

**March 19, 2026, Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Tuesday, March 17th and Friday, March 20th Submitted via
Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Please do not give CTU off on May 1st. The kids need to be in school and not used as political pawns in CTU's agenda.</p>
2	<p>To the Chicago Board of Education:</p> <p>The inclusion of an outside finalist in the CEO search was a surprise to many in this city, and it has prompted a necessary and deep look into this candidate's professional history. What that research reveals is not a profile of a committed educator, but that of a transient opportunist with a documented pattern of professional instability.</p> <p>I ask the Board directly: What are the statistical odds that an unceremonious exit from virtually every previous post of influence is not the fault of the candidate?</p> <p>From districts in Maryland to Tennessee to Louisiana and even Florida, this individual's track record is defined by non-renewals, regrets, and exclusion from consideration due to out of policy actions. Specifically, in Baton Rouge, the administration was reportedly defined by turmoil, scandal, and documented favoritism. Most glaring is the account of a sudden resignation for a perceived cash grab or anger at a refusal for pay raise, followed by a desperate, single-day attempt to reclaim the job when other plans apparently fell through.</p> <p>This is not "upward mobility" it is the behavior of a job-hopper with no conviction. A candidate who prioritizes a vanity projects, social media and nepotism over the stability of a school system is a liability Chicago cannot afford.</p> <p>Furthermore, Chicago deserves a CEO who is a full-time neighbor, not a "weekend warrior" commuting to another city or state. If a leader lacks the conviction to plant roots for their own life, they will never have the conviction to fight for our 300,000 students. Other districts across the country had the foresight to call out this pattern and say no; Chicago would be a laughingstock to ignore these warnings and allow this mercenary charade to continue. Chicago would do well to stick with one of their own, stay the course with a previous finalist or just wait until January when a competent board can avoid the mistake of even considering a career opportunist. And finally ask about the "day of hope" farce.</p>
3	<p>I have been an educator long enough to witness the Little Village hunger strikes and the fight for Dyett. I learned then that disregarding community voice has consequences. Haugan's story today is an echo of those struggles. In 2005, during Renaissance 2010, our community's Transition Advisory Council explicitly asked that the new building on Leland Avenue become Haugan's middle school. The Board overrode us and gave it to a charter.</p> <p>A Haugan parent recently told me he was in that first charter class. He said, "I could have told you from Day 1 that it would fail." The community knew best. The Board was wrong.</p> <p>Now, that charter has closed. Haugan appealed to use that empty space for our overflow. Again, we were disregarded and denied a hearing.</p> <p>Mr. Brown, you once said regarding Dyett: "CPS doesn't respect community voice." My community feels that exact indignation. Mothers at Haugan have already asked about organizing a hunger strike. Instead of support, Central Office officials have disrespectfully told us to "sit down and be quiet."</p> <p>These parents are upset, and they are not going away.</p> <p>Do not force the Albany Park community to make extreme sacrifices just to get your attention. Learn from your history. We are asking for a hearing to allow Haugan to use the empty Aspira building space next year. Listen to the community this time.</p>
4	<p>Haugan Elementary school needs overcrowding relief. I'm a parent of a pre-k 4 student and a CPS educator. Next year, Haugan needs a fifth kindergarten class. Some kindergarten classes this year are over the CTU-contract mandated maximum of 25 students. Next year, the kindergarten classes will be overloaded again. Proposed solutions like putting up a temporary barrier to make one room into two and putting more adults in the room are not acceptable. Class size needs to be at 25 students or below. Please help Haugan by listening to the principal, admin team and staff. Give students the space to get services, learn, and play, and thrive. The Leeland</p>

