

**May 25, 2022 Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, May 23rd and Thursday, May 26th
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1

.Mr. Martinez and Board Members,

What do all the Steinmetz employees get paid to do for these 5 Do-Nothing days to close out the school year?

This at a school with 66% grad rate. Shouldn't their administration find ways to make all days count? Or is academics not a concern at Steinmetz?

Steinmetz College Prep HS - Last seven days of student attendance
Mon 6/6

Spirit Week: Anime vs. Marvel vs. DC

Final Assessments and Assignments

Tue 6/7

Spirit Week: Culture Day

Final Assessments and Assignments

FIVE Do-Nothing Days to close out the school year

Wed 6/8

Spirit Week: Bring your Stuffed Animal Day

Thu 6/9

Spirit Week: GOAT Day

Parent Advisory Council Meeting, 4:30 PM

Local School Council Meeting, 5:00 PM

Fri 6/10

Spirit Week: Styling Out Day

Underclassmen End of Year Celebration, 6-9 PM, Front Campus

Mon 6/13

Junior Locker Cleanout and Materials Return, 9-11 am

Sophomore Locker Cleanout and Materials Return, 12-2 pm

Tue 6/14

Freshmen Locker Cleanout and Materials Return, 9-11 am

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

2

Good Morning Dr. Martinez, President del Valle and valued Board Members. My name is Nelly Roman and I am a first year parent whose daughter is in kindergarten at Acero - Carlos Fuentes Elementary. My daughter's name is April Garcia-Roman and she is part of the Diverse Learners program at Fuentes.

Prior to us enrolling at Fuentes, I had a decision to make regarding where my daughter would attend her first year at school. I spoke with several people who had very good things to say about Acero Schools. Despite the fact that Fuentes Elementary School is not close to where I live, I make the sacrifice every day to take my daughter to school. The individual attention and support my daughter receives is worth the trip we make day in and day out. The leadership at Carlos Fuentes has taken the time to work with my daughter to make sure she is meeting all of her academic milestones despite the fact that she did not attend pre-k.

Aside from the incredible work the school has done with my daughter, I have connected with other parents at the school and have gotten involved with the meetings our Principal hosts. In these meetings we are not only given information on how our scholars are performing, we are given a voice and have the opportunity to collaborate with our school leaders to create opportunities for families to get involved at Carlos Fuentes. Currently I am involved in our network's parent advocacy group where we are learning about important matters involving our network's charter renewal and the importance of advocating for our children's academic rights.

Another amazing feature I have come to love is the fact that Acero Schools is continually updating parents on important matters such as school COVID-19 protocols, school and network changes, and resources that families can take advantage of. Acero Schools does a phenomenal job at updating me on important matters surrounding my daughters education.

Acero Schools goes above and beyond working directly with scholars. I am proud to have chosen an Acero School. As we go into charter renewal I hope you consider Acero Schools for a 7-10 year renewal. I ask the board to acknowledge their progress around our diverse learners. Thank you.

Buenos Días Dr. Martinez, Presidente del Valle y apreciados Miembros de la Junta.

Mi nombre es Nelly Roma y soy una madre de primer año cuya hija está en kínder en la primaria Acero - Carlos Fuentes. El nombre de mi hija es April Garcia-Roman y es parte del programa de Estudiantes Diversos en Fuentes.

Antes de inscribirnos en Fuentes, tenía que tomar una decisión con respecto a dónde asistiría mi hija su primer año en la escuela. Al hablar con algunas personas me hablaron de las escuelas Acero. A pesar de que Fuentes no está cerca de donde vivo, hago el sacrificio todos los días para llevar a mi hija a la escuela y la atención y el apoyo que mi hija está recibiendo de la escuela hace que valga la pena el viaje que hacemos día tras día. El liderazgo de Carlos Fuentes se ha tomado el tiempo de trabajar con mi hija para asegurarse de que cumpla con todos sus logros académicos, a pesar de que no asistió al pre kínder.

