March 5, 2022 Special Board Meeting Written Comments
Received between Thursday, March 3rd and Saturday, March 5th
Submitted via Written Comments Form

1	I am a parent of a kindergartner at Goudy. Please do not violate the labor contract with the teachers union to appease the voices of downstate lawyers and families. Our communities want safe and healthy mitigation strategies like those agreed on. Rather than fighting over the current agreement—inevitable if you choose to disregard the current labor agreement—this parent would prefer the school board to look forward to the fall and work with the union to create safe workable plans for the future.
2	As a working immunocompromised mother (we are all vaxxed), I do not support the mask becoming optional. It needs to stay as per the agreement til August. The school here has way less than 20 percent of the students vaxxed. Masking is important to protect EVERYONE. Please do not violate the agreement CTU made just because of politics. You're making it more less safe if you do.
3	I am the parent of two CPS elementary students. One of my children attends his neighborhood school and the other a selective enrollment school. Please do not end the mask mandate. The mask mandate should remain in place until the end of the school year at the earliest. The vaccination rate at many CPS schools is far too low to roll back this minor inconvenience to protect the health and safety of all students. Thank you.
4	It is unconscionable to lift the mask requirement when there are some schools have populations that are only 5% vaccinated. Do your job, Chicago Public Schools. Use preexisting funding, raise new funds, and do what needs to be done to rise to the occasion. We need a public health campaign around vaccination that's better than sliced bread. We need you to see us through to the end of the pandemic. This doesn't happen through half hearted measures. We need a mass community led and based public health campaign. Get it together. Do your job.
5	It is far too soon to scale back masking. We've had a few weeks of declining from the absolute peak of the pandemic, and a week or so of very low numbers. The time to stop wearing masks will come, but it needs to pose the least risk possible to school employees and children. Rushing the process to appease political extremists downstate, and a tiny minority in the City of Chicago is as short-sighted as it is foolish. Time and again and this pandemic we have seen when people relax the mitigations the cases continue to rise. Masks are annoying and uncomfortable but they are essential. I would seriously consider pulling my children out of a school I am otherwise pleased with if mask requirements were relaxed. We are Chicago. We don't have to capitulate to downstate right-wingers.

6	As the parent of a CPS student, I am medically vulnerable. I have a friend who is also similarly medically vulnerable whose child goes to the same school. She contracted Covid from her child via school and spent over 40 days in the hospital and has had multiple blood transfusions and treatments to try to keep her well. Her husband is also disabled. There are many families like ours who protect themselves in the community because they have no choice, but our most vulnerable area is unfortunately our kids. They can and will bring home Covid. And may feel responsible for us getting very sick. In addition-- CPS does not have the staffing for the children to wash hands at school. My child is heading on her 15th day of absence from colds she has caught at school. I didnt understand why this was happening, because masks are being worn. I was told the children are NOT washing hands even before lunch because there aren't enough staff members so kids can wash hands. They told me hand sanitizer is available in lieu of washing. Yet-- it isn't. None of the sanitizing stations are ever refilled. Children are still swapping germs as if no protections exist. Covid rates at her school have been low, vax rates high, but watching my friend be hospitalized for tens of days and requiring repeat blood transfusions-- I know the masks are necessary.. The kids are catching colds from surface transmission.. But once the masks come off- the respiratory droplets will fly, and they will bring home Covid. With classrooms at 25-30 in small rooms and at my child's school which was but only 2 years after the Chicago Fire and has no HVAC, poor ventilation and very small classrooms- it is even more urgent. We must not let the pressure to return to a normal that no longer exists, and the loud obtuse voices of dissent push us into reckless choices. The kids are doing well and should be wearing masks.
7	Covid is still a concern especially for students and family members with pre existing conditions and disabilities. The cost of wearing a mask is small to protect those members of our community. Cps must keep the mask mandate in effect until metrics are much better.
8	I’m am writing to express my opinion on mandatory masking. Our children need to be given the choice for masking. I would not support an all out ban on masks just like I do not support a mandatory mask mandate. This country affords us the right to make a choice and a school board should not take that away. My 2nd grade son has not had a normal school year since he started kindergarten due to various strikes, work stoppages, remote learning, and masking. The damage has already been done and it is time to make a decision that will start the healing process for our children. I ask you to make the right choice and give these children what they deserve, A MASK OPTIONAL ENVIRONMENT! Thank you for your time
9	My oldest child is high risk. Not high risk enough to qualify for the virtual academy, but high risk enough to be a kid who has spent lots of time hospitalized, often because of school-contracted illnesses. We’ve spent a nightmarish amount of time in hospitals praying for our child’s recovery. We have done everything since the start of the pandemic to avoid having to do so again. Our high risk child also has learning

	disabilities, including visual processing issues. Remote schooling was terrible for them. Between sitting in front of a screen all day, physically disconnected from peers, and the hastily pulled together lessons, child was struggling. But they were safe. These last two years have been full of some of the hardest decisions imaginable for our family. Our school communities have low vaccination rates and have had high case rates. During the highest periods of transmission in December, we removed our kids from school and had them eat lunch in the car so that they wouldn't be unmasked in spaces with other unmasked kids. This year we've avoided Covid despite our children being close contacts. We want to continue to avoid Covid until there are better vaccines and more strategies for ensuring high risk people like our child won't be hospitalized or have lasting effects. We know that masks help reduce transmission. We know that less Covid in the air means less chance of getting sick. We know that last summer we saw surges after previous unmasking guidance. If we know all these things, why wouldn't we center the needs of kids like mine? Why wouldn't we do everything in our collective power to protect the kids who are most at risk of serious complications? If public education is in service of the common good, what lesson are we teaching our children by unmasking and making life riskier for the most at risk kids?
10	My daughter attends Pritzker Elementary School. I urge CPS to continue requiring masks for students and staff. The city's COVID case numbers remain high, and students are required to spend long periods of time confined indoors, in close quarters. And though there have been several cases of COVID in my daughter's class the last few months (including two in the past week), it appears there has been no spread within the classroom, and we attribute that to universal masking. Requiring masks will help keep everyone safe until case numbers fall further and more students can get vaccinated.
11	I write to support CEO Martinez's statement that CPS will update its safety policies to no longer require all students and staff to wear masks.
12	I'm a CPS parent, and I support the continuation of a mask mandate in CPS schools. Vaccination rates across CPS schools are NOT high enough to warrant a mask-optional system. Further, moving to a school-by-school masking protocol will only deepen inequity across schools that already suffer great inequity. All CPS students are our kids, and they all deserve our care and consideration. Immunocompromised children should not have to fear attending school so that other kids or parents can feel what they like to call a "return to normalcy", when that "normalcy" has always meant inequity. Please keep the mask mandate in our schools.
13	CEO Martinez and Chicago Board of Education, Because I did not receive a CPS parent survey from the district about the mask policy, I would like to voice my support for the CTU safety agreement and my opposition to CPS possibly going "mask optional."

