

**April 27, 2022 Board Meeting Written Comments  
Received between Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1

My name is Indalia Berner and I'm the math teacher at YCLA. I have served YCLA students for 6 years and YCCS students for a total of 10 years.

\*We ask that the CPS board approves YCLA's move to Jane Addams High School.

\*At YCLA:

Teachers and staff support our students and provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students can gain confidence in their academics and develop social emotional skills that will benefit them in their future.

\*At YCLA,

Students thrive in having teachers and staff that care for them and are committed to helping students to reach the finish line of graduation.

-\*At YCLA,

We have shared grief when we lose a student, peer, or family member. Sadly, this has happened far too many times. We support one another in this grief and are there for one another when we need to express our feelings.

Our students deserve the consistency of remaining with their teachers and support staff because in their young lives they have already dealt with enough trauma. They don't deserve the further inconsistency that comes with changing schools, once again.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my statement.

Indalia Berner

2

Hello, my name is Walter Brzeski.

I spoke before the board in December 2021 on some issues and there's been no movement on any of them.

One, is CPS FOIA Requests. Currently, it can take 3 to 6 months to get responses and in some cases, longer.

I have one response that I went through a 20-month battle with CPS, and I needed to ask the IL ATG's PAC to assist in getting CPS to provide a security video.

The PAC ruled in my favor for the 2011 security video of Steinmetz assistant principal, now principal, choking and dragging a female student in the hallways for refusing to go to class.

This incident resulted in a \$10,000 settlement with the student and now I'm requesting the board to demand CPS provide me with the video (with a student's identity's blurred out) within a week.

Secondly, I made CPS OIG, CPS Law, CPS Investigations, Pedro Martinez, Jadine Chou and others all aware of a Lake View high school security guard's 2008 arrest for solicitation of a prostitute (undercover cop), while he was a CPS employee, and nothing has been done to remove this employee from their position and terminate them. While the security guard wasn't convicted, his actions violated several CPS policies, including conduct unbecoming a CPS employee. Yet, nothing has been done to this employee.

This, when CPS tried to terminate a Brooks high school teacher a second time (double jeopardy) for an incident he possibly took part in and not arrested for prior to him becoming a CPS employee. Why is the Lake View security guard be given a free pass here? Is this a tale of the have and have nots?

This same security guard received a 1-day suspension from CPS in 2019 and CPS refuses to respond with the investigative file on the incident when asked for in a FOIA Request.

And this same security guard has worked numerous outside his employment with CPS and doesn't have any secondary employment approvals to work any of them.

Also, William Fletcher's OIG office refuses to investigate any of the close to 40 CPS Residency violation complaints with evidence. This evidence has been with the CPS OIG now for going on 3 years. The violators include up to 24 Steinmetz employees with FIVE of them being department chairs or program leaders with all of them making in excess of \$100,000 per year. Is this another tale of the have and have nots too?

Lastly, the Lane Tech LSC refuses to allow ADA accommodations at their meetings and only allows for in-person public participation after previously allowing live-virtual and telephone call-in along with emails sent in the day of the meeting. In fact, they voted unanimously for in-person only in their December 2021 meeting without a conversation on it and they refuse to waiver from their stance. A complaint with the US Dept of Education Civil Rights Division is coming on this matter in May 2022.

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3

As a teacher from Tonti Elementary in the Gage Park neighborhood, I have noticed the school has been neglected in terms of our lunchroom, roof, parking lot, and plumbing. Our school does not have a lunchroom and staff members must carry hot lunches to the third floor. The food is in coolers and placed on the floor. An additional milk crate with the plates, milk, utensils and fruit for the day is also placed on the floor; which is not sanitary. In addition, our roof and plumbing is outdated, which has caused the lack of hot water and water leaks during school hours. Our students benefit from a well organized physical school environment where they know they are important and valued by providing them a school with all their needs being met.

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As the parent of a first grader at a neighborhood CPS elementary school, I urge the board to stop student-based budgeting. This is leading to my child's school getting fewer resources needed to provide adequate classroom instruction, supervision, and quality education. While this system of student-based budgeting is shifting, I would like the board to hold harmless schools with their enrollment numbers, as has been done during

the pandemic to keep neighborhood schools' budgets even. The pandemic has hurt my child's school's ability to recruit students from the neighborhood, invite prospective parents in to show them around, and retain current students. I strongly believe that reducing the school's budget next year will lead to devastating staff cuts, which will start a downward spiral causing parents to choose a different school, often outside of the CPS system. Further, the current students deserve quality teachers, an enriching space, and enthusiastic support staff. Please help us maintain our current study body, grow bigger, and create a more learning-forward environment at our school.