	<p>school building (3729 W Leeland) can help with overcrowding relief. The building is one of our neighborhood assets and should serve our neighborhood students.</p> <p>I'm available for a follow-up conversation with Board members.</p>
5	<p>To whom it may concern, I am a proud lifelong Chicagoan. I was raised in Old Irving Park, attended Murphy Elementary and Taft High School, and I returned to the CPS system as a professional to serve the community that shaped me. As a staff member at Haugan Elementary and a resident of Albany Park, I am writing to address the critical space crisis facing our school.</p> <p>The proposed "solutions" for Haugan do not solve a problem; they squash the dream of equitable education in Albany Park. I see this issue from every angle: as a teacher, a neighbor, and a taxpayer.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the following points:</p> <p>Broken Assurances: During the North River merger with Aspira, I served as the CTU delegate. We supported North River's move because we believed all children deserve a functional building. However, leadership at North River explicitly assured us they intended to remain a small school. Allowing them to expand at Haugan's expense is a breach of that good-faith agreement.</p> <p>Neighborhood Priority: Haugan is the heart of this neighborhood. Our families' tax dollars should prioritize the children living on these blocks. While North River serves a city-wide population, Haugan is the anchor for Albany Park.</p> <p>Need vs. Want: This is the crux of the issue. North River wants to grow; Haugan needs the space to survive. We should not be cutting vital programs for local children to facilitate the optional expansion of a city-wide program.</p> <p>Viable Alternatives: If growth is the goal for North River, CPS should utilize the vacant ASPIRA buildings that now sit empty. There is no reason to overcrowd one community resource when others sit unused.</p> <p>You may be tired of hearing from us, but we will not sit passively while an inadequate solution is forced upon our students. I ask you to break the cycle of "politics as usual" and make the right choice: <u>Support need over want and give Haugan a permanent, sustainable space solution.</u></p>
6	<p>I am a parent and community member at Haugan elementary. My daughter is in a kindergarten class for kids struggle to have enough space to move around. We have been told by the portfolio team that some short term solutions such as dividers or building walls may happen at Haugan. I find this to be an inappropriate solution as kids need space and dividers, but only exacerbate the amount of kids in a small space. Not to mention the amount of noise that might distract the kids as well. All too often schools that have students in lower social economic brackets are not given the same resources as other schools, even in the same area. Our students deserve to continue to build on all the progress we've made at Haugan. We have been doing such great work and that needs to be supported through CPS. If we want robust, effective neighborhood schools, we need to give the resources and the space, which is a bare minimum. Students in our school truly thrive when given the opportunity. I know that using the building on Leland would really offer so much needed relief for our middle school students. Not only what it encourage independence and promote their next level of learning and growing by having a middle school with adequate space and lockers, but using that space will help us be able to provide what we need for our younger students as well. It truly would be the best solution to help us continue to make progress and a positive impact in both the school and the community. We hope that the Board of Ed considers helping us get the space that we truly need not by dividing up the space that we currently have, but <u>giving us additional space for some of our students.</u> Thank you.</p>
7	<p>I have been a teacher at Haugan for ten years. We were once an underutilized school with empty space, but within the past 5 years our school population has grown dramatically. Haugan is bursting at the seams, and is projected to grow even more. It is clear the members of the</p>