This should not happen for several reasons:
-Children under 5 in schools are still not vaccinated and thus are at risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and rarer but still a possibility we all should want to avoid, death.
-The Pfizer vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds does not provide sufficient protection from the Omicron variant, which is still circulating. Future variants could pose similar challenges to vaccine protection among this age group.
-CPS and CTU in January via a formalized agreement stipulated that masks would be required through this academic year.

It is gross negligence if the district moves to mask optional without also changing your remote learning policy to allow ANY CPS family to also have the option of learning from home if they do not feel their child is safe in an unmasked classroom.

CPS has had such strict control over remote learning, even though the technology is in place, that it has resulted in students frequently being denied access to public education when they are at home simply because CPS has refused to put them on the "remote learning allowed" list.

You cannot create a less safe environment and then insist that parents must send their children into school for the rest of the year with no option for remote learning.

Keep the mask mandate in place for the remainder of this school year, then reassess in summer for 22-23 school year.

Thank you.

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The world is lifting most or all COVID restrictions and mandates. The country is lifting most or all COVID restrictions and mandates. The city and state are lifting most or all COVID restrictions and mandates. Most adults have gone back to normal. All of the children's extracurricular activities have gone back to normal. Yet for some reason unsubstantiated by any clear metric and contrary to CDC guidelines the masking and quarantines continue universally at CPS. Many studies are coming out now about the "more harm than good" these mandates have caused. Not only are these children being left behind, they're being put last.

For his first two years of school, my son hasn't seen his friends or teachers faces unless it's on a screen. He's not making the same kind of connections with classmates that he is with friends from extracurricular activities that don't force him to wear a mask. He's trying to learn how to read and make sounds out of letters without being able to see his teacher demonstrate how his lips or tongue should move. Why?

My daughter fortunately had a few normal years (aside from strikes) and has made life long friends at school. That's not to say her experience hasn't been negatively impacted by these mandates. While she was quarantined from her friends she was sad, quiet and withdrawn. On numerous occasions while she was on google classroom, I over heard class being interrupted because a student's mask slipped below their nose. The momentum of the instruction would be completely lost, the children would get distracted, and the teacher would have to reiterate what they were saying which took valuable time out of the day. For what reason?

	The World Health Organization advises against masks for kids under 5 and only selectively for kids under 11, and many European nations have kept schools open without requiring masks. U.S. schools that remained open with or without masks have not seen major outbreaks over the past two years. Since the start of all this we know much more about the virus and how to stop it, including abundant evidence showing the lack of efficacy of masking in schools (https://journals.lww.com/pidj/Fulltext/2021/11000/Age_dependency_of_the_Propagation_Rate_of.2.aspx | https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1.full). It's time to give parents the choice. It's time for optional masking.
15	My daughter is a Chicago Public Schools elementary student. I support continued masking for all CPS students and staff. Just in the last week, my daughter's class has had two COVID cases among the students. I am thankful that her class is masked and highly vaccinated. But these breakthrough cases continue, the city's COVID case numbers remain high, and vaccination rates among CPS students are not good. PreK students aren't even eligible to be vaccinated. The pandemic is not yet over for our students or city. If the students are not masked and spend an entire day sitting close together in the classroom, CPS is at high risk for classroom spread and the disruption of even more classes having to go remote. Universal masking will help keep students, teachers, and their families safe until this pandemic is truly an endemic.
16	Unmask the children and end quarantines
17	My son is at CPS and I am writing to exhort the board to adopt a mask optional recommendation. CPS is no longer following CDC guidance. CPS is under litigation over their authority to force masks on children at a time when the governor's mandate has been voided by the supreme court and the city of Chicago is not under a public health emergency. Masks need to have a very specific threshold attached to their requirement, as they are NOT without consequence for the wearer's physiological, mental, and emotional health. Children are negatively effected by this intervention, as The Atlantic reported again just this week, on children with speech delays and disorders. Please act now.
18	I am a Chicago parent with four kids in CPS and two in a neighborhood catholic school. I know I don't have to point out the differences in the experiences of the two systems during the past 2 years. It should be noted, however, that I can see how the differences impact my own children in terms of their academic and social developments. It is tragic to see the divide, even in a family. I hope in that you are aware of the very real uproar among parents about CPS's continued mask mandate. In my perspective, media outlets choose not to highlight this part of the story. MANY parents are sick of the nonsense between CPS/CTU - they simply cannot bargain away families' rights. It should also be mentioned that some parents don't feel safe speaking up.

	We are a vaccinated family that has never been anti-mask. We have, however, followed data and science. Kids were never the problem, yet they are expected to continue the sacrifices. I've been saying that if one more person argues "kids are resilient!!" I will lose my mind! Kids - like all humans - have a limit. Some of my kids are well past their own limit with masking. Quite simply, they hate it and it is affecting their mental health, studies and social skills. I recognize that school masking is a small issue compared to what is happening in Ukraine right now. I am grateful to live in a truly great American city. But, Chicago is not a leader in the Covid response and our kids are now paying for a complete and total lack of leadership.
19	Please end these mask mandates in the schools. It has been two years and CPS is behaving like it is still 2020. Masks do not work any longer and they are causing more damage to immune systems then preventing illness from spreading. Immune systems strengthen by being exposed to bacteria and viruses to create antibodies, and what was the point of getting vaccinated if children are still forced to wear masks, making breathing difficult and compromising their immunity? If the government feels it's safe to lift the mandate, the schools should follow suit. I feel that CPS is simply following drama and hype and not paying any attention to the science.
20	CPS/BDE must end the quarantine requirement and mask mandate. The SCIENCE has shown/proven that quarantines and masks do NOTHING. The entire country has been lifted and CPS must do the same. What is their reasoning? The city must provide one valid reasoning why CPS students need it but the rest of the city, state, and country do not. It is time to learn to live with this cold/virus and give the PARENTS the option to decide what is best for their child(ren).
21	Masks are hurting our children more than they ever helped. The younger ones are not able to see and learn faces and emotions and word formations and sounds. The older ones are too easily able to hide from life. Cloths masks are little more than decoration. They don't mitigate against the spread of covid. Further, the Fourth District found that masking without an order specific to the individual, without an order from the health department, is a violation of due process. The IDPH, CCDPH, CDPH, CDC and the ISBE are all NOT recommending masks in school. By keeping CPS kids masks we are teaching them that their choices and their bodily autonomy doesn't matter.
22	Please CPS, side with science and let mask optional be put in place! Our children deserve this metric at this time, just like the rest of the city!!!!
23	It has been prolonged to long all of Illinois has gone mask optional CPS and CTU are not working in our kids best interest. We are in the green lowest transmission zone. It is time to let our kids choose whether they choose to wear a mask or not.