Además del increíble trabajo que la escuela ha hecho con mi hija, me he conectado con otros padres en la escuela y me he involucrado en las reuniones que organiza nuestra directora. En estas reuniones no solo recibimos información sobre el desempeño de nuestros estudiantes, sino que también se nos da una voz y tenemos la oportunidad de colaborar con nuestros líderes escolares para crear oportunidades para que las familias se involucren en Carlos Fuentes. Actualmente participo en el grupo de defensa de padres de nuestra red donde estamos aprendiendo sobre asuntos importantes relacionados con la renovación de los estatutos de nuestra red y la importancia de defender los derechos académicos de nuestros hijos.

Otra característica sorprendente que me ha encantado es el hecho de que Escuelas Acero notifica continuamente a los padres sobre asuntos importantes, como los protocolos escolares COVID-19, los cambios en la escuela y la red, y los recursos que las familias pueden aprovechar. Escuelas Acero hace un trabajo fenomenal al actualizarme sobre asuntos importantes relacionados con la educación de mis hijas.

Escuelas Acero va más allá de trabajar directamente con los estudiantes. Estoy orgullosa de haber elegido una Escuela Acero. A medida que avanzamos en la renovación de la carta, espero que considere a las Escuelas Acero para una renovación de 7 a 10 años. Le pido a la junta que reconozca su progreso en torno a nuestros estudiantes diversos. Gracias.

3

Good Morning President del Valle, Dr. Martinez, and esteemed Board Members. My name is Elizabeth Gracia-Taquez and I am a proud parent at Acero - Carlos Fuentes. I have been a parent at Carlos Fuentes for the last 10 years and I have had 2 of my children graduate from the school and currently have my daughter Rebecca Garcia-Taquez attending 6th grade.

The education my children receive at Acero Schools is life changing. My two alum children attend Devry University Advantage Academy and Chicago Academy. They are exceeding all academic expectations. Rebecca, presently at Fuentes, is following her siblings footsteps and is doing very well in school. Rebecca is an A/B student and is involved in extracurricular clubs outside of school hours.

The academic support my children received from Fuentes motivated me to become involved and learn alongside them. I've volunteered in several school activities and am the parent president of our parent committee where we collaborate with our school

leadership, host fundraising events, assisted with our community fairs and invite community partners to speak to our families. Partners include the YMCA, 14th district CAPS office and Chase Bank. I even joined our school mentorship program where we meet with middle school students and provide additional social and emotional support.

I've also participated in the network's parent curriculum, Padres Comprometidos, where we learned skills to help our children academically, emotionally and mentally during remote learning. I am part of our network's parent advocate group where we are learning about charter renewal and discussing how we can be better stewards, not just for our schools and students, but for our communities as well.

Acero Schools has provided so many resources for families including weekly food pantry and vaccination clinics at Carlos Fuentes and, at the peak of the pandemic, the network and school kept families informed on the ongoing health and safety changes while also providing information about additional support from our community partners. Acero-Fuentes truly is a community school where they not only serve our students but parents as well. Please visit our school and meet our amazing school leaders. See the work our teachers are doing in the classroom. Acero Schools deserve the longest renewal possible - they are doing the work even when times are really hard. Acero Schools is a network for families and communities.

Buenos días, presidente del Valle, Dr. Martínez y estimados miembros de la Junta.

Mi nombre es Elizabeth Garcia-Taquez y soy una madre orgullosa de Acero - Carlos Fuentes. He sido madre en Carlos Fuentes durante los últimos 10 años y dos de mis hijos se graduaron de la escuela y actualmente mi hija Rebecca García-Taquez asiste al sexto grado.

La educación que reciben mis hijos en Escuelas Acero, les cambió la vida. Mis dos hijos asisten a Devry University Advantage Academy y Chicago Academy. Están superando todas las expectativas académicas. Rebecca, actualmente en Fuentes, sigue los pasos de sus hermanos y le va muy bien en la escuela. Rebecca es una estudiante A/B y participa en clubes extracurriculares fuera del horario escolar.