	<p>neighborhood want to support Haugan, and want to send their kids here. It is unconscionable to leave a building partially empty, while a nearby neighborhood school is left overcrowded. Haugan students deserve better. They deserve a library. They deserve a classroom dedicated to art, instead of a cart that rolls from classroom to classroom. They deserve to have smaller class sizes where they don't have to compete for attention, and have a classroom that safely fits everyone. They deserve to have their own classrooms instead of working in the hallway, using partitions to divide a room, or a trailer in the middle of the playground. They deserve a quiet, private space to talk to a counselor, instead of having to share personal information in a room shared with 12 people. They deserve to receive interventions and extra supports in a quiet space, instead of a crowded and noisy hallway. Don't turn your back on Haugan students. Please do the right thing by supporting the co-location at the Leland property.</p>
8	<p>Chicago Public Schools must take immediate action to address the unsafe and inequitable conditions at Haugan Elementary. Forcing students and staff to continue operating in an overcrowded building, where children are taking exams in hallways and counselors are denied private space to meet with students, is not only unacceptable, it is unethical!! Every child deserves a learning environment that supports their academic success, emotional well-being, and dignity. The proposal to relocate grades 6–8 to a nearby school is a reasonable, necessary solution that prioritizes students' needs and safety. Ignoring these conditions sends a clear message that our children's education and mental health are not a priority!! As parents and community members, we will not stand by while our students are subjected to substandard conditions. We demand that CPS act now to provide the space, resources, and respect that Haugan students deserve.</p>
9	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am a parent at Haugan Elementary School, speaking today to ask the Chicago Board of Education to support a real solution that allows our school to grow and remain a strong neighborhood school.</p> <p>The current proposals are not acceptable.</p> <p>Converting our library into classrooms and removing shared spaces would leave no room for essential staff like counselors, case managers, and support teams. These services are critical to our students' success. Haugan is already below CPS's recommended 25% ancillary space, and these changes would push us even further below acceptable levels.</p> <p>Placing trailers on the playground would cut our play space in half for over 1,100 students, creating unsafe and unmanageable conditions.</p> <p>Eliminating our preschool program would weaken the foundation of our entire PK–8 system. And denying our Dual Language Program is both unfair and harmful. This program is designed to support our current English Learner students, not increase enrollment. Linking it to space issues is inappropriate and punitive.</p> <p>We are not asking for more—we are asking for equity. Our students deserve adequate space, proper resources, and access to the programs that support their success.</p> <p>We urge you to work with our school to give us the solution that allows Haugan to continue serving our students without sacrificing essential services or opportunities to which is allowing or approving the use of Aspira Haugan building.</p>
10	<p>Dear Board of Ed,</p> <p>In a different year or district I may agree with the CTU's "Day of Protest" plans for May 1st, but not this year and not this student body. I could point out that 40% of the student body is already classified as chronically absent or wonder if there is any correlation between chronic absenteeism in the student body and the fact that 43% of teachers missed at least 10 days of school last year. (wgn Ben Bradley 3/12/26)</p> <p>I could point out that CPS spends a little less than \$40 million dollars per day, and all instruction days are not equal. Swapping May 1st for June 5th do not carry the same educational impact. However, you have already heard those arguments and I'd like to deliver one that is equally important. One which may also be just a bit quieter- for students with disabilities and those furthest from opportunity the regularity of school delivers on so many levels. Students who live with physical, mental and</p>

