audit Committee,
4 @cps.edu. The same address for which you
5 probably got information about this meeting.

6 You can contact us and ask to meet us
7 during Board office hours. The URL is on the
8 screen at cpsboe.org/office-hours to meet with
9 any of the Board members.

10 You can also submit written comments
11 for this Committee, we'll be accepting those
12 through 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, and the link is on
13 the cpsboe.org home page.

14 And finally, please keep lifting up
15 your questions and your concerns at our Board
16 meetings. We'd love for you to join us at next
17 Wednesday's Board meeting. And to submit
18 written comments either before the meeting or
19 after until next Thursday and to sign up to
20 speak in public participation on Monday, that's
21 October 26th, I believe, at 10:00 a.m.

22 And as I mentioned, all of these issues
23 tied to the budget, whether it's class sizes,
24 whether it's services for diverse learners,

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1 whether it's technology, whether it's keeping 19:09:43
2 schools safe, all of those take resources. Even 19:09:45
3 with an environment of scarce resources, CPS is 19:09:50
4 making choices to invest in ways that are 19:09:54
5 equitable for all students. One of tonight's 19:09:56
6 goals was to keep building all of our 19:09:59
7 understanding of the budget, and that's because 19:10:01
8 to build a financially sustainable future where 19:10:04
9 we can continue distributing resources to the 19:10:07
10 students that need it most, we need to know what 19:10:09
11 we're doing and we need to hear from all of you. 19:10:11
12 I know that many of you have been advocating for 19:10:16
13 equitable funding for a long time well before 19:10:20
14 this meeting. We really appreciate your 19:10:23
15 continued advocacy, and we invite you to please 19:10:25
16 help us continue to advocate for more equitable 19:10:28
17 funding. There's a few things each of us can do 19:10:32
18 to grow our understanding to inform (garbled 19:10:35
19 connection) and to advocate. 19:10:37

20 First of all, as you've heard, surely 19:10:38
21 in many places, including from President del 19:10:42
22 Valle, it's critically important to vote. One 19:10:46
23 specific item is the State Constitutional 19:10:49
24 Amendment to enable a graduated state income tax 19:10:50



1 that is to allow higher rates for people with
2 higher income levels just like the federal
3 government and most other states. The expected
4 extra revenue from this change will be key to
5 putting Illinois in a better fiscal position and
6 also make it more feasible to increase state
7 support for public education and for CPS
8 specifically. Whether you're voting on November
9 3rd, whether you vote early in person or you're
10 voting by mail-in ballot, voting on the Fair Tax
11 Amendment is a step to advocate for equitable
12 funding to give all CPS students the education
13 they deserve. And if you're eligible to vote
14 but you're not yet registered, you can still do
15 so on Election Day.

16 Second, the resources we have, as
17 Heather mentioned several times, are largely
18 directed by individual school principals and the
19 Local School Councils. And so we need you to
20 exercise your voice, the governance of schools
21 by voting in those LSC elections, whether as a
22 parent, a community member, a student or a staff
23 member. Parents and staff will receive their
24 mail-in ballots soon, while high school students

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1 will vote virtually on Tuesday, November 17th. 19:12:04

