

**August 13, 2025, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments  
Received between Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> Submitted via  
Written Comments Form**

1	CPS students deserve a clean and safe learning environment. Firing janitors and custodians imposes health and safety risk. What other budget cuts can be implemented to reduce wasteful spending instead of cutting a necessary resource so kids have a clean kitchen, bathrooms, and classrooms? Are these schools with low enrollment rates budgets reduced to match the student / teacher population? What other admin expenses can be reduced to keep important services intact?
2	<p>Good morning, members of the CPS Board and CEO King:</p> <p>My name is Melina Pereyra. I am the proud mother of two Chicago Public Schools students and a member of Padres por la Educación, a nonprofit organization run by parents for parents.</p> <p>In recent weeks, I have heard CPS members, unions, and organizations say things like: “Parents say...” or “Parents want...,” but I did not see the parents.</p> <p>I appreciate the representation, but today, as a mother, I am here to speak in my own words and tell you that we understand you are facing a great challenge at this moment. However, do not forget that families are also living through it day by day. You can point fingers at each other—up, down, or side to side—but in the end, the ones who always pay the price are the same: our children.</p> <p>We are told “don’t worry” while you cut and continue proposing to reduce the little that our schools can offer. One example: changes in special education. CPS says it is a “change” to align with the Illinois State Board of Education guidelines. We, the parents, call it cuts.</p> <p>I want to believe that we are all asking for the same thing: fully funded schools. But I ask myself—at what cost? At the cost of our children’s future education? Because our schools have clearly not been receiving adequate funding for years.</p> <p>Something has to change. Because this goes beyond funding, pensions, or taxes... This fight sounds like deciding who gets the jackpot and who ends up as the villain. Well, know this: if we are going to be selfish or greedy, parents will always choose, above all, our children.</p> <p>And I must also ask—Is CPS truly ready to start the school year given all the immigration challenges our families are facing right now?</p> <p>That is why, again as a mother, I say to you: we need change. We need transparency. We need honesty. And we need a budget that truly puts students first.</p> <p>If our children are failing, it is because we are all failing education.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p>
3	As a community member, I urge CPS to retain the union janitors and custodians and fully staff our schools.