	<p>socio-economic challenges everyday benefit greatly from the consistency of school regularity. Robbing or trading a day has a significantly greater impact on them then their peers. Speaking as a parent the loss of May 1st as an attendance day would be more detrimental to one of my children than the other.</p> <p>Please do not approve this request from the CTU as it will impact weaker students more than more advanced students.</p> <p>After all YOU are the board of education, and your vision should cover all students, not just the best and brightest.</p>
11	<p>If you want to know why people see CPS as dysfunctional, look no further than the situation with Haugan. After being strung along and mired in bureaucratic red tape for over a year, we are no closer to a solution for our overcrowding situation than we were when we started. Meanwhile, our students and staff prepare to feel the deleterious effects of large classes and art on a cart for yet another year.</p> <p>You cannot claim you were unaware of what was happening. You have heard from Haugan community members monthly this entire time. You, the Board of Education, had the power to intervene, but you did not. Your failure to act has resulted in anger and animosity that will take years to dissipate, if ever.</p> <p>At the beginning of this process I felt no ill will towards North River. I assumed they were acting in good faith. But after hearing their plans to expand and watching Jaime Sanchez in action on LSC Election Day, I no longer believe he has the best interests of the Albany Park community at heart. We do not need a public elementary school a block and a half away from Haugan. North River does not fill a void or provide for needs that are not otherwise served by Haugan, Volta, Henry, and Hibbard. It does not strengthen or enrich our community in any way. It serves only to siphon off students and resources from neighborhood schools.</p> <p>The community would be much better served by using the Leland building for the purpose for which it was originally built: a middle school for Albany Park students. It is past time to give Albany Park the consideration it deserves.</p>
12	<p>Dear Board of Ed,</p> <p>I'm a teacher in a suburban district and it seems to me that this May 1st Protest Day has not been well thought out. When actions are not well planned it's usually the weakest and those furthest from opportunity that experience the greatest loss. If the CTU wants a day off to protest May 1st than the time to put it into motion is during contract negotiations. I'd fully support swapping it with another holiday or even a development day. I think more parents would be able to support a more even exchange of days rather than taking a day that delivers 7 hours of education and socialization and replacing it with a day where those who show up, will probably only participate for an hour or two and experience a school breakfast or lunch as I'm assuming all sites will have breakfast and lunch available as there are many students in the CPS system where their CPS meals are the only nutrition they get for the day.</p> <p>Lastly, Ben Bradley's WGN coverage highlighted the 40/40/40 equation that should be such a higher priority than recognizing the value of protest by actually protesting.</p> <p>40% of the student body is already classified as chronically absent (10 or more days) 43% of teachers missed at least 10 days of school last year. \$40 million dollars per day, is what CPS is spending when school is in session</p>

****ATTACHMENTS****

CPS FOIA NONCOMPLIANCE – FOURTH FORMAL DEMAND

Public Accountability & Transparency Enforcement Request

NON-COMPLIANCE

Date: March 17, 2026
From: Walter Brzeski
To: Chicago Board of Education

NOTICE OF ESCALATION – FOURTH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

This is my **FOURTH formal request** for Board intervention regarding six FOIA requests that have remained unanswered for **9 to 14+ months**. Despite repeated outreach, the Board has provided **no assistance**. This raises serious concerns about transparency and accountability.

LEGAL VIOLATIONS

Illinois FOIA requires responses within **5 business days**. CPS has repeatedly failed to comply, effectively denying access to public records.

This is not delay. This is systemic noncompliance.

DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Immediate Board intervention
2. Written explanation for all six delays
3. Identification of responsible personnel
4. Corrective compliance plan
5. Disclosure of withheld records

KEY QUESTIONS

Why are public records being withheld for over a year?
Why has the Board ignored four requests for assistance?
What oversight is actually being enforced?

ONE REQUEST EXCEEDS ONE YEAR WITHOUT RESPONSE.

The public has a right to transparency. Immediate compliance is required.

Submitted by:
Walter Brzeski

FOIA Delay Chart (Enhanced for Readability)

Chicago Public Schools FOIA Delay Chart

As of March 17, 2026 | Prepared by Walter Brzeski

FOIA #	Request ID	Filing Date	Calendar Days	Business Days
1	N016753-012125	01/21/2025	420	300
2	N017165-031925	03/19/2025	363	259
3	N017565-060125	06/01/2025	289	207
4	N018215-091025	09/10/2025	188	134
5	N018216-091025	09/10/2025	188	134
6	N018272-092125	09/21/2025	177	127

CPS FOIA DELAY STATUS REPORT

(As of February 28, 2026)

Legend:

- Extreme Delay = 200+ Business Days Past Filing
 - Severe Delay = 100–199 Business Days
 - Moderate Delay = 50–99 Business Days
 - Pending Deadline (Not Yet Missed)
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■ FOIA #1 — N016753-012125

Request: Investigation Unit reports — Paul Munoz & Kelly Tarrant (2023–24 & 2024–25)

- 301 Business Days Lapsed
- 420 Calendar Days Lapsed
- 4 CPS Extensions Granted
 - 03/07/25
 - 03/21/25
 - 04/04/25
 - 04/18/25