El apoyo académico que mis hijos recibieron de Fuentes me motivó a involucrarme y aprender junto a ellos. Me he ofrecido como voluntaria en varias actividades escolares y soy presidente de nuestro comité de padres donde colaboramos con el liderazgo de nuestra escuela, organizamos eventos de recaudación de fondos, ayudamos con nuestras ferias comunitarias e invitamos a socios comunitarios a hablar con nuestras familias. Los socios incluyen la YMCA, la oficina CAPS del distrito 14 y Chase Bank. Incluso me uní a nuestro programa de tutoría escolar donde nos reunimos con estudiantes de secundaria y brindamos apoyo social y emocional adicional.

También participé en el programa para padres de la red, Padres Comprometidos, donde aprendimos habilidades para ayudar a nuestros hijos académicamente, emocionalmente y mentalmente durante el aprendizaje remoto. Soy parte del grupo de padres defensores de nuestra red donde estamos aprendiendo sobre la renovación de las

escuelas autónomas y discutiendo cómo podemos ser mejores administradores, no solo para nuestras escuelas y estudiantes, sino también para nuestras comunidades.

Escuelas Acero ha brindado muchos recursos para las familias, incluida la despensa de alimentos semanal y las clínicas de vacunación en Carlos Fuentes y, durante la pandemia, la red y la escuela mantuvieron a las familias informadas sobre los cambios continuos de salud y seguridad, al mismo tiempo que brindaban información sobre el apoyo adicional de nuestros socios comunitarios. Acero-Fuentes es verdaderamente una escuela comunitaria donde no solo sirven a nuestros estudiantes sino también a los padres. Visite nuestra escuela y conozca a nuestros increíbles líderes escolares. Vea el trabajo que nuestros maestros están haciendo en el salón de clases. Las Escuelas Acero merecen la renovación más larga posible: están haciendo el trabajo incluso cuando los tiempos son realmente difíciles. Escuelas Acero es una red para familias y comunidades.

4

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

My name is Silvia Guzman and I am a proud parent at Acero-Brighton Park Elementary. I started my academic journey at Cisneros Elementary which is also a part of the network and through the collaboration and support from our school social worker and Principal we transitioned to Brighton Park where we managed to find an academic plan that would best fit the needs of my son, Manny Cano.

Being a parent of a Diverse Learner has its moments but thanks to the support of my son's teachers and our school principal, he is excelling academically and is on track with all of his other peers. One of the highlights I love telling people is the attention to detail that my son receives from not just his teachers, but his Principal as well. Principal Forst is extremely engaged with the students and always makes time to check in with parents. The support I receive from my school is truly something that makes Acero-Brighton Park special.

It is because of this that I was compelled to become an active member at Acero - Brighton Park. Prior to the pandemic I was a volunteer at the school and supported daily activities such as lunch duty and other events that the school would host. Once the pandemic disrupted in-person learning, Acero-Brighton Park immediately transitioned to remote learning and provided students and parents with updates and resources. Another amazing opportunity that came from the pandemic was the start of our parent curriculum, Padres Comprometidos, at Brighton Park. This provides parents with ongoing support and information on how to best serve our students academically, emotionally, and mentally.

I am proud to be a part of Acero Schools and I urge the board to visit Brighton Park and see the work our schools are doing and recognize the support our diverse learners are receiving.

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

Mi nombre es Silvia Guzman y soy una madre orgullosa de la elementaria Acero-Brighton Park. Comencé mi viaje académico en la escuela Cisneros, que también es parte de la red y, a través de la colaboración y el apoyo de nuestro trabajador social

escolar y el director, hicimos la transición a Brighton Park, donde logramos encontrar un plan académico que se adaptara mejor a las necesidades de mi hijo, Manny Cano.