24	Please change to a mask optional policy for all CPS students immediately.
25	It is time for the choice to go back into the hands of families about masks. Please follow the science, Illinois and the CDC! We as parents and children in CPS have had enough of the CTU and CPS controlling our children. Weather it's about school in person attendance or covering their faces with masks (that has been proven and supported by CDC and the State of Illinois that it is not needed) I am not against mask. I am against being told we have to. Our surrounding states and surrounding school districts are not under this stress and fight. Please allow those that choose to wear them wear them. And those that don't give the option to do so…
26	I believe that every parent should have a choice whether they want their child to wear a mask, and the masks do not protect against disease in 100%, everyone should have a free choice!
27	I find it extremely sad that CTU/CPS believes that they are above the law and scientists. The fact that you have tied our childrens hands and ours and not allowed us to have a choice of wearing or not wearing the mask is offensive and shows how CTU/CPS continues to burden the children and families of chicago with there sufficating rules. Allow us to return to normality. Stop confusing our children. What you are doing is telling them they don't have to follow the ruling of law and government that it's ok to be defiant. It's not ok. Look at what u r teaching them.. Look at the example you are setting.. Unacceptable
28	I have four vaccinated children at Franklin fine arts. We take our science directions from the state and CDC. WHen is CPS doing the same? We need to unmask our children. We have twins in kindergarten who are the youngest of 6. They get read to at night by us just as our other kids have. They are no educational disabilities. They are not reading yet whereas our older children were reading much sooner in the calendar year. I have to imagine this is because of the use of masks in the classroom. This has to stop. It's shameful and we are disillusioned with CPS and CTU. Please unmask the kids. Follow the science. Enough is enough.
29	These are my children and I should have a choice whether to wear masks or not. Masks do not protect against anything. Masks should be optional for everyone. Whoever wants to wear a mask should wear it. I don't want my children to wear a muzzle .
30	I am frustrated with the continuing lack of adherence to scientific guidance on how to keep our kids safe at CPS. The people making the decisions are not scientists, doctors or public health officials yet they are disregarding those who are. The CDC has plainly said that in low risk areas, like Chicago, children need not be mandated to mask in

	schools. The CDC did not mention a metric for vaccination rates for a mask-optional policy to be safe, just that transmission be low. Why are Chicago Public Schools different than the rest of the country? Please, please teach our children that science matters by following it.
31	Stop the illegal masking of our children! Our children need to be free from this torture. Follow the science you say, well it says take off the masks!
32	Please lift the mask mandate. The entire state is mask free and out kids need to have these off. today 196 confirmed cases. Risk is low and we are supposed to be following the science!! CDC has said NO MASKS
33	Mask optional for all of CPS! The science supports it. No concessions with the CTU. They do not dictate health policy and should not use our students as leverage. The teachers walked out in January by choice so they should suffer the natural consequences.
34	As a parent of a CPS student, I think it's time that the BOE, CPS and CTU finally ignore all their political issues and do the right thing for our kids. For 2 years, our kids were asked to make very large sacrifices to keep the adults safe. We now know that many of these measures taken are being disputed as to their efficacy. CPS currently has a positivity rate of 0.14% and the City of Chicago has a positivity rate of 1.0%. It's time to make masks optional for our children without the strongly recommended language. Approximately 91% of the teachers and staff in CPS are vaccinated, with numbers this low in our community, I ask when if NOT now is it time to unmask our children? Also, children should not be made to feel guilty if they do not want to wear a mask by their teachers, principals, administrators and other children. Please send a positive message that now is the time to take the masks off our children and for those who want to continue to wear masks, that is their option. However, please consider removing your language of strongly recommend because it a continued push to keep masks on our kids faces.
35	It's time for mask choice!! Our children are not bargaining chips between CPS and the CTU.
36	As parents of a CPS preschooler, we call on the Board to immediately follow the guidance from the CDC, Biden Administration and local health officials and make masks optional for our students. Our students are watching many others (including parents go in to work) be able to make choices and there is simply no evidence or risks that make mandatory masks appropriate at this time.
37	Governor Pritzker's lawless mandate is over. It has been disheartening, to say the least, to witness children being forced to mask despite the evidence of its

ineffectiveness and even worse the negative social-emotional impact this has had and will continue to have, teaching children they are inherently sick and dangerous simply by breathing. Also, covering faces around young children significantly limits their ability to follow auditory and visual cues or instructions, recognize familiar people, determine emotions, form and maintain connections with adults and other children, and learn speech and language skills. Masks do not prevent transmission, children's risk level for contracting Covid is negligible and schools have NOT been proven as areas of high transmission. Regardless of the many reasons and the plethora more left unsaid, the mandate is over. The Supreme Court and the CDC have finally stepped in and had overrode the overcontrol and fear-based leadership happening in Illinois. If CPS and the CTU continue to cater to the adults that still live in fear around the COVID 19 narrative when it has clearly and evidently been exposed of many gaping holes, lies and maltreatment, then the district itself is overstepping in society and more specifically my children's lives.

I want to say as a parent, enough is enough. I do not consent to the forced masking of my children. I never have, and now that the lawless mandate has officially been removed, this is a clear violation of inalienable human rights and civil rights. The district is voluntarily electing to strip the rights of innocent children who deserve to show their faces and breathe unrestricted air. Defaulting to the misguided mentality that this sick practice is going to keep people safe when the Supreme Court just oversaw that is flagrantly abusive. Attorney Tom DeVore is representing parents who feel the same way, rightfully so, in making sure these criminal restrictions do not go unseen and unaccounted for. It is not too late to fix this misstep and change to "mask optional" like the majority of the country.

38

Dear Chicago School Board members, I write to you today to urge you to remove the CPS mask mandate and allow students the choice to remove their masks. The CDC no longer requires or recommends masking in places of low Covid risk, where Cook County and Chicago currently fall. It is time to allow our students to reclaim the normalcy of their school experience and lives. We have followed the CDC's guidance for the last 2 years, there is no reason we should not follow it now. Those who urge CPS to continue universal masking are not making arguments based in science, but instead based in fear. We cannot let the fear of some dictate the policies for all.

Public health officials have said from the beginning, children have the lowest risk of becoming seriously ill from Covid. This was true before vaccines were widely available, and with vaccines, kids are incredibly well protected. Yet if the mask mandate stands, our school children, the population with the lowest risk, must continue living with the tightest restrictions. It is currently ok for a group of elderly unvaccinated adults, those at greatest risk, to gather in a public venue in Chicago without masks, but school children, whose risk from Covid is minuscule, may not remove masks while in schools. It is commonly said that while children may be at low risk, they may still contract Covid and spread it to others in their homes. Yet the same reasoning can be applied to adults who will soon be free to mingle about society unmasked; they may go home and spread Covid to their at-risk loved ones as well. Children are unfairly considered to be vectors for the virus yet there is no scientific or logical explanation that supports this.

