

Questions and Answers from the June 2024 ESB Informational Webinar

Topic	Question	Answer
Election Process	Who will be able to vote for ESB? Only current CPS parents or will the community be able to vote too?	Every eligible voter in the City of Chicago will be able to vote for the elected candidates. This vote will take place during the November General Election.
Election Process	Is this adding politics to the school system?	The shift to the elected school board model is to allow for representation and accountability of Board Members via the election process.
Election Process	What happens if a district doesn't have any candidates on the ballot? For example, if someone gets written-in and wins, what happens next?	<p>If no individual files for a district or no candidate collects the valid number of signatures, there would be a write-in election. Individuals wishing to be write-in candidates must file with the Chicago Board of Elections by Sept. 5 so that their write-in votes are eligible to be counted. The candidate with the most write-in votes would become the elected member.</p> <p>For more specific information on the elections, visit the Board of Elections website.</p>
Election Process	What if no one is running for our 'district'. How will our area be represented?	
Election Process	How will you determine which parts of the city are represented first?	As covered in the presentation, for the 2024 elections, the City has been divided into 10 Districts, and each District is further divided into 2 Subdistricts. Candidates interested in running for an elected seat will run in whichever of the 10 districts in which they reside. The Mayor will then appoint a Board Member in each of the 10 elected districts. The appointees must reside in the subdistrict in which the elected Board Member does not reside.
Election Process	How will there be equity in representation if there is a partially elected school board?	<p>Until January 15, 2027, during the hybrid school board period, every District will be represented by both an appointed and an elected member. Candidates interested in running for an elected seat will run in whichever of the 10 districts in which they reside. The Mayor will then appoint a Board Member in each of the 10 elected districts. The appointees must reside in the subdistrict in which the elected Board Member does not reside.</p> <p>Starting with the 2026 elections, all Board Member seats, including the Board President will be elected.</p>
Election Process	Want to understand if the signatures collected must live in the district and be registered voters? Will the signatures be vetted like all elections, and potentially be removed if signatures are	Signatures must be collected in the districts where the candidate lives and is filing in. A minimum of 1000 valid signatures are required for this cycle and the minimum drops to 500 once all 20 district seats are elected in 2026.

	spoiled? Finally the number being a minimum of 1K, not exceed 3K. Will this prohibit the candidate from being on the ballot?	The board of election commissioners will file only those petitions that include the required number of voter signatures, and meet all other requirements.
Candidates	Is there somewhere online where we can see who has submitted petitions to run?	The Chicago Board of Elections updates a document linked on their website that provides a list of all of the candidates who have filed. You can access this list here .
Candidates	How do we know / meet who is running for our 'district'?	The candidate filing period will close Monday, June 24th.
Candidates	When will voters be able to learn about all the candidates?	You can search online for the candidates by name to research more about them. Some candidates might also participate in debates or public forums. It is possible that media outlets might also post materials about candidates.
Candidates	Where can you see who is running for the ESB and where can you find out information about them?	
Candidates	I really appreciate your comments, Ms. Todd-Breland and Ms. Morales. Are you running for the new Board? Are others on the current board running?	
Candidates	What support is being given to our highest need communities to grow leaders for these positions?	There are a number of community-based, advocacy, and other organizations supporting candidates and candidate development. CPS does not back particular candidates, but is focused on providing transparent information about the upcoming elections, like that found on the Board of Education website and this informational session.
Candidates	What should I do if I don't think a candidate is eligible to run?	The Chicago Board of Elections has authority to invalidate a candidacy due to allegations of a lack of candidate eligibility when a voter files an Objector's Petition to those nominating petitions and the matter is adjudicated by their Electoral Board. For candidate qualifications under state law, the Cook County State's Attorney's office, as they have statutory authority to enforce candidate-eligibility and office-holding requirements through a quo warrant to lawsuit that they can file in the Circuit Court. Election Integrity Hotline Phone: 773-674-3311; Email: SAO.ElectionFraud@cookcounty.onmicrosoft.com
Board	How will decisions be made with such a big school board?	As was discussed in the presentation, each Board Member has the individual authority to cast a vote at a Board meeting. Some decisions require 2/3 of Board Members for Board approval. Others require a simple majority. The larger school board will operate in the same fashion - with individual Board Members casting their individual votes. While Board Members don't have to support the decisions made by the Board, effective Board governance dictates that Board Members support the process.