Ser madre de un estudiante diverso tiene sus momentos, pero gracias al apoyo de los maestros de mi hijo y del director de nuestra escuela, se destaca académicamente y está encaminado con todos sus otros compañeros. Uno de los aspectos más destacados que me encanta decirle a la gente es la atención a los detalles que mi hijo recibe no solo de sus maestros, sino también de su director. El director Forst está extremadamente comprometido con los estudiantes y siempre se toma el tiempo para comunicarse con los padres. El apoyo que recibo de mi escuela es realmente algo que hace especial a Acero-Brighton Park.

Es por esto que me convertí en un miembro activo de Acero -Brighton Park. Antes de la pandemia, era voluntaria en la escuela y apoyaba las actividades diarias, como el almuerzo y otros eventos que la escuela organizaba. Una vez que la pandemia interrumpió el aprendizaje en persona, Acero-Brighton Park hizo la transición de inmediato al aprendizaje remoto y brindó a los estudiantes y padres actualizaciones y recursos. Otra oportunidad increíble que surgió de la pandemia fue el inicio de un programa para padres, Padres Comprometidos, en Brighton Park. Esto brinda a los padres apoyo continuo e información sobre cómo servir mejor a nuestros estudiantes en lo académico, emocional y mentalmente.

Estoy orgullosa de ser parte de Escuelas Acero e insto a la junta a visitar Brighton Park y ver el trabajo que están haciendo nuestras escuelas y reconocer el apoyo que reciben nuestros estudiantes diversos.

5

Hello,

I'm here today with a grievance that so many of us across CPS are struggling with: The policy of quarantining healthy students identified as "close contacts" is a senseless, unscientific, and unlawful disruption of education for kids across this city. We are restating our demand for an end to this protocol- to the Board, and to you CEO Martinez.

Today is the third day that my son's learning is disrupted because he was denied access to his school. Monday he received no remote instruction, and Tuesday only a half hour of remote learning because he was denied admission to the class field trip. This is a violation of my child's right to an education, and a clear violation of our civil rights- both with regard to due process AND our right to religious freedom, as defined by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which protects students from religious discrimination and harassment.

We know COVID can still be spread from individuals who are vaccinated and boosted (CEO Martinez, you yourself attested to that). Yet, healthy children who are unvaccinated are subject to harsh measures. You claim that the mental wellness of all is of high consideration, but the quarantining of our healthy unvaccinated children has detrimental effects on them and it is not good for their psychological well being! In targeting unvaccinated students for exclusion from school, CPS violates this rule every day, as well as the Illinois HealthCare Right of Conscience Act. Even putting religion aside for a moment, CPS demands for the status for an optional vaccination is in

flagrant violation of medical privacy under HIPAA. From every possible perspective, CPS has no legal ground to stand on to enforce these procedures.

If there's no legal basis AND no public health basis for this protocol, the members of this Board and the CEO owe us an explanation.

For several months, dozens like me have come to this chamber and asked for simple answers- and for an end to these senseless "close contact" of these exclusions and yet no response from CEO Martinez, Commissioner, and Chief Shelton regarding our request for a meeting with them. CEO Martinez, I implore answers to the following:

What is the legal directive or public health rationale that forces healthy kids to be excluded from school every day?

When can we expect to meet with you directly to get a REAL response to our concerns.?

AND finally

When and how will the days that my child or any child that has lost instruction, because of your protocol, be made up?

On behalf of other families like mine, the violation of rights, discrimination and quarantining of the unvaccinated needs to STOP!

People have the right to choose, the right to medical privacy.

You are all now on Judicial Notice for your actions are in violation of federal law 28 CFR 36.202 which prohibits denial of participation!

6

Good morning Board of education

I am Jamillion Cox-Bey from John M. Smyth IB World school.

I am here today because I am tired of Black and Brown children not getting what they deserve. And I am tired of the things we need being taken away from us. I have been a Chicago Public Schools Student for 9 years. And throughout these years I have noticed the shortage in supplies for starts. CPS students have hand-me-down books, our math and reading curriculum has to be shared among students, and we have very few electives! A few of our classrooms were at least 80 degrees during a few calendar days.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Because I'm sure there are so many things below the surface that I don't see... like plumbing for example.