Furthermore, I question the district's unspent federal funds. I support others from the public who are pushing more accountability and transparency with these funds. Please, for our students, especially those at neighborhood schools, please put that money directly into schools to help students across the city who are struggling academically and emotionally.

Thank you for your consideration.

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5

Good Morning esteemed Board Members, Dr. Martinez, & President del Valle.

My name is Lilia Guevara and I proudly represent Acero Schools. I am the parent of Paul and Adam Vazquez who are current 9th grade happy scholars attending in person and enjoying their Garcia High School experience.

I am a firm believer that families deserve the best education for their children. Both of my sons are enrolled in Special Education and, for me, I needed to find a school that would support their needs. I did my research and consulted with my middle school and ultimately chose Garcia High School. Their standards and overall supportive environment drew me to be a part of the Acero community. My sons are receiving outstanding support from their teachers and their peers.

Another highlight that I appreciate about Garcia is that the school offers opportunities for parents to engage. I am proud to be a part of the Bilingual Advisory Committee and I currently participate in the parent classes, Padres Comprometidos where I am learning about how to effectively communicate with my school leadership and how to better support my students' social-emotional needs. I also actively participate with Kids First Chicago and share those resources with our parents at the school.

I feel grateful to have chosen an Acero School for my children. I enjoy learning alongside them and other parents who are looking to be a part of our school community. Acero Schools gives parents like myself an opportunity to grow and provides a safe environment for my children to receive exceptional academic and social participation. I look forward to continuing my journey at Garcia and I urge this Board to visit our school and recognize the incredible above and beyond work our educators are giving to our students. I am proud to have chosen Acero-Garcia. Thank you.

Buenos días estimados miembros de la Junta, Dr. Martinez y Presidente del Valle.

Mi nombre es Lilia Guevara y orgullosamente represento a Escuelas Acero. Soy la mamá de Paul y Adam Vazquez, quienes actualmente son estudiantes felices de noveno grado que asisten en persona y disfrutan de su experiencia en la Secundaria García.

Creo firmemente que las familias merecen la mejor educación para sus hijos. Mis dos hijos están inscritos en Educación Especial y, para mí, necesitaba encontrar una escuela que apoyara sus necesidades. Investigué y consulté con mi escuela intermedia y finalmente elegí la Secundaria García. Sus estándares y su ambiente de apoyo general me atrajeron a ser parte de la comunidad Acero. Mis hijos están recibiendo un apoyo excepcional de sus maestros y sus compañeros.

Otro aspecto destacado que aprecio de García es que la escuela ofrece oportunidades para que los padres participen. Estoy orgullosa de ser parte del Comité Asesor Bilingüe y actualmente participo en las clases para padres, Padres Comprometidos, donde estoy aprendiendo cómo comunicarme de manera efectiva con el liderazgo de mi escuela y cómo apoyar mejor las necesidades socioemocionales de mis alumnos. También participó activamente con Kids First Chicago y comparto esos recursos con nuestros padres en la escuela.

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6

Hello members of the Chicago Board of Education. My name is Brianna Sanders and I am a senior at North Lawndale College Prep. I'm graduating in May and preparing to attend college in the fall.

I was born and raised in the North Lawndale community, and I chose to attend NLCP because I liked the school and I love learning.

Academically, I've been provided with an excellent foundation in reading comprehension, math, science—all those core subject areas that will matter as I pursue my college degree. My journey through high school wasn't without challenges. Me and my family have navigated through some health issues, and it is what inspired me to become a nurse.

I've seen my mom help others in her career as a nurse, and I want to chart my own path as an advanced practitioner. My journey through high school, the guidance of counselors, and my own life experiences have really pushed me into knowing what I want to do with my life. And over the last couple of years, that path has become even clearer with the support of staff at NLCP.

Even with the pandemic and distance learning happening over the past two years, I still was able to go to school Monday, Wednesday, and Friday while other schools were closed. I have a very strong support system inside of the school and being able to keep in direct contact with them over the past two years really helped me stay on the right track with grades. The advice they gave me on my college applications, essays and financial aid helped was invaluable. I'm college bound because of North Lawndale College Prep.

NLCP set me up with a very good education. I've taken all the highest classes and they've really shown me with a lot of new opportunities, like the Girlfriends club—a club of activists fighting violence and abuse against women. Our group has been able to

participate in national programs and travel to attend participate in task forces dedicated to issues related to violence against women. From this experience I now know that I want to be a nurse for survivors of sexual assault.