We are no longer living in the panic of the spring of 2020, when we raced to take all precautions necessary to keep the population safe from the novel coronavirus, given

	the lack of information and nary the hope of a vaccine. This was all understandable at the time. Masks were widely accepted and worn by the general public, and they were meant to be temporary. Over the last two years, much has changed, including the wide availability of vaccines and more widely available medical treatments. The knowledge we have is greater, and the opportunities to protect ourselves are greater. It only makes sense, given where we are at this point in time, that we evolve the mitigations we have in place with the goal to return life to normal as quickly as possible, and remove mitigations whose benefits no longer outweigh the risks. Progress has been made for all Illinoisans, and all Chicagoans, yet this unfortunately does not include our CPS children. Why? We cannot possibly think it appropriate that our children remain masked - while adults and children everywhere else outside of Chicago, even in private schools in Chicago, are free to unmask as they please - until an unspecified time in the future when either Covid goes away, which will never will happen, or when pediatric vaccinations in CPS increase to the level that satisfies our school officials, which will also never happen, barring any vaccine mandate. With these goalposts, our kids will be masked for the rest of their school lives. Our kids deserve to have a normal school and life experience, before they age out of school and this is all they've ever known or experienced. Please consider that our kids are already quickly approaching that reality, when the the last normal full school year for kids who are currently in 4th grade was in 1st, and for kids who are currently freshmen in high school, it was 6th. Our children are the future of this city. For their mental health and well being, it is time to put an end to mask mandates that for the long term are more disruptive to our students' academic learning and social development than they are protecting them from the virus - a virus from which they are already naturally well protected, and even more so with the vaccine, should they choose. Our kids deserve better. Our kids do not deserve to live in perpetual fear of this virus. This is no longer justified, as confirmed by our own CDC. While the rest of the city, state, country, and world have already moved forward, Chicago Public School kids will be left further behind, and this is not fair, appropriate, nor equitable. Thank you for your time. I ask that you seriously consider these words as you continue to set policies for our children.
39	My daughter is a first-grader at a CPS elementary school. She started kindergarten in 2020, so her only experience of school is virtual or masked. I have seen her discomfort with masks, I have seen them hide the smiles and joy of her classmates (which has made it harder for her to form social bonds) and I have also seen the masks contribute to her speech impediment. Why is it the octogenarians in congress can all gather together maskless for the state of the union, while our young children (who have virtually zero risk from covid) must remain masked? Why must black and brown students in chicago public schools remain masked, while wealthy white students in private schools and wealthy suburbs can walk the halls mask-free? Please make masks optional so each family can choose for themselves.
40	Masks need to be optional.
41	

	I'm urging the Board to continue mask mandates in Chicago Public Schools at least through the end of this academic year. My kindergartner transferred from the Virtual Academy into in-person school in February. We took that step believing that in-person school would be safe. If we had known that within a matter of weeks the mask requirement would be dropped, we wouldn't have return our child to in-person learning. Consistent mask wearing is the ONLY protection we can count on, seeing as how vaccination rates are extremely low and the vaccine's effectiveness for young children is now in doubt. It is absolutely unthinkable to me that CPS would now be removing the only actual mitigation it has in place.
42	Pull all mandates effective immediately. This has been extreme abuse and misuse of power by leaders.
43	I am a mother of 5 kids currently enrolled in two different Chicago public schools! I strongly request that you make mask optional effective immediately!!! Below is the conversation I had with my 4yr old when I picked her up from school. I believe this speaks for itself! Daughter:I couldn't breathe at school today, I wanted to take my mask off so bad! Mom:well you should have told your teacher Daughter: no I can't I'm afraid Mom:what are you afraid of? Daughter: I'm afraid I will get in trouble, my teacher will yell at me Mom: you will not get in trouble, you just tell them you need a break to breathe Daughter: okay but wouldn't it just be so fun if we just didn't have to wear them anymore!
44	Please make mask optional for the kids.
45	I wana optional wear mask . I wana decide about my child, its not good for child with egzema , asthma....
46	I work with DL students and the children are suffering. They need to see faces and have interaction. Please let masks be optional!
47	Hello! If this Special Board Meeting is scheduled to discuss the mask mandate within CPS, I, a parent of two elementary school CPS students, am fully in favor of CPS moving to be mask-optional, in-line with CDC guidelines.
48	Please stop your illegal Masking of children. This has gotten insane. Silence is violence as many great leaders have said. You have silenced all of CPS by not giving people a choice but by illegally dictating your will on children. Please end your illegal, unethical

	and immoral behavior. It's truly a shame that it has taken a lawsuit for CPS to even consider doing the right thing.
49	Please end to quarantines and lift the mask mandate in line with CDC guidelines and all other City ordinances.
50	My daughter, a CPS high school student, has lung disease as well as anxiety. We have taken every possible precaution to prevent contagion. There is no telling when a new variant will emerge, nor how contagious or potent it will be. By the time mask-mandates a would be re-instated, it would be too late for those with compromised immune systems. While my daughter does not leave the house without her mask, she understands that the risk of contagion is greater when others are not masked as well. It is already challenging for her to manage her anxiety in the classroom setting and this will only compound it. While many in the school community may be “fine” without masks, the populations with 504 plans and IEPs cannot afford to take additional risks, not to mention teachers and support staff who live with underlying conditions, as well as healthy students with loved ones at home who have compromised immune systems. I strongly support extending the mask mandate.
51	I am a parent of 3 children in CPS. I wanted to share my support of a policy shift to mask-optional in District 299. Chicago's COVID statistics for cases and transmission are great, nearing the lowest they've been in almost 2 years, and transmission in schools still proves to be rare. This context greatly dilutes the necessity of ongoing universal masking, particularly considering the cumulative negative impact of prolonged masking on our kids. Mental health consequences aside, consider the negative impact prolonged masking has on our youngest students and those with speech issues and other delays. It's time.
52	, Chicago Public Schools CEO Martinez sent an email saying they “expect that CPS will be moving to a mask-optional model for all students and staff in the near future.” Later in the email they say masks will be strongly encouraged. It is interesting to note how much language matters here. What I’m hearing from the leader of my children’s school district is a pandering to anti-maskers, and a lack of concern for the families who recently learned from a Tuesday NYTimes article that the data suggests the Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year olds protects older children in that age range from needing hospitalization but not from getting the virus. I hear a lack of concern for families who have children in CPS buildings who are ineligible for a vaccine due to being under 5 years old or aren’t immunocompromised enough or privileged enough to have both qualified for and successfully applied for online learning last summer. I hear a lack of caution for our families who have immunocompromised family members at home. Nowhere in the email is a reference to our community responsibility to our most vulnerable populations as Covid-19 is not yet endemic. #languagematters