- ✦ Final CPS Response Due: 05/02/25
- ✗ CPS Failed to Respond

■ Status: EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

■ FOIA #2 — N017165-031925

Request: Records responsive to 8 prior CPS FOIAs (1. N014194-091223, 2. N014563-120423, 3. N015230-050324, 4. N015374-060624, 5. N015415-061424, 6. N015701-062124 Date FOIA Request was narrowed: 07/23/24, 7. N016314-101424, & 8. N016753-012125)

- 260 Business Days Lapsed
- 363 Calendar Days Lapsed
- 1 CPS Extension
 - 05/01/25

- ✗ No Final Response Issued

■ Status: EXTREME NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #3 — N017565-060125

Request: Security video near Room 128 and adjacent hallway for Steinmetz College Prep on the dates 04/30/25 and 05/14/2025 from 5:15pm - 8:30pm. The only people in the vicinity of Room 128 and the hallway were to have been adult LSC members and principal arriving and departing their meetings on the aforementioned dates. NOTE: Please blur any students' faces in the area and utilize the best possible format for video footage in the CPS response.

- 207 Business Days Lapsed
- 289 Calendar Days Lapsed
- 3 CPS Extensions
 - 07/01/25
 - 07/16/25
 - 07/30/25

✦ Final CPS Response Due: 08/13/25

✗ CPS Failed to Respond

🚩 Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #4 — N018215-091025

Request: CPS responses to 5 prior FOIAs

#1 - N016753-012125 (Investigation Unit reports from Paul Munoz and Kelly Tarrant for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years).

#2 - N017165-031925 (The requested documents to the following CPS FOIA Requests: 1. N014194-091223, 2. N014563-120423, 3. N015230-050324, 4. N015374-060624, 5. N015415-061424, 6. N015701-062124 (Date FOIA Request was narrowed: 07/23/24), 7. N016314-101424, & 8. N016753-012125).

#3 - N017565-060125 (Security video near Room 128 and adjacent hallway for Steinmetz College Prep on the dates 04/30/25 and 05/14/2025 from 5:15pm - 8:30pm. The only people in the vicinity of Room 128 and the hallway were to have been adult LSC members and principal arriving and departing their meetings on the aforementioned dates. NOTE: Please blur any students' faces in the area and utilize the best possible format for video footage in the CPS response.).

#4 - N017874-071125 (Please provide all records related to former Chicago Public Schools employees Ilda Villegas and Tanya Harvey, most recently employed at Steinmetz College Prep, including but not limited to the following: Investigative files, including any Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports involving or referencing either individual. Disciplinary records, including warning resolutions and investigative memoranda. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) pertaining to individual. Personnel files from initial date of hire through separation from CPS. Incident reports involving or referencing individual. Arbitrators' reports or decisions related to either employee. Resignation letters, if applicable. Do Not Hire (DNH) designations, if applicable. Most recent salary and employment/work history for each individual. Please include all responsive documents regardless of format or storage location. Let me know if you'd like to include a preferred date range or narrow the request further.), and

#5 - N018105-082125 (Records sufficient to show the following: 1. Membership in the DNH Committee 2. Agendas from the DNH committee meetings from January 1, 2025 - the date this FOIA is processed This request is made on behalf of The FOIA Bakery. Because this request is in the public interest for Illinois nonprofit The FOIA Bakery's work to advocate for public education, please waive any fees in accordance with 5 ILCS § 140/6(c). Feel free to contact me with any questions, or if clarification is needed.)