I go to an IB school, and for my eighth grade community project I decided to focus on budget cuts within CPS and through my research I discovered that this year about \$140 million dollars has been cut from the budget for schools.

This in turn will force principals to make the almost impossible decision whether to cut supplies or cut teachers. Teachers?! How could this even be possible? These major

budget cuts caused less staffing, increasing class sizes, and little to no security. Luckily, our principal was able to save positions at our school, but this isn't the case at all CPS schools. At many schools, teachers are overwhelmed with many students in one class. Making it a challenge to assist over 35+ students, when there should be 24 students per class, OR LESS!

Like myself, other students would like the opportunity to experience Electives as I stated before such as, Basketball, Baseball, Cheerleading, Track and Field, different social clubs, and the list goes on. Not having these outlets results in less positive choices in life and more negative distractions. This becomes a major problem if we don't have enough staff to run these programs. WE NEED PROGRAMS, WE NEED STAFF!

According to wttw, 177 schools are each losing over \$100,000 which caused schools to close, less support and education for students and causing teachers to be laid off. I couldn't imagine the dilemma being placed on principles right now.

Now, I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said that I loved every single one of my teachers lol but what I CAN say is I respect the job that they get up and do EVERY SINGLE DAY! And I know they do it for us! Over the past 9 years I've had some AMAZING teachers, for example Mr. Smith, my first and fifth grade teacher. He ALWAYS was honest with me. His class was like a SECOND home to me. In MY eyes he showed me a hard working person and taught me valuable lessons that would help me in the future. (PAUSE) I remember when we used to play this math game and he would give us donuts, shhhhh dont tell anybody, we're a healthy school. But the school wouldn't be the same without Mr. Smith.

During the pandemic I learned the true meaning of the word essential. Essential means: absolutely necessary; extremely important.

Teachers are essential. We need them! I need them!

Thank you

7

I am writing to ask the Board to please drop its quarantine of close contacts for students. There is no evidence such a policy has helped stopped the spread of covid at CPS or any other school in the world. This type of fear-based policy causes completely healthy children to miss instructional days and forces them into isolation. The harms our children have had to endure due to lockdowns and loss of schooling are well documented. Please end this policy immediately or at the least meet with the Stay In School parents group to discuss the matter. Thank you.

8

1. There is a lack of legal basis and public health rationale for CPS's current pandemic protocols; 2. This is a call for an end to close-contact quarantines; and 3. This is a request for a meeting with the Stay-in-School Coalition.

9

I am with the Stay-In-School Coalition. There is no legal basis and public health rationale for CPS's current pandemic protocols, and the close contact quarantines are completely irrational and antiquated. We are over 2 years into this and know a lot more, yet CPS is treating it as though it is still 2020. Just because someone may have been near someone else who tests positive does not automatically guarantee that they contracted Covid-19. We have also requested a meeting several times only to be ignored. We have a right to voice our point of view, everything has been very one sided.

10

I am writing to ask the Board to please drop its quarantine of close contacts for students. There is no evidence such a policy has helped stop the spread of covid at CPS or any other school in the world. This type of fear-based policy causes completely healthy children to miss instructional days and forces them into isolation. The harms our children have had to endure due to lockdowns and loss of schooling are well documented. Please end this policy immediately or at the least meet with the Stay In School parents group to discuss the matter. Thank you very much.

11

As a father of two CPS students, I remain disappointed in the lack of a legal basis and public health rationale for current CPS pandemic protocols. I call for an end to close-contact quarantines. As a member of the Stay-in-School Coalition, I reiterate our request for a meeting with CEO Martinez and Commissioner Arwady.

ATTACHMENTS

Remarks

CPS Board Meeting | May 25, 2022

Good Morning Dr. Martinez, President del Valle and valued Board Members.