53	I am a mother of two CPS students and I want to cps to work on a thoughtful timeline to start making masks optional
54	I am writing to state I am in full support of a mask optional policy and for it to be implemented ASAP.
55	As a parent of a CPS 1st grader, I fully support the mask mandate for the rest of the year (and possibly next year) for several reasons: My child's sibling is 3 and cannot be vaccinated. We need to protect those children (and staff) who cannot yet be vaccinated or for whom vaccines are not effective, or for medical reasons cannot be vaccinated. It our responsibility as a community to do all we can to protect them. There is an agreement with the Union that needs to be followed. The vaccine for 5-11 year olds has been show to be less effective than previously thought. This leaves all elementary school students vulnerable. Both my child's grandmothers are immunocompromised, as are countless other family members. Reduced spread keeps them safer. Masking reduces spread. This is an easy decision and I honestly cannot believe we would be considering removing masks when there is pandemic STILL occurring and variants can still arrive. Masking is the absolute least we can do. My 7 year old and 3 year old agree and want to keep others safe. Adults should too.
56	I am writing to support the movement towards CPS going mask-optional. In Chicago, we are well under the CDC guidelines for safe reduction of universal mask requirements in schools. As of today our city positivity rate is under 1%. Our hospitalization rate is .6 and our death rate is .1. I don't know the numbers for hospitalization and death for normal winter flu and cold season, but I suspect those numbers are seasonally higher than what we are seeing with Covid right now and we do not require universal masks in school to prevent their spread. I realize that some CPS schools have higher vaccination rates than others, but I also don't see that changing in a significant way soon. In the meantime, CPS kids and teachers - and every other citizen in the state - are able to do pretty much everything else in their lives - sports and activities, dining out, going to movies, and so on WITHOUT a mask. It no longer seems rational for them to then spend full school days masked as well for months as that vaccination rate creeps up. While the CPS vaccination rate in schools might be low in some schools, we can't ignore that the the overall community vaccination rate is high. CPS kids and teachers are still part of that

	community, and we haven't seen in other parts of IL that suddenly the mask-optional schools are having different Covid spread than the community at large. My kids have already said they plan to keep their masks on if CPS goes optional, at least as long they see their teachers and classmates mostly doing the same. I went to a store on Wednesday and maybe 5 adults were unmasked. There won't be an abrupt shift from all masks to no masks in schools either, and it is time to start that transition. I support going mask-optional not because I am anti-mask. We have been masking and doing our part for 2 years in my household. But when I hear my 14 yo's reasons for continuing to mask if the mandate is dropped as a) peer pressure - she doesn't want her classmates to think she is bad for not wearing a mask and b) she doesn't want her classmates to see her whole face - I am sad. My 10 yo sees the "mask as part of him" and is almost nervous to not wear one. While I am proud of how well they adapted to wearing masks without complaint, these comments and concerns are indicators that if it is safe - and the CDC has deemed it so - it is time to let kids adapt back to a world where they aren't hiding their face or unable to see the full faces of their teachers and classmates. I hope to hear an announcement by next week with a date for CPS to drop the universal masking requirement. I was heartened by the email on Wednesday that we are moving that direction, but it is time to hear a date or a rationale for exactly what metrics CPS is waiting for that will change it.
57	Please go to mask optional in our schools now that transmission rates are under 2%. The risk / reward trade off doesn't make sense anymore—time to get our kids back to the normalcy the rest of us have begun to enjoy!
58	The Board along with the CPS OIG, CPS Investigations, CPS Law, and CPS Safety and Security have all been made aware of a Lake View High School security guard who was arrested in 2008 for Solicitation of a Prostitute (undercover cop, attached). Yet, this security guard was never pulled from his position and properly investigated for violating several CPS policies, including 'Conduct Unbecoming Becoming a CPS Employee." This same CPS security guard was also suspended in 2019 for unknown reason(s) and removed from his baseball coaching position from Lane Tech for imposing corporal punishment on student-athletes while on a Spring Break trip and then bragging about and posting the punishment on social media in 2016. In addition, FOIA responses from CPS failed to show he never reported his 2008 arrest to CPS or secondary employment. All of these things were reported to several CPS supervisors, including Jadine Chou. Most importantly, this Lake View HS security guard has avoided any CPS investigations or leaves of absences without pay while CPS performs lengthy investigations on other employees without pay for up to 2 ½ years+ on false allegations. In fact, one CPS teacher was investigated for a public sexual act (same sexual act as this security was soliciting in 2008) he supposedly was involved in before he was a CPS employee or a

	college graduate by CPS a second time (double jeopardy) and fairly recently. And, yet this security guard faced no scrutiny after being arrested while a CPS employee. Attached, is the security guards redacted 2008 arrest report from the Chicago Police Department. I'm demanding a full-scale investigation be launched into this Lake View HS security guard to once.
59	CPS has to move to mask optional as soon as possible. Every other school in this state and across the country already have. It is now obvious and well known by so many that this is all nothing but political theater. It's time for this to come to end.
60	Dear Members of the Chicago Board of Education, I am a Latina parent of two CPS children and I am simply asking CPS to follow the data and to give back parents choice. I have previously supported universal masking of my student, however, I now would like to know exactly why CPS continues to uphold this policy after Governor Pritzker recently announced the mask mandate was no longer valid effective Monday, February 28 for all schools. The CDC has declared Cook County in the "green" zone, meaning community level is Low. Following the CDC should allow my children to go to school with a mask optional policy. This is important to my children because they should be able to have autonomy over their body and be able to decide with the help of Mom and Dad and consent to wearing a mask, if they wish. Both of my children favor not wearing a face covering and I fully support them. Beginning at the age of two, I have taught my children about consent. Consent should and must matter in many situations like when a family member wishes to kiss my child on the cheek or my child having the choice of wearing a face mask or not. Additionally, I have 20 month old twin boys (that will one day enter the CPS system) and my children not wearing a face mask at school brings me no fear. CPS or CTU does not have the authority to continue requiring my children to wear a face mask because they "must do their part to keep our community safe." The CDC states that community levels in the Low range, "Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk." The use of a face mask is now a personal decision, not one that should be dictated by CPS or any agreement made with CTU. I no longer agree to the CPS COVID-19 Student Certification and Verification Form. Additionally, the form states, "This form must be completed and submitted to your child's school by September 3, 2021 and will be in effect for the first quarter. Parents will be asked to complete this form again for each of the remaining quarters during SY21-22." I have not signed this form after the Fall quarter and I will decline signing, if asked again. What authority does CPS have over students who have not submitted this form beyond Fall 2021quarter? To provide some context, the last time my 3rd grader experienced a "normal" school year (despite the CTU 11-day strike in October) was when she was in Kindergarten during the 2018-2019 academic year. Unfortunately, my Preschooler has never had a normal school year as he was not enrolled in any early childhood education program when he was eligible at 3 years old because his older sister was a fully remote, on-screen student with CPS. Logistically, it made sense to not send one child off to in-person school while the other remained at home for fully remote on-screen school.

When my 3rd grader was finally able to return to in-person school on March 1, 2021, 2 days a week, it was then when I enrolled my Preschooler in private daycare so that he may not be left behind during his early childhood education years. The time for normalcy for our children was yesterday and it is long overdue.