- 135 Business Days Lapsed
- 188 Calendar Days Lapsed

✦ Final CPS Response Due: 01/27/26

✗ CPS Failed to Respond

🚩 Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #5 — N018216-091025

Request: Investigation Unit Reports (2023–24, 2024–25, 2025–26)

- 135 Business Days Lapsed
- 188 Calendar Days Lapsed
- 6 CPS Extensions
 - 10/24/25
 - 11/07/25
 - 11/21/25
 - 12/08/25
 - 12/22/25
 - 01/12/26

✦ Final CPS Response Due: 01/27/26

✗ CPS Failed to Respond

📄 Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE

FOIA #6 — N018272-092125

Request: IHSCDEA Distracted Driving Program Records - (Records sufficient to show the following: 1. Membership in the DNH Committee 2. Agendas from the DNH committee meetings from January 1, 2025 - the date this FOIA is processed This request is made on behalf of The FOIA Bakery. Because this request is in the public interest for Illinois nonprofit The FOIA Bakery's work to advocate for public education, please waive any fees in accordance with 5 ILCS § 140/6(c). Feel free to contact me with any questions, or if clarification is needed.)

- 127 Business Days Lapsed
- 177 Calendar Days Lapsed
- 8 CPS Extensions
 - 11/04/25
 - 11/18/25
 - 12/03/25
 - 12/17/25
 - 01/07/26
 - 01/22/26
 - 02/05/26
 - 02/19/26

✦ Final CPS Response Due: 03/05/26

✓ Deadline Not Yet Missed

📄 Status: SEVERE NONCOMPLIANCE



SUMMARY OF SYSTEMIC DELAY

Category	# of FOIAs
■ Extreme Delay (200+ Business Days)	3
■ Severe Delay (100–199 Business Days)	3

- 6 out of 6 requests are already overdue
- All involve multiple CPS extensions followed by non-response

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Senn High School Local School Council Resolution

Request to Fund a Reading Interventionist Position

WHEREAS, the mission & vision of Chicago Public Schools is to provide all students equitable access to literacy instruction and targeted supports that allow them to read, write, and learn across all content areas; and

WHEREAS, Senn High School serves one of the largest English Learner (ELL) populations in the district with 538 students, including a large number of newcomer students; and

WHEREAS, Senn High School has welcomed a significant number of students who are new to the country who have not had the opportunity to develop foundational literacy skills in their primary language, which has created an urgent need for a reading interventionist; and

WHEREAS, Senn High School serves 201 students with IEPs and 171 with 504s; and

WHEREAS, without dedicated intervention services, students who are developing foundational reading skills face barriers to accessing their coursework in every subject area, limiting academic progress, learning, and postsecondary readiness; and

WHEREAS, Senn High School previously benefited from a reading interventionist position that provided literacy intervention supports for students with the highest needs; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of this position approximately two (2) years ago has resulted in a measurable loss of the school's capacity to provide intensive literacy interventions, increased strain on classroom teachers and support staff, and fewer consistent opportunities for students to receive the specialized reading instruction they need; and

WHEREAS, a centrally funded Reading Interventionist position would support CPS priorities related to equity, multilingual learners, MTSS, and student outcomes by providing direct reading intervention services; and

WHEREAS, Senn High School's CIWP Priority #1 (*Inclusive & Supportive Learning Environment*) identifies that EL and DL students are earning lower grades and demonstrating less growth on assessments than non-EL/DL peers, indicating a need for stronger, more consistent supports that increase access to grade-level (Tier 1) instruction in ELA; and

WHEREAS, funding a reading interventionist will enable Senn to collaborate with stakeholders on a comprehensive literacy plan designed to accelerate student growth and align with the school's CIWP.

WHEREAS, funding a Reading Interventionist aligns with Senn's CIWP Priority #1 by strengthening Tier 1 ELA access for EL/DL students through targeted reading support, leading to fewer Ds/Fs, increasing Lexile growth, and supporting ACCESS growth/exits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senn High School Local School Council formally requests that the Chicago Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools allocate and fund a *full-time reading interventionist position* for Senn High School, effective as soon as practicable, and no later than 2026-2027 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this position be funded as an additional, dedicated resource (not replacing an existing position at the school), to provide reading intervention for students with the greatest literacy needs, including newcomer multilingual learners and diverse learners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senn High School Local School Council directs the LSC Chair and/or Principal to send this Resolution to the Chicago Board of Education, the CPS Chief Executive Officer, the CPS Office of Finance, the CPS Office of Multilingual - Multicultural Education (OMME), the Network Chief, and any other relevant CPS offices, and to advocate for approval and implementation of this request.