My name is Nelly Roman and I am a first year parent whose daughter is in kindergarten at Acero - Carlos Fuentes Elementary. My daughter's name is April Garcia-Roman and she is part of the Diverse Learners program at Fuentes.

Prior to us enrolling at Fuentes, I had a decision to make regarding where my daughter would attend her first year at school. I spoke with several people who had very good things to say about Acero Schools. Despite the fact that Fuentes Elementary School is not close to where I live, I make the sacrifice every day to take my daughter to school. The individual attention and support my daughter receives is worth the trip we make day in and day out. The leadership at Carlos Fuentes has taken the time to work with my daughter to make sure she is meeting all of her academic milestones despite the fact that she did not attend pre-k.

Aside from the incredible work the school has done with my daughter, I have connected with other parents at the school and have gotten involved with the meetings our Principal hosts. In these meetings we are not only given information on how our scholars are performing, we are given a voice and have the opportunity to collaborate with our school leaders to create opportunities for families to get involved at Carlos Fuentes. Currently I am involved in our network's parent advocacy group where we are learning about important matters involving our network's charter renewal and the importance of advocating for our children's academic rights.

Another amazing feature I have come to love is the fact that Acero Schools is continually updating parents on important matters such as school COVID-19 protocols, school and network changes, and resources that families can take advantage of. Acero Schools does a phenomenal job at updating me on important matters surrounding my daughters education.

Acero Schools goes above and beyond working directly with scholars. I am proud to have chosen an Acero School. As we go into charter renewal I hope you consider Acero Schools for a 7-10 year renewal. I ask the board to acknowledge their progress around our diverse learners. Thank you.

Buenos Días Dr. Martinez, Presidente del Valle y apreciados Miembros de la Junta.

Mi nombre es Nelly Roma y soy una madre de primer año cuya hija está en kínder en la primaria Acero - Carlos Fuentes. El nombre de mi hija es April Garcia-Roman y es parte del programa de Estudiantes Diversos en Fuentes.

Antes de inscribirnos en Fuentes, tenía que tomar una decisión con respecto a dónde asistiría mi hija su primer año en la escuela. Al hablar con algunas personas me hablaron de las escuelas Acero. A pesar de que Fuentes no está cerca de donde vivo, hago el sacrificio todos los días para llevar a mi hija a la escuela y la atención y el apoyo que mi hija está recibiendo de la escuela hace que valga la pena el viaje que hacemos día tras día. El liderazgo de Carlos Fuentes se ha tomado el tiempo de trabajar con mi hija para asegurarse de que cumpla con todos sus logros académicos, a pesar de que no asistió al pre kínder.

Además del increíble trabajo que la escuela ha hecho con mi hija, me he conectado con otros padres en la escuela y me he involucrado en las reuniones que organiza nuestra directora. En estas reuniones no solo recibimos información sobre el desempeño de nuestros estudiantes, sino que también se nos da una voz y tenemos la oportunidad de colaborar con nuestros líderes escolares para crear oportunidades para que las familias se involucren en Carlos Fuentes. Actualmente participo en el grupo de defensa de padres de nuestra red donde estamos aprendiendo sobre asuntos importantes relacionados con la renovación de los estatutos de nuestra red y la importancia de defender los derechos académicos de nuestros hijos.

Otra característica sorprendente que me ha encantado es el hecho de que Escuelas Acero notifica continuamente a los padres sobre asuntos importantes, como los protocolos escolares COVID-19, los cambios en la escuela y la red, y los recursos que las familias pueden aprovechar. Escuelas Acero hace un trabajo fenomenal al actualizarme sobre asuntos importantes relacionados con la educación de mis hijas.

Escuelas Acero va más allá de trabajar directamente con los estudiantes. Estoy orgullosa de haber elegido una Escuela Acero. A medida que avanzamos en la renovación de la carta, espero que considere a las Escuelas Acero para una

renovación de 7 a 10 años. Le pido a la junta que reconozca su progreso en torno a nuestros estudiantes diversos. Gracias.