It is my understanding that the January 2022 Safety Agreement between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union is solely between an employer, CPS, and their employee. The negations in this agreement resulted in yet another unnecessary interruption in our children's school learning in early January 2022. In our short experience with Chicago Public Schools, I have quickly learned of the turbulent relationship, or lack there of, between CPS and the CTU. Children, parents and families are subjected to the power struggle between two entities that cannot work together through compromise. Enough is enough. It seems obvious to me that CPS is now only protecting their agreement with CTU to avoid possible strike or renegotiations that lead to strike. Those that are pushing to perpetually mask CPS school children indefinitely are, in my opinion, a part of the CTU group think. They do not care about consent and they do not care about allowing families choice. This is absolutely about power and control. Parents and families are in the best position to decide what they think is the best course of action for their children. CPS and CTU have collectively stripped away all family choice for far too long. Neighboring school districts and the Archdiocese of Chicago have moved forward with common sense policies. Why has CPS not followed in the same manner? Make it make sense.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Amanda Dime

61

While not on the agenda I cannot stress enough the damage CTU and CPS has done to children keeping them in masks! This must end now.

62

Good morning. My name is Cortney Ritsema and I'm a parent of three CPS students and a representative from Activate Chicago Parents. The loudest voices in this whole debate about mask mandates are not representative of the vast majority of CPS parents who are living in communities where the vaccination rates are significantly lower. These are the families who will be hurt the most going mask optional. Thus, I will be using the remainder of my short time to represent the voices of parents who support mask mandates in CPS. Activate Chicago Parents asked CPS parents how they feel about CPS going mask optional and these are the responses we received:

- The speed to unmask is irresponsible to me. Why if we have come this far are we ok sacrificing more trauma for the sake of comfort and privilege
- I've spent enough time in hospitals praying for my high-risk child's recovery. No families should have to risk doing the same.
- Cases are as common in CPS schools now as they were at the beginning of the year, when everyone agreed that universal masking was essential to keeping schools open safely. The need is still there.
- In any classroom there are students and staff with medical vulnerabilities, family members especially at risk, and underlying conditions they may not even know they

have. We owe it to each other to do what we can to protect each other, especially when what we can do is simple.

- I support mask mandates because my child is one of only 3 in her entire grade who can be vaccinated. I support them because "civil rights" don't mean people doing anything they want to hurt others and I want my child to oppose ableism in all its forms.
- Universal masking keeps our schools open and our children as healthy as possible. Less than 30% of our elementary school children are vaccinated and we need to hold steady for our children under 5 who still don't have a vaccine available.
- I will take being "overly cautious" any day compared to pure individualism. We live in a community, and we need community care for all.
- I don't just want better educational choices for *my* children. I want a system that works and serves all students equitably. A society that only gives choices to some, doesn't serve anyone.
- They are the easiest way to slow the spread of disease. We've all got them, the kids are used them, and they are cheap and effective whether you are vaccinated or not. Really just a no-brainer to keep the mask mandate in place.
- We want universal masking because it is the fairest, clearest way to protect the vulnerable among us. We also don't want to get covid!
- We mask up. Because like many in CPS, we live in a multi-generational home with ages ranging from 11 to 72. Because, like many in the US, our family lives with health issues that raise risk levels. Because like many in the world, we care about our community.
- My daughter has a genetic condition and congenital heart condition, and my son just finished chemotherapy for lymphoma, and as someone who has sat beside an intubated child praying for them to make it, I don't want to ever go through that again, nor do I want anyone to ever have to go through it if it could be avoided with a simple addition to the dress code: a mask.
- Please, they can't play Russin Roulette with our kids.
- Because schools are still sending emails about Covid cases in the buildings.
- Because our youngest learners cannot be vaccinated yet
- Because high risk people rely on others to help keep them safe
- Because I'm high risk as well as my elderly family members
- To minimize further trauma and ensure safety for kids and teachers
- My teens feel safer wearing masks. My 13yo got COVID from school in December and said "mom, if they take masks away will you homeschool me?"
- New York state officials found the effectiveness of Pfizer's vaccine against Covid infection plummeted from 68% to 12% for children aged 5 to 11 during the omicron surge. We can't predict what the future holds, better safe than sorry, we need universal masking in schools.
- I am immunocompromised, vaxxed, son is maxed--we have friends and family w/ kids that are under 5. Mask mandates are a must not only for us, but for everyone that is vulnerable.
- I have an almost two year old and she's not able to be vaccinated yet.
- My family has been through enough turmoil these past two years and we don't deserve to be put through anything else
- Until more of the school children in CPS are vaccinated, masks remain an important mitigation factor for the spread of COVID. While my children are vaccinated (and one is boosted), not all are or can be. Finish the school year masked, then reassess after summer.
- Mine is only 3.5 and ineligible. Please keep the babies safe! And the immunocompromised!

- My 5-year-old is vaccinated, but most of his preK class is not, many because they are not old enough yet. Recent reports also indicate that vaccine efficacy is decreasing as the virus mutates. Masking helps protect everyone.
- I spent most of my own 1st and 2nd grades in speech therapy - so I personally understand the implications of masking special needs kids. I also understand that us special needs folks know better than literally anyone else how important it is that we all look out for each other. That's why I support mandatory masks in our schools, and I imagine virtually all of the special needs kids do, too.
- I support #cpsmasking b/c I am immunocompromised as well as my mother who is over the age of 65 who assist with child care. As well as my father who is 70 who also assist with his grandchildren. removing the mask mandate puts all of us at risk.
- One reason alone, people are still dying from this virus vaccinated or not! Why put our children or ourselves at risk? I thought this would have been a no brainer but I guess when dealing with people and politicians with more money than brains this is what we come up with
- I protected my children with car seats when they were little. Then they graduated to seat belts. Now they wear masks. But we know one-way masking isn't enough in a setting like school; we need *everyone* masked to stay safe.
- If masks are optional then it looks like school will be optional for my kids too. My youngest is in PreK and 75% of the kids in their class are not yet eligible for the covid vaccine yet. There was a week in Jan when they were the ONLY child in class.
- In this phase of the pandemic where immunity may be waning due to the time lapsed since the booster or dose 2 (depending on the age), there should be no assumptions about "being fully safe." That would be an illusion. We have been there before with the lifting of the mandate, mask optional, etc. Important to note that people are still dying - maybe you and your loved ones are not. Maybe you're tired of being empathetic. Maybe you don't have or aren't worried about your under 5-year-olds. That does not mean that others or not struggling. Mask guidance early on suggested that masks are effective if we wear them properly. They're more effective if everyone wears them. Each neighborhood and community in this city has variance in access to information, experience with medical racism, trust in institutions, frequency of vaccination events, etc.
- it seems premature for CPS to completely remove the mask requirement given that some schools having vaccination rates as low as 5%.
- As a parent I want to end the year with masks or remote option and I'm not given any legal right for either with this announcement
- I am wearing a KN95 at work and everywhere I go (which is hardly anywhere) until my kids are vaxxed. This whole thing has been traumatic, and continues to be nerve-wracking for so many people with kids under 5. We've gone 2 years, so I think a few more months isn't a huge ask.
- We have a community responsibility to care for each other and an individual rights argument while legit does not override our responsibility to an entire 300K student population.
- Universal masking keeps those who can't wear a mask safer. It helps fulfill the ADA legal requirement and safeguards SpEd students FAPE.
- If they are going to create a 'mask optional' environment, then parents should have a remote option as well to keep their vulnerable children and high-risk family members safe.
- Still getting daily or near-daily notifications of COVID cases from two schools in my neighborhood — sometimes notifications of multiple cases. It's too soon to drop mask mandates.