Board	How can the community support the elected school board? How can we hold them accountable?	Voters are the individuals who have the power to vote a candidate onto the Board. Once on the Board, members of the community can meet with Board Members during office hours, and make their voices heard to Board Members during public meetings.
Board Members	How should we hold members accountable to the community and not their funders?	
Board Members	How can we ensure actual representation of CPS families when fundraising is already so high and board positions are unpaid? How do we ensure special interest groups don't gain control of the board?	Additionally, as a reminder, all seats on the Board, including the Presidency, will be up for election in 2026. Voters will have the opportunity to hold Board Members accountable by deciding whether or not to vote for any of the Board Members wishing to remain on the Board.
Board Members	Why no compensation? Doesn't this exclude those who are not independently wealthy?	The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-10) prohibits compensation for Board Members. That law applies to all Illinois school districts.
Board Members	What are the term limits?	For the 2024 election, the terms for all Board Members and the Board President will be for two years.
Board Members	How many terms do the elected board serve?	For the 2026 election and thereafter, for Board Members, terms will vary by election and subdistrict, and will be for either two years or four years. The term for the Board President will be for four years. See Slides 16 and 17 of the presentation for more information about how this will occur. However, there is no limit on the number of times an individual can run for or serve on the Board, either as a Board Member or as the Board President.
Board Members	So a person cannot remain on an LSC and be a board member?	Correct, a Board Member cannot also be on an LSC because Members cannot have a competing fiduciary duty as mentioned on Slide 20 of the presentation deck.
Board Members	Is there a training/orientation for incoming board members on EDI? Trauma-Informed Care?	Yes, the Illinois Association of School Boards (“IASB”) offers a webinar on the topic, other offerings exist, as well.
Board Members	Do you feel you received adequate training to be a board member?	Being a Board Member is a complex role that requires individuals to be informed on a wide-range of topics. When our terms started in July 2023, we had a multi-day orientation, and have had multiple additional informational briefings in the year since then. There is always more to learn, though!
Board Members	What can a board member do to impact the families who approach them with problems? You work as a body, is this difficult to balance?	Yes, this is definitely one of the most challenging parts of being a Board Member. As we mentioned in the session, the authority of any individual Board Member is only to cast a vote during a Board Meeting. Oftentimes, the challenges individual families are facing need to be resolved by District staff. So we listen to families, become informed about the issues they are facing, and then ensure that the appropriate CPS staff person follows up with them.

Board Members	What are some tips/advice on how to be an effective board member? How should we come into the role?	Coming into the role, new Board Members should be ready to read a lot, listen, and learn. Even if you have worked in the District before, or have children who attend CPS schools, the governance role requires a whole different perspective and skill set. There are lots of briefings and materials to read during orientation to learn about the many departments, complex systems, and school-level work of CPS. There are also lots of materials to read monthly in preparation for Committee and Board meetings. Board Members need to take time to listen to community members and listen to staff and subject matter experts to ensure they have the information they need to make informed decisions.
Student Board Member	Will students be allowed to join the board?	If there is a student who meets all of the requirements to serve as an elected or appointed Board Member, they would be eligible to serve in either of those capacities. Additionally, the CPS Board of Education has an Honorary Student Board Member, who serves for one school year, and carries out a number of important functions to lift student voice to Board Members and the public. It should be noted that the Illinois School Code allows for the Board to appoint a student to the Board to serve in an advisory capacity only, and does not allow the Board to grant the student member any voting privileges.
Student Board Member	Why is there only 1 student board member?	The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-10) limits the Board to one student appointment, and outlines restrictions for the student Board member.
Community Engagement	Are opportunities for engagement publicized?	Members of the community can register to speak at a public Board Meeting, sign up for Board Office Hours, or submit questions or concerns in writing via the CPS Board of Education website . Opportunities for engagement from the District are also publicized via the District newsletter , calendar , on social media.
Community Engagement	Besides this meeting, what updates will you share with families leading up to the ESB election and keeping parents informed afterwards? Will you share topics of concern [with] parents on the website and status updates addressing those concerns?	For matters directly impacting school board governance, updates will be shared via the Board's normal channels. For example, meeting locations will be announced at meetings and on our website, new policies will be available for public comment before the final decision, and status updates on Board Committees will be shared at board meetings and through our Announcements on our website.
Community Engagement	How can you give residents like Little Village undocumented parents newcomers asylum seekers a voice, Little Village is an immigrant community is the port [there support]? How can you	Everyone, including undocumented individuals, can sign up to speak at a public Board Meeting or for Board Office Hours, or can submit questions or concerns in writing via the CPS Board of Education website.