Remarks

CPS Board Meeting | May 25, 2022

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

My name is Elizabeth Gracia-Taquez and I am a proud parent at Acero - Carlos Fuentes. I have been a parent at Carlos Fuentes for the last 10 years and I have had 2 of my children graduate from the school and currently have my daughter Rebecca Garcia-Taquez attending 6th grade.

The education my children receive at Acero Schools is life changing. My two alum children attend Devry University Advantage Academy and Chicago Academy. They are exceeding all academic expectations. Rebecca, presently at Fuentes, is following her siblings footsteps and is doing very well in school. Rebecca is an A/B student and is involved in extracurricular clubs outside of school hours.

The academic support my children received from Fuentes motivated me to become involved and learn alongside them. I've volunteered in several school activities and am the parent president of our parent committee where we collaborate with our school leadership, host fundraising events, assisted with our community fairs and invite community partners to speak to our families. Partners include the YMCA, 14th district CAPS office and Chase Bank. I even joined our school mentorship program where we meet with middle school students and provide additional social and emotional support.

I've also participated in the network's parent curriculum, Padres Comprometidos, where we learned skills to help our children academically, emotionally and mentally during remote learning. I am part of our network's parent advocate group where we are learning about charter renewal and discussing how we can be better stewards, not just for our schools and students, but for our communities as well.

Acero Schools has provided so many resources for families including weekly food pantry and vaccination clinics at Carlos Fuentes and, at the peak of the pandemic, the network and school kept families informed on the ongoing health and safety changes while also providing information about additional support from our community partners. Acero-Fuentes truly is a community school where they not only serve our students but parents as well. Please visit our school and meet our amazing school leaders see the work our teachers are doing in the classroom. Acero Schools deserve the longest renewal possible - they are doing the work even when times are really hard. Acero Schools is a network for families and communities.

Buenos días, presidente del Valle, Dr. Martínez y estimados miembros de la Junta.

Mi nombre es Elizabeth Garcia-Taquez y soy una madre orgullosa de Acero - Carlos Fuentes. He sido madre en Carlos Fuentes durante los últimos 10 años y dos de mis hijos se graduaron de la escuela y actualmente mi hija Rebecca García-Taquez asiste al sexto grado.

La educación que reciben mis hijos en Escuelas Acero, les cambió la vida. Mis dos hijos asisten a Devry University Advantage Academy y Chicago Academy. Están superando todas las expectativas académicas. Rebecca, actualmente en Fuentes, sigue los pasos de sus hermanos y le va muy bien en la escuela. Rebecca es una estudiante A/B y participa en clubes extracurriculares fuera del horario escolar.

El apoyo académico que mis hijos recibieron de Fuentes me motivó a involucrarme y aprender junto a ellos. Me he ofrecido como voluntaria en varias actividades escolares y soy presidente de nuestro comité de padres donde colaboramos con el liderazgo de nuestra escuela, organizamos eventos de recaudación de fondos, ayudamos con nuestras ferias comunitarias e invitamos a socios comunitarios a hablar con nuestras familias. Los socios incluyen la YMCA, la oficina CAPS del distrito 14 y Chase Bank. Incluso me uní a nuestro programa de tutoría escolar donde nos reunimos con estudiantes de secundaria y brindamos apoyo social y emocional adicional.

También participé en el programa para padres de la red, Padres Comprometidos, donde aprendimos habilidades para ayudar a nuestros hijos académicamente, emocionalmente y mentalmente durante el aprendizaje remoto. Soy parte del grupo de padres defensores de nuestra red donde estamos aprendiendo sobre la renovación de las escuelas autónomas y discutiendo cómo podemos ser mejores administradores, no solo para nuestras escuelas y estudiantes, sino también para nuestras comunidades.