	• We have a number of parents in Chicago who keep using students who need speech services as a reason to remove masks in schools. It's a very condescending form of advocacy that non-disabled folks are using as a shield for their own desires. • I wish I had the money to sue CPS for putting my asthmatic child in danger by removing the mask mandate. Whatever happened to students first?
63	CPS students deserve a mask optional policy. CPS and CTU must put children first. We want a choice! Follow the science, follow the data! Why are we the last district to lift mask mandates when all across the country districts have given students a mask optional policy.
64	The positivity rate currently in the State of Illinois is 1.4%, Chicago 0.8% and CPS 0.14%. If we don't give our kids the option to be mask optional with numbers this low, when is the right time? The head of the CDC admitted Thursday to the waning efficacy of the vaccines, especially against new variants. Continuing to cite the difference in vaccine rates at schools within CPS is not a valid argument given what the CDC director just admitted. The fact that anyone who has wanted to have their child vaccinated has had that opportunity for months. In terms of protection against severe outcomes and death related to covid, over 91% of the teachers and staff from CPS are vaccinated. Again, I will repeat, given all of the above information, if not NOW, when should our children have the option of taking off their masks and seeing smiling, friendly faces again?
65	I support continuing the mask mandate in CPS schools, especially in schools where students' vaccination booster rates are below 90%. I also support the demand for COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all eligible students as soon as possible, but no later than Fall of 2022. Everyone in CPS schools should have authentic, free N95/KN95/KF94 masks to be protected against Delta, Omicron, BA.2 and other upcoming variants/subvariant of concern. Cloth and surgical masks don't provide sufficient protection. Why We Need to Upgrade Our Face Masks—and Where to Get Them https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-we-need-to-upgrade-our-face-masks-and-where-to-get-them/ Why Are Americans Still—Still!—Wearing Cloth Masks? It's long past time for an upgrade. https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/10/why-americans-wear-cloth-masks/620296/?utm_campaign=the-atlantic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3aWRDsfC1CsrDsvQNfmbGjlnsn6MTakwnvM7vN27POsEZ64NNHwsAhw34

There are significant racial disparities in testing and vaccinations which need to close as soon as possible. Lifting mandates while these disparities still exist and persist doesn't keep schools safe, especially not those whose families are most vulnerable.

I created these spreadsheets according to February 12, 2022 data, showing the racial disparities in testing, vaccinations, hospitalizations and deaths and by majority Black, Latino and White zip codes:

Chicago COVID-19 Racial Disparities Data
https://docs.google.com/file/d/1KD73fONaFpjojCpwnpdVH5dfYtK1w9W0/edit?usp=docslist_api&filetype=msexcel

Chicago COVID-19 Data by Zip Code, Race and Deaths
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10M9lFhXbMApogXjjeinAF7LweXSt2D9vMNAhKsvwXpQ/edit

The testing disparities mean too many Black and Brown communities are more likely to have COVID-19 and not know it. "...asymptomatic and presymptomatic people would account for over 50% of COVID-19 transmission. The only way to prevent "silent spreaders" from infecting others is to increase testing & contact tracing.
https://bgr.com/science/coronavirus-asymptomatic-spread-vs-presymptomatic-vs-symptomatic-yale-study/

The implications of silent transmission for the control of COVID-19 outbreaks
https://www.pnas.org/content/117/30/17513

Please see the CDC's extensive list of comorbidities which include asthma, diabetes, cancer, pregnancy, dementia, chronic kidney disease, depression, heart disease, immunocompromised/
immunosuppressed etc. Lifting mask mandates and not implementing a vaccine mandate puts these people at risk.

Comorbidities the CDC classifies as risk factors for severe COVID-19* [1, 2]
https://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=PC%2F127477#!

I myself am at high risk with mild interstitial lung disease. After 2 shots, I still didn't have enough COVID-19 spike protein antibodies to protect me against hospitalization or death. Before I had my booster, my rheumatologist advised I go off the immunosuppressants I was on for a few days before I was scheduled to get the shot, then wait until it had been a week before starting back up on the immunosuppressants. It worked, after taking the booster shot, I then had enough antibodies to protect myself against hospitalization or death. My rheumatologist told me he has a patient who had 3 shots but ZERO antibodies! Imagine how many people are out there who are like that but don't know it! How many students are rare and immunocompromised or immunosuppressed or have vulnerable family members who would be in danger if a student brought COVID-19 home. Making masks and vaccines optional for those eligible is not the way to go.

Chart shows how much protection people have against Omicron after 1, 2, or 3 shots of vaccine https://www.businessinsider.com/omicron-chart-protection-2-3-vaccine-booster-effectiveness-hospitalization-symptomatic-2022-1

One in four CPS elementary students is vaccinated, with rates varying widely by school

New data show about 53% of high schoolers are vaccinated. Use WBEZ's tool to look up vaccinations rates for your Chicago school.
https://www.wbez.org/stories/cps-vax-rates/4831bbda-9ea7-4015-b35c-6ae04487a747

Los Angeles Unified School District ("LAUSD") also has shown us that making vaccines available at all Chicago Public Schools would increase CPS students' vaccine rate, which is currently abysmal.

About 22% of all 5- to 11-year-olds in CPS have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while 34% have received at least one dose, but uptake varies widely by neighborhood.

Source: Chicago schools see slowdown in COVID vaccine uptake for 5- to 11-year-olds
https://chicago.chalkbeat.org/2022/2/14/22929871/chicago-public-schools-covid-vaccine-uptake-5-to-11-year-olds

Here's LAUSD's vaccine strategy: https://achieve.lausd.net/covid

How many of these children have asthma?

"Chicago's rate of asthma among black children is twice the national average. Although asthma can be passed down genetically it is also a result of poor air quality. According to the Chicago SunTimes, "Chicago is the nation's epicenter for asthma disparity, with African-American children on the South and West sides dying from asthma at eight times the rate of their white counterparts.""

Source: September 2018 The Chicago Plan for Asthma
https://chicagoallergyandasthma.com/blog/chicago-plan-asthma

Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and CDPH's survey "found that 16 percent of families have a child who had ever been diagnosed with asthma, above the 11 percent rate across Illinois and 12 percent nationwide."