My time at NLCP has allowed me to pursue my passions and expand my world. It has let me see what was possible for me and forecasted what's coming up in my next stage of life. I hope you all will come visit our school to see its legacy in North Lawndale in action.

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I am writing to urge the Board of Education to reconsider the use of student based budgeting for an additional year for schools that have seen a drop in enrollment.

Last year, the district held schools harmless for a drop in enrollment due to the pandemic. The pandemic is not over. This year our school - a majority low income school on the South Side - is still suffering from that pandemic-related drop in enrollment. The district says they prioritize equity and equity means giving individual schools what they need.

These CPS budget cuts will force our school to eliminate classrooms and positions - losing our valuable teachers and increasing class sizes for our students, who are still catching up after over a year of virtual learning. CPS Students and schools are still struggling - especially on the South Side - and this funding cut will make it so they never catch up.

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# ATTACHMENTS

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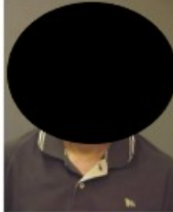
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1	Last Name, First Name (nee)	School	Subject Area/Position	Date of Birth	Date of Hire City/Town of Residence	Waiver (Y/N)	Comments/Notes
2		Steinmetz HS	English		9/17/2000 Oak Park, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
3		Steinmetz HS	English		8/27/2003 Oak Park, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
4		Steinmetz HS	English		1/3/2000 Arlington Heights, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
5		Steinmetz HS	Teen Intervention Specialist		2/28/2018 Berkeley, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
6		Steinmetz HS	Social Studies		10/2/2002 Highland Park, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
7		Steinmetz HS	Math/Computers		9/17/2000 Aurora, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
8		Steinmetz HS	World Lang/Japanese		8/29/2016 Trout Valley, IL	No	?????
9		Steinmetz HS	Diverse Learners		11/5/2006 Arlington Heights, IL	No	?????
10		Steinmetz HS	Social Studies		8/28/2017 Elgin/Crystal Lake, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
11		Steinmetz HS	Science		8/17/2000 Clarendon, Hills, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
12		Steinmetz/Schurz HS	Drafting		2/6/1997 Lake in the Hills, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
13		Steinmetz/Schurz HS	Security		2/13/2004 Hanover Park, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
14		Steinmetz HS	Spanish		8/17/2000 River Grove, IL	No	Not Eligible for residency waiver
15		Steinmetz HS	Counselor		9/30/2006 Elmwood Park, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Chicago. Not eligible for residency waiver.
16		Steinmetz HS	Math/ESL		9/13/1999 Mount Prospect, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
17		Steinmetz HS	SECA		4/5/2010 Niles, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
18		Steinmetz HS	SECA		8/28/2002 Downers Grove, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
19		Steinmetz HS	SECA		2/12/2001 Hanwood Heights, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
20		Steinmetz HS	Social Studies		08/31/1991 Hoffman Estates, IL	No	Questionable Violator??? Possibly has dual residences in Chicago/Hoffman Estates
21		Steinmetz HS	Security		4/25/2007 Des Plaines, IL	No	Lived in Des Plaines while a CPS employee. Resides in Chicago now???
22		Amundsen HS	English/Language Arts		2019 or 2020 Elmwood Park, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
23		Amundsen HS	Music (Orchestra)		8/27/2008 Elmhurst, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
24		Taft HS	Clerk 1		11/23/1998 Carol Stream, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
25		Taft HS	History		10/17/2012 Hickory Hills, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Hickory Hills with parents, current Chicago resident??
26		Taft HS	PE		10/28/2010 Northbrook, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
27		Taft HS	Music		8/27/2009 Brookfield, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
28		North Grand HS	English		8/27/2003 Wilmette, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Chicago. Not eligible for residency waiver.
29		Von Steuben HS	Biology		8/30/1998 Vernon Hills, IL	No	?????
30		Von Steuben HS	PE		8/28/2002 Skokie, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Chicago. Not eligible for residency waiver.
31		Von Steuben HS	Science		8/31/2015 Glenview, IL	No	?????
32		Kennedy HS	History/Social Studies		##### Willow Springs, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
33		Lane Tech HS	PE		8/27/2003 Elmwood Park, IL	No	Lived in Elmwood Park while a CPS employee, resides in Chicago now
34		Lane Tech HS	English		3/31/2003 Schaumburg, IL	No	Lived in Schaumburg while a CPS employee, resides in Chicago now
35		Roosevelt HS	Spanish		2/28/2005 Cicero, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Chicago, now resides in Cicero
36		Brooks College Prep HS	English		8/19/1999 St. John's, IN	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
37		Prosser Academy HS	Social Studies		8/22/2005 Berwyn/Lisle, IL	No	Not eligible for residency waiver
38		Curie HS	PE		9/9/2002 Elmhurst, IL	No	Initially hired while living in Chicago. Not eligible for residency waiver.
38		Prieto Math and Science	SPED		6/16/2008 Highland Park, IL	No	arrested after she allegedly spit on a man's face claiming to have COVID-19