Escuelas Acero ha brindado muchos recursos para las familias, incluida la despensa de alimentos semanal y las clínicas de vacunación en Carlos Fuentes y, durante la pandemia, la red y la escuela mantuvieron a las familias informadas sobre los cambios continuos de salud y seguridad, al mismo tiempo que brindaban información sobre el apoyo adicional de nuestros socios comunitarios. Acero-Fuentes es verdaderamente una escuela comunitaria donde no solo sirven a nuestros estudiantes sino también a los padres. Visite nuestra escuela y conozca a nuestros increíbles líderes escolares. Vea el trabajo que nuestros maestros están haciendo en el salón de clases. Las Escuelas Acero merecen la renovación más larga posible: están haciendo el trabajo incluso cuando los tiempos son realmente difíciles. Escuelas Acero es una red para familias y comunidades.

Remarks

CPS Board Meeting | May 25, 2022

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

My name is Sylvia Guzman and I am a proud parent at Acero-Brighton Park Elementary. I started my academic journey at Cisneros Elementary which is also a part of the network and through the collaboration and support from our school social worker and Principal we transitioned to Brighton Park where we managed to find an academic plan that would best fit the needs of my son, Manny Cano.

Being a parent of a Diverse Learner has its moments but thanks to the support of my son's teachers and our school principal, he is excelling academically and is on track with all of his other peers. One of the highlights I love telling people is the attention to detail that my son receives from not just his teachers, but his Principal as well. Principal Forst is extremely engaged with the students and always makes time to check in with parents. The support I receive from my school is truly something that makes Acero-Brighton Park special.

It is because of this that I was compelled to become an active member at Acero - Brighton Park. Prior to the pandemic I was a volunteer at the school and supported daily activities such as lunch duty and other events that the school would host. Once the pandemic disrupted in-person learning, Acero-Brighton Park immediately transitioned to remote learning and provided students and parents with updates and resources. Another amazing opportunity that came from the pandemic was the start of our parent curriculum, Padres Comprometidos, at Brighton Park. This provides parents with ongoing support and information on how to best serve our students academically, emotionally, and mentally.

I am proud to be a part of Acero Schools and I urge the board to visit Brighton Park and see the work our schools are doing and recognize the support our diverse learners are receiving.

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

Mi nombre es Sylvia Guzman y soy una madre orgullosa de la elementaria Acero-Brighton Park. Comencé mi viaje académico en la escuela Cisneros, que también es parte de la red y, a través de la colaboración y el apoyo de nuestro trabajador social escolar y el director, hicimos la transición a Brighton Park, donde logramos encontrar un plan académico que se adaptara mejor a las necesidades de mi hijo, Manny Cano.

Ser madre de un estudiante diverso tiene sus momentos, pero gracias al apoyo de los maestros de mi hijo y del director de nuestra escuela, se destaca académicamente y está encaminado con todos sus otros compañeros. Uno de los aspectos más destacados que me encanta decirle a la gente es la atención a los detalles que mi hijo recibe no solo de sus maestros, sino también de su director. El director Forst está extremadamente comprometido con los estudiantes y siempre se toma el tiempo para comunicarse con los padres. El apoyo que recibo de mi escuela es realmente algo que hace especial a Acero-Brighton Park.

Es por esto que me vi obligada a convertirme en miembro activa de Acero -Brighton Park. Antes de la pandemia, era voluntaria en la escuela y apoyaba las actividades diarias, como el almuerzo y otros eventos que la escuela organizaba. Una vez que la pandemia interrumpió el aprendizaje en persona, Acero-Brighton Park hizo la transición de inmediato al aprendizaje remoto y brindó a los estudiantes y padres actualizaciones y recursos. Otra oportunidad increíble que surgió de la pandemia fue el inicio de un programa para padres, Padres Comprometidos, en Brighton Park. Esto brinda a los padres apoyo continuo e información sobre cómo servir mejor a nuestros estudiantes en lo académico, emocional y mentalmente.

Estoy orgullosa de ser parte de Escuelas Acero e insto a la junta a visitar Brighton Park y ver el trabajo que están haciendo nuestras escuelas y reconocer el apoyo que reciben nuestros estudiantes diversos.