Source: July 2020 Rate of Asthma in Chicago Children Surpasses State and National Levels
https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/news-stories/rate-of-asthma-in-chicago-children-surpasses-state-and-national-levels/

This article perfectly describes the risks we're inflicting on those most vulnerable when the City isn't taking necessary precautions, is guilty of poor messaging and lifting mask and vaccine mandates, or exempting churches, too soon:

THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE STUCK IN PANDEMIC LIMBO by Ed Yong
What does society owe immunocompromised people?
https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2022/02/covid-pandemic-immunocompromised-risk-vaccines/622094/

"…casual acceptance that the pandemic will turn into something endemic..Leaders, medical professionals & public health experts have said something along those lines w/zero acknowledgement that people will still die and those deaths will be disproportionately from high-risk groups."

There's one population that gets overlooked by an 'everyone will get COVID' mentality https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/01/26/1075549754/covid-disabled-immunocompromised

It has also been proven that COVID-19 can affect several organs, including the BRAIN. BA.2 is here. Why lift vaccine and mask mandates now? Why insist on in-school learning, especially where vaccine and testing rates are still low and there are children with comorbidities in their families? We are culpable in their demise.

Counting the neurological cost of COVID-19
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41582-021-00593-7

"Many people who experience neurologic symptoms that linger after acute COVID-19 are less than 50 years old and were healthy and active prior to infection."

Nervous system consequences of Covid
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm2052

From blood clots to infected neurons, how COVID threatens the brain
https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/12/16/1064594686/how-covid-threatens-the-brain?utm_campaign=npr&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_term=nprnews&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR1Hn2zqrT6_fFrSpgkbzIgoCGATX7LtZDJmNwKfgZ321Xc5XibIrIeNE30

The People's Response Network to COVID-19 has issued the following statements out of concern with many poor decisions implemented on Chicagoans which were ill-advised:

Oppose CDC’s Dangerous New 5-Day Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines and CPS Undercount of COVID Positive Cases
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-IlvKKwNmiS10GvzgTmrBUE9bCvo9xpm9cOBwWbUJSw/edit

Statement Opposing the Ending of Indoor Mask Mandates
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10aygcbobLx4n2RdvGLI5tZjMIIecw9l3lDQUQrMbxSI/edit

Save Lives Now, Keep Our Children and School Staff Safe. Keep Schools Closed!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LdJZaZMkcQSVjP1KM_aX1c6GsfmnOrLAZKdy_JqQLKM/edit

Mayor Lightfoot-Here is How You Can Vaccinate More People to Decrease Racial Disparities
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E_fqDICx-mbMsitKOHPXUwJ6A35j4vKJDIhV_mpmPU8/edit

	Why Does Mayor Lightfoot & CPS Refuse to Vaccinate Students & Families in Schools? https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-8csIKz4RTPv4ByAIY_v4YJG0pfNm_3VfM3efqBDlZI/edit Thanks for your time and attention to this matter. Sincerely, Joy Bunton https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N_xYENyCCrXeIYvBzuddSA8_ALIDUF76zc4xvgbEE0Q/edit
66	The Board's continued insistence on a universal mask mandate for schoolchildren amidst a .14% COVID positivity rate in CPS is an unconscionable spectacle. The CDC, the ISBE, the IDPH, and 94% of school districts in state see absolutely no reason to persist in requiring masks for school, and the adult world here in Chicago is finally back to normal. The stasis that CPS policy is currently in rests entirely at the feet of the Board, whose only rationale for continuing with the current combination of outmoded COVID-19 mitigation protocols is that doing so demonstrates an ethos of "community care." This is a self-delusion and an infantilization of all of us as parents and citizens. Why can't Chicago end quarantines for close contacts? Why did it take us so long to get a 5-day week after the full lockdown? Why still perpetual masking? In all cases, CPS staffers, Board members, and CTU leaders will recite a string of professional-class pieties about the "vulnerable" and "marginalized" (and other words they use to talk about people that they feel compelled to a to appear to care about but don't know personally). But if it wasn't clear before, all this talk of "equity" from big-city bureaucrats is just window dressing for austerity, inaction, and second-class treatment. For those of us who really believe that schools are anchors of community and that all of our children deserve safety, stability, and integrity in their local schoolhouse, the record-setting slow dance out of lockdown by the Chicago Public Schools has left us doubting the competence and the sincerity of those in whom we place an enormous amount of trust and responsibility. Over the long term, that erosion of trust can have disastrous consequences for the sustainability of a public system. I urge the Board to begin the work of repairing and restoring that trust.

ATTACHMENTS

The Board along with the CPS OIG, CPS Investigations, CPS Law, and CPS Safety and Security have all been made aware of a Lake View High School security guard who was arrested in 2008 for Solicitation of a Prostitute (undercover cop, attached). Yet, this security guard was never pulled from his position and properly investigated for violating several CPS policies, including ‘Conduct Unbecoming Becoming a CPS Employee.”

This same CPS security guard was also suspended in 2019 for unknown reason(s) and removed from his baseball coaching position from Lane Tech for imposing corporal punishment on student athletes while on a Spring Break trip and then bragging about and posting the punishment on social media in 2016. In addition, FOIA responses from CPS failed to show he never reported his 2008 arrest to CPS or secondary employment. All of these things were reported to several CPS supervisors, including Jadine Chou.

Most importantly, this Lake View HS security guard has avoided any CPS investigations or leaves of absences without pay while CPS performs lengthy investigations on other employees without pay for up to 2 ½ years+ on false allegations. In fact, one CPS teacher was investigated for a public sexual act (same sex act as this security was soliciting in 2008) he supposedly was involved in before he was a CPS employee or a college graduate by CPS a second time (double jeopardy) and fairly recently. And, yet this security guard faced no scrutiny after being arrested while a CPS employee.

Attached, is the security guards redacted arrest report for the Chicago Police Department. I’m demanding a full scale investigation be launched into this Lake View HS security guard to once.

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

ARREST REPORT

3510 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60653
(For use by Chicago Police Department Personnel Only)
CPD-11. 420C(REV. 6/30)

FINAL APPROVAL

CB #: [redacted]
IR #: [redacted]
YD #:

ARREST REPORTING

OFFENDER

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

INCIDENT

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
Dependent Children? No

Co-Arrests
Assoc Cases
DCFS Ward ? No

CHARGES

			Victim
1	Offense As Cited	**720 ILCS 5.0/11-15-A-1** PROSTITUTION - SOLICITING FOR PROSTITUTE Class A - Type M	

RECOVERED NARCOTICS

NO NARCOTICS RECOVERED

WARRANT

NO WARRANT IDENTIFIED

IR #: [redacted]
CB #: [redacted]

ARREST COPY

Chicago Police Department - ARREST Report

CB #[redacted]

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

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