ARREST REPORTING

<b>OFFENDER</b>	Name: [REDACTED] Res: [REDACTED] Chicago, IL 606[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 1976 AGE: 31 years POB: Illinois ARMED WITH Unarmed	Beat: 1121	Male White Hispanic 5' 09" 165 lbs Brown Eyes Black Hair Medium Hair Style Medium Complexion	
	Marks: Tattoo Sun on Left Shoulder			

<b>INCIDENT</b>	Arrest Date: 07 August 2008 23:40 Location: 1620 N Hermitage Ave Chicago, IL 60622 304 - Street Holding Facility: District 014 Lockup Resisted Arrest? No	TRR Completed? No Beat: 1433	Total No Arrested: 1 Co-Arrests DCFS Ward ? No	Assoc Cases
	Dependent Children? No			

<b>CHARGES</b>	1 Offense As Cited <b>720 ILCS 5.0/11-15-A-1</b> PROSTITUTION - SOLICITING FOR PROSTITUTE Class A - Type M	Victim
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<b>RECOVERED NARCOTICS</b>	NO NARCOTICS RECOVERED	IR # [REDACTED]
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<b>WARRANT</b>	NO WARRANT IDENTIFIED	CB # [REDACTED]
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ARREST REPORTING

NON-OFFENDER(S)

ARRESTEE VEHICLE

NO ARRESTEE VEHICLE INFORMATION ENTERED

PROPERTIES

Confiscated Properties :

All confiscated properties are recorded in the e-Track System. This system can be queried by the inventory number to retrieve all official court documents related to evidence and/or recovered properties.

PROPERTIES INFORMATION FOR [REDACTED] NOT AVAILABLE IN THE AUTOMATED ARREST SYSTEM.

INCIDENT NARRATIVE

(The facts for probable cause to arrest AND to substantiate the charges include, but are not limited to, the following)

THIS IS A 1462 TEAM/PROSTITUTION ARREST. ABOVE OFFENDER ARRESTED AFTER HE OFFERED UNDERCOVER OFFICER TLAPA#4267 60 DOLLARS USC IN EXCHANGE FOR INTERCOURSE TO BE PERFORMED ON HIS PERSON. ABOVE PLACED UNDER ARREST AND ADVISED RIGHTS PER MIRANDA. ABOVE TRANSPORTED TO 014 FOR PROCESSING.

COURT INFO

Desired Court Date: 20 October 2008  
 Branch: 23-4 5555 W GRAND AVE - Room  
 Court Sgt Handle? No  
 Initial Court Date: 20 October 2008  
 Branch: 23-4 5555 W GRAND AVE - Room  
 Docket #:

BOND INFO

Bond Date: 08 August 2008 9:32  
 Type: Recognizance (I-Bond)  
 Receipt #: I-6882717  
 Amount: \$1,000.00

# Remarks

## CPS Board Meeting | April 27, 2022

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I am a firm believer that families deserve the best education for their children. Both of my sons are enrolled in Special Education and, for me, I needed to find a school that would support their needs. I did my research and consulted with my middle school and ultimately chose Garcia High School. Their standards and overall supportive environment drew me to be a part of the Acero community. My sons are receiving outstanding support from their teachers and their peers.

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Me siento agradecida de haber elegido una Escuela Acero para mis hijos. Disfruto aprendiendo junto a ellos y otros padres que buscan ser parte de nuestra comunidad escolar. Escuelas Acero brinda a padres como yo la oportunidad de crecer y proporciona un entorno seguro para que mis hijos reciban una participación académica y social excepcional. Espero continuar mi viaje en García y le suplico a esta Junta visitar nuestra escuela y reconocer el increíble trabajo que nuestros educadores están brindando a nuestros estudiantes. Estoy orgullosa de haber elegido Acero-García. Gracias.