We now enter month 16 of the Albany Park hunger games, in which Haugan and North River Elementary Schools are locked in an intense and open-ended battle for the space vacated by Aspira on the third floor of the school at 3729 W. Leland. I am team Haugan and have been involved in this effort since the beginning.

I have lived a block away from the Leland building for 25 years - since before it was built. I remember when Haugan lost the building to Aspira the first time. I remember being glad my (then) CPS kid was in a magnet school and would not face such indignities.

Years later, I finally tried the neighborhood school, Haugan, for my youngest child, and am now destined to forever wear my heart on my sleeve, loving a school that does so much with so little, and must fight fiercely for basics that other communities take for granted. Like private space for confidential counseling services, the luxury of dual language for English language learners AND preschool. Art not on a cart. Not forcing another special class on a cart. Despite these challenges, I recommend Haugan unhesitatingly to any parent, and I will be a supporter for life, long after my child moves on. It is the people in a building who make the community and Haugan's teachers and staff are nothing short of amazing.

In month 16 of the Albany Park hunger games I certainly recognize and respect that the North River community is passionate about its school as well. Good for Albany Park as a whole that hundreds of parents and community members voted in North River's LSC election. But, otherwise, to put it mildly, the election did not bring the two school communities any closer to working together.

We at Haugan are open to a few solutions, all involving at least temporary access to the third floor of the Leland building for Haugan students. North River is, at this time, only open to doubling its citywide, lottery-based program. The schools serve very similar populations, our neighborhood has been decimated by ICE, many families are struggling, why on earth can't our schools work together?

I mostly blame CPS for this mess and CPS should fix it. CPS is to blame for overriding the community and giving the Leland Building to Aspira 21 years ago, taking away the resource built for Haugan. CPS is to blame for concealing North River's intent to take the whole Leland building in 2022 from Haugan, and in fact falsely stating to our principal that "it would be good to get a CPS school in the building, and we could collaborate with North River in the future" after our principal told CPS that Haugan would grow, and need the space if Aspira left. CPS is to blame for ever setting an expectation with North River that it was entitled to the Leland building without a community input process. CPS is to blame for publicly advising North River to "just ignore Haugan and you won't have to co-locate," advice North River followed assiduously, delaying any progress toward an agreed solution until month 16 (and counting). CPS is to blame for chastising Haugan for surveying the community, but then failing to do its own survey. CPS is to blame for denying Haugan's colocation request without public explanation other than "you're not crowded." CPS is to blame for telling us, in the next breath, "but you'd better not grow." CPS is to blame for suggesting solutions like removing staff break and restroom space while 13

empty classrooms stand a block away. CPS is fully to blame for continually equivocating Haugan's NEED for space as the neighborhood school with North River's DESIRE to expand its lottery-based program, and not mandating that North River simply limit its enrollment - which it has full control over - to CTU class size limits rather than complain about crowding.

Please CPS, do better. Please follow your strategic plan and support our wonderful neighborhood school and solutions that do not harm Haugan or take away students and families who want to choose Haugan. We are open to either the originally proposed colocation, or even better, North River becoming the neighborhood middle school, and Haugan the neighborhood PK-5 school, and operating separately but in close coordination to, finally, ensure the adequately resourced PK-12 neighborhood school path the Leland building was created for. These solutions involve change but don't hurt North River. Doing nothing for Haugan and allowing North River to expand however greatly harms Haugan. North River can simply enroll fewer kids but Haugan has no good solutions outside use of the Leland building. Please help us find a real solution, and end the hunger games.