2 Elementary schools will hold in-person elections 19:12:07

3 on Wednesday, November 18th, and high schools on 19:12:10

4 Thursday, November 19th. Those are the report 19:12:13

5 card pickup days for the fall. 19:12:16

6 Third, tonight isn't the only 19:12:18

7 opportunity to share your thoughts on the 19:12:20

8 budget. As Heather mentioned the district will 19:12:21

9 continue working through the recommendations 19:12:24

10 made by the School Funding Working Group, which 19:12:26

11 are based on the input that many people, 19:12:29

12 including many of you, shared during the public 19:12:30

13 budget forums earlier this year. Please stay 19:12:33

14 tuned for additional School Funding Working 19:12:37

15 Group public engagement forums. 19:12:39

16 Fourth, Heather went through some great 19:12:41

17 resources tonight, for many of you this may be 19:12:43

18 information you already knew, while for others 19:12:46

19 of us this might be new information. And I 19:12:48

20 really appreciate that the team has created 19:12:51

21 something that is very understandable whatever 19:12:53

22 your prior knowledge of the budget. We -- now 19:12:56

23 that you have those or they'll be posted soon, 19:13:00

24 we encourage you to use these resources when you 19:13:03



1 need a reference to understand the budget, when 19:13:06
2 you're talking with elected officials, when you 19:13:08
3 apply for a grant for your school, whenever you 19:13:10
4 have a question or are working on something that 19:13:15
5 relates to the budget for the district and for 19:13:17
6 the schools and to share those resources with 19:13:21
7 others. That's how more people understand 19:13:23
8 what's going on, that's how we get more people 19:13:25
9 engaged, get more and better input and 19:13:28
10 perspectives and ultimately make better 19:13:31
11 decisions for our students. 19:13:33

12 And finally, again, if you have any 19:13:34
13 further written comments for this meeting, 19:13:37
14 please submit them by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. And 19:13:39
15 again the link to the forum is on the home page 19:13:43
16 of the cpsboe.org website. 19:13:45

17 And with that, we'll move on to public 19:13:49
18 comment. The public participation segment of 19:13:51
19 this meeting will conclude after 20 minutes or 19:13:56
20 until the last speaker has presented, whichever 19:14:00
21 occurs first. Each speaker will have 2 minutes 19:14:03
22 each to present their remarks. And so we have a 19:14:06
23 few speakers who are with us, they're not online 19:14:09
24 right now, but we'll be watching. We're going 19:14:11



1 to start with speaker number one, that's Dexter
2 Leggin.

3 MR. LEGGIN: Thank you. Good evening.
4 Can you hear me?

5 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: We can hear
6 you. Thank you.

7 MR. LEGGIN: I just wanted to talk
8 about counselors in school. You talk about --
9 I've been listening to you for the last 30, 40
10 minutes about the budget and this, that and
11 where money goes, but at my schools over here on
12 the west side of Chicago, West Garfield Park and
13 East Garfield Park, we don't have counselors.
14 We have -- I'm not even going to go through
15 that. We just need more money for counselors
16 and restorative just -- something -- restorative
17 justice, something more than just SROs in
18 school. We need something more for our students
19 to have and reach out to. That's what the
20 budget is all about, am I right?

21 So somewhere along the line you need to
22 find some extra dollars for the schools on the
23 west side and the south side in black and brown
24 communities to help us succeed a little bit

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better because we're not, and that's because we're always being locked up, always being suspended, always being looked at a different way. That's because there's no other resources in our school to talk to our students about restorative justice, counselors, guidance. We get programs outside of our school to come in but nothing that CPS is really doing working towards our school. They'd rather spend their money on cops than counselors. That's it. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you, Mr. Leggin.

I believe our next speaker is Bridget White.

MS. WHITE: Hello. Hi, my name is Bridget White, I have two students in CPS, 5th grade and 7th grader. I just wanted to speak about continually pushing as far as getting more mentoring inside of the schools. To continue to have the SROs in the school, I'm not sure why we're still doing that when the kids need more help mentally, the parents need assistance, and if we can attack the mental state of the

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1 students, especially in this remote learning as 19:17:35
2 opposed to just keep pushing the police in our 19:17:38
3 way. 19:17:42

4 And as far as just additional resources 19:17:42
5 of more activities, more focus on STEM. This is 19:17:45
6 the career where our students are going -- when 19:17:49
7 they become adults that we need more STEM 19:17:52
8 schools. We have the title of STEMs for the 19:17:55
9 schools, but is STEM really being practiced at 19:17:58
10 the school, and we need to expand on that. 19:18:01

11 And lastly, we need to make language 19:18:04
12 more important at the school. This should be 19:18:07
13 across the board of having the students learn 19:18:10
14 Spanish. You know, the Hispanic people are at 19:18:12
15 an advantage because they can speak a dual 19:18:20
16 language, and that's wonderful. But we need to 19:18:23
17 make sure to include that for our students, 19:18:26
18 especially in this day and age where a lot of 19:18:28
19 these jobs are asking are you bilingual and then 19:18:30
20 that Xs out our students because they aren't 19:18:32
21 speaking another language. So if we can make 19:18:37
22 sure to have Spanish speaking at our schools as 19:18:39
23 well, that that would be really important to be 19:18:42
24 able to push that for our students also. 19:18:44