	give us a voice if we're not allowed to participate in the election School board?	Additionally, the Chicago Board of Education Diversity Advisory Board was created as part of Public Act 102-0177 to provide non-citizen students with maximum opportunity for success during their elementary and secondary education experience.
Committees and Advisory Boards	How will the advisory board made up of non-citizens be created and run?	The Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-18.68) indicates that the Chicago Board of Education Non-Citizen Advisory Board will be composed of individuals appointed by the Mayor to advise the Chicago Board of Education on a number of issues.
Committees and Advisory Boards	<p>Legislation was recently passed to create the Black Student Achievement Committee of the Board of Education, with language calling for the creation of an evidence-based strategic management plan to close the Black Student Achievement gap and to create a mechanism for creating goals, objectives, metrics and periodic reporting. This is not to be confused with CPS' strategic plan or Black Student Success Plan.</p> <p>What progress has been made in implementing this plan? What plans do you have to reach out to the community groups that have led the charge to write this legislation and fight for its passage? Do you plan to engage them on the ground floor in establishing the committee structure, criteria for membership and community outreach?</p>	The current Board is in the process of reassessing all of the existing Board structures and practices. This includes reviewing existing Board Rules, work streams, and logistics for existing and new committees—of which a Black Student Achievement Committee will be one—to determine what new supports and changes to existing Rules and practices we will need to make to best serve the 21-member Board and multiple committee structures in a way that is sustainable. More information will be shared with the public over the upcoming months.
Other	How will the LSC's and elected Board interact and communicate?	The Board meets with LSCs regularly through Board Office Hours. For management related matters, communication generally comes from CPS management.
Other	How does the new board impact LSC?	The new Board structure will not impact LSCs in any way.
Other	How can we strengthen by supporting our community and provide stipends for LSC members to be more engaged ?	As per the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-2.2 (b)), “Members and officers of the local school council shall serve without compensation...”
Other	<p><i>Cada año nuestra escuela nos hacen falta maestros de educación especial cada año es lo mismo por que investigar por qué en esta escuela es lo mismo acaso no se contratan y por que ? maestros dejan la escuela cada año y no duran los maestros qué pasó o hay algún motivo que esto pasa en esta escuela</i></p> <p>Every year our school is lacking SPED teachers. Every year is the same, why? Investigate why in this school it is the same - why aren't teachers hired? Teachers leave the school every year and</p>	Filling special education teacher positions is a challenge, but the District has made significant progress in improving staffing levels among special education teachers over the past few years, with a net increase of nearly 1,000 special education teachers since September 2019. This has been accomplished by: the expansion of the teacher residency program, the SPED Endorsement Program, the hiring of international teachers, partnership programs mostly focused on special education (AUSL, TFA, GA, GYO), and increased aggressive recruitment/marketing efforts. The District will

	teachers don't last. What happened or is there a reason why this happens in this school?	continue to leverage these strategies moving forward to further reduce vacancies.
Webinar	Will this presentation be available online?	Yes, the session was recorded, and is posted on the CPS Board of Education website.
Webinar	Will a transcript of this webinar be provided?	No. However, this session was recorded, and is posted on the CPS Board of Education website.
Webinar	<i>Como podemos los padres tener acceso a toda esta información?</i> How can we, parents, get access to all this information?	The recording is posted on the CPS Board of Education website, along with answers to the questions received during the session and during registration.
Webinar	<i>En concreto qué temas se tocarán en esta reunión?</i> Specifically what topics will be covered at this meeting?	The session covers the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the transition to an elected school board • The requirements for being a Board Members • The role of the Board • What it's like to be a Board Member
Webinar	<i>Habrá traducción ?</i> Will translation be provided?	Yes. Instructions for how to turn on captions in Spanish were provided prior to the start of the webinar and at the beginning of the session.
Webinar	<i>No habrá traducción ???? O subtítulos en español</i> Won't there be translations? Or subtitles in Spanish?	