1 And again, the mental state is really, 19:18:46
2 really key, especially in this trauma dealing 19:18:49
3 situation of the violence that's going on in the 19:18:53
4 city. Thank you. 19:18:56

5 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you. 19:18:58

6 Our next speaker in public 19:19:01
7 participation is Annie Gill-Bloyer. 19:19:07

8 MS. GILL-BLOYER: Good evening, my name 19:19:20
9 is Annie Gill-Bloyer, and I'm the chairperson of 19:19:22
10 the Local School Council of New Field Primary 19:19:26
11 School, and I come to you tonight on behalf of 19:19:29
12 the LSCs of five neighborhood schools in the 19:19:32
13 49th Ward, New Field, Sullivan, Kilmer, Field, 19:19:32
14 Gale and Jordan. Our schools are seeing an 19:19:34
15 unusual and likely short-lived drop in 19:19:36
16 enrollment for SY21 due to the unprecedented 19:19:38
17 circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. 19:19:43
18 Our school communities are experiencing 19:19:46
19 increased transients due to the economic impact 19:19:48
20 of the pandemic, as well as families opting out 19:19:49
21 of CPS in favor of home schooling or private 19:19:51
22 schools that offer in-person instruction. 19:19:54

23 As we expect our schools' enrollment to 19:19:57
24 be restored to normal levels once these unusual 19:19:59



1 circumstances have abated, we're deeply
2 concerned by the prospect that next year's
3 budgets could be based on current school year's
4 enrollment.

5 New Field is down 21 students from its
6 anticipated SY21 enrollment. If SY22 budget is
7 allocated based on this drop, New Field will
8 lose \$107,000 from current levels for next
9 school year.

10 Sullivan High School's enrollment is
11 currently 600 students, down from 650 last year.
12 Sullivan stands to lose \$275,000 in SY22 with a
13 current budget formula threatening many of the
14 significant gains it's made in recent years.

15 Consider the impact that such decreases
16 in funding would have on our most vulnerable
17 students: The loss of low student-to-teacher
18 ratios so vital for learning. The loss of
19 important school programming and services. And
20 the loss of trusted adults in student's lives.

21 We urge CPS Leadership and the Board to
22 prioritize the educational well-being of
23 students above a short-term drop in enrollment.
24 Our students need us to invest in their

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1 education beyond the COVID era we are 19:20:58
2 temporarily in. So we are asking for a freeze 19:20:58
3 in enrollment counts from SY20 for schools that 19:21:01
4 experience an enrollment drop in SY21. The 19:21:04
5 highly unusual factors that have led to a drop 19:21:08
6 in enrollment district-wide in SY21 shouldn't 19:21:10
7 impact our school's ability to serve our 19:21:12
8 students in the future, many of whom have 19:21:14
9 indicated they will reenroll in SY22. A 19:21:16
10 city-wide LSC sign-on letter can be found at 19:21:20
11 bitlee/LSCletter, LSC is capitalized, letter is 19:21:21
12 lower case. Thank you so much. 19:21:36

13 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you. 19:21:36

14 And with that, those are the folks that 19:21:37
15 have signed up for public participation. Thank 19:21:39
16 you for -- all of you for participating, and 19:21:40
17 thank you for those who made comments during 19:21:42
18 public participation. Thank you to Heather, 19:21:45
19 Miroslava, Arnie and the entire webinar team who 19:21:48
20 supported us tonight. And thanks to all of you 19:21:53
21 for joining and for sharing your questions and 19:21:56
22 your thoughts. Have a great night. And with 19:21:57
23 that, this meeting is adjourned. 19:22:00

24 (Whereupon, the meeting



adjourned at 7:22 p.m.)

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
COUNTY OF C O O K)

Karen Fatigato, 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
meeting, 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 meeting.

Karen Fatigato



Karen Fatigato, CSR
LIC. NO. 084-004072



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