

**June 22, 2022 Board Meeting Written Comments  
Received between Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1 | June 15, 2022  
Raquel Don  
Representative of Parents/Caregivers in CPS  
donraq75@gmail.com  
312-671-0110

I know that it's evening. But I like to say hi. So hi everyone. I am Raquel Don. The parent of a Chicago Public School graduate and two current Chicago Public Schools students. I am the fourth generation of my family to live in the Bridgeport / Armour

graduated from John C. Haines neighborhood Elementary School, located in the heart of Chinatown, in 2014. I am a CPS graduate who attended my neighborhood elementary school on the northside and graduated from Lane Tech High School (that is what it was called then) many moons ago. I had a minimal 45-minute commute on public transportation from my home approximately 5 miles away to attend high school. By the time my daughter completed 7th grade, she received all C's and scores were average. Unfortunately, this would limit her in applying to select enrollment or IB high schools. To aid in the decision of a high school, we attended 22 open houses (fyi, we only attended 4 open houses for college. CRAZY, right?) but we needed to be sure we had options for quality education as well as accessibility to the high school for after-school activities and culture. We were not confident that the current neighborhood high school would provide

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will have to shorten their sleep and limit their extracurricular options in order to commute to school every day. Sleep deprivation has a well-documented impact on students' academic performance as well as their mental health. Limited extracurricular experience narrows students' opportunities to explore their interests and develop their skills. Both minimize the effort of CPS's equality framework to provide equitable education resources and opportunities to its minority students.

There is no secret that Asian American families value education greatly. Regardless of the parents' occupation or education level, education is always the top priority on every Asian American parent's mind. As a result, we have seen Asian American students perform above the average on standardized tests and be able to attend the top universities around the country. However, this stereotype doesn't apply to ALL Asian American students. Not all Asian students thrive academically. Their learning styles are as diverse as the students of other ethnic backgrounds. The data shows that 1/3 of the Chinatown 8th students go to CPS-selected high schools; 1/3 of them go to private/charter schools and 1/3 of students move to the suburbs. The only way to stop losing our CPS students to the suburb or private schools every year is to provide a high-quality and safe neighborhood high school option for students who are not attending the selective high school. This is what parents have been spoken through the data. In the Chinatown school community, there is not yet an established K-12 aligned bilingual program for Asian American students. It is a crucial resource for minority students to adapt and transition to their new culture and learning environment. We would strongly urge that CPS follows through with its promise and commitment to providing Asian American equitable resources and culturally responsive opportunities to eliminate barriers to success.

Sincerely,

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- 5 Hello, my name is Walter Brzeski and I'm a Lane Tech Alum. The current Lane Tech administrators, teachers, students and community use words like:
- EMPATHY
  - SYMPATHY
  - KINDNESS
  - RESPECT
  - INCLUSION
  - ACCESSIBILITY
  - FREE SPEECH
  - RIGHTS
  - EQUITY
  - TRANSPARENCY
- However, Lane Tech's LSC doesn't abide by any of these words and their meanings when it comes to Public Participation in their monthly LSC meetings. In their December 2021 LSC meeting, the Lane Tech LSC voted unanimously (without a conversation among themselves) to only allow 'in-person' Public Participation. No longer could the public send an email to be read at the meeting along with participating live via an online platform or telephone as schools like Taft and Steinmetz high schools allow at their LSC meetings. Why is CPS, CPS LSC Relations Department, and the Chicago Board of Education allowing this to go on? Isn't one of the goals of LSCs to promote involvement in the community? The Lane Tech LSC prides themselves on being progressive as evidence by all their members proudly boasting of how they got rid of Lane's symbol name of INDIANS. This same Lane Tech LSC formed the LT Symbol Committee, a committee formed by the LSC that didn't abide by the Open Meetings Act and one that

never had official meetings, no meeting agendas or meeting minutes, failed to take attendance, never officially declared who was on the committee, and somehow this group gave updates at Lane Tech LSC meetings for over a year before disbanding from a lack of interest and organization. Yet, when it comes to the Lane Tech LSC being CHAMPIONS (their new symbol name and slap in the face to their opponents) and allowing for all means of Public Participation at their meetings, the Lane Tech LSC drops the ball and squelches the democratic way in favor of controlling and limiting who can and who can't participate in their meetings. And, if you have mobility, accessibility issues, you're out of luck if you can't physically attend their LSC meetings. Is this 2022 or is it still 1975 when it comes to inclusion and accessibility for all?

6 June 21, 2022

Miguel del Valle  
President

funds run out and that it must find recurring sources to close future gaps. The District still needs to address long-term issues to support personnel and spending increases, including underfunded teachers' pensions, while enrollment continues to decline. No public long-term financial plan outlining strategies for these and other challenges has been presented.

If CPS were to significantly reduce the increase to its education fund levy for the next fiscal year, the Federation could support this budget proposal because there are many positive elements that improve its overall financial outlook, including a much improved level of reserves as well as improved cash position.

Sincerely,  
Laurence J. Msall  
President

7 June 21, 2022

President del Valle and Members of the School Board Chicago Board of Education  
42 W. Madison Street Chicago, IL 60602

President de Valle and Members of the School Board,

I am writing to you today to ask for funding for Physical Education for full time teachers at all Chicago Public Schools and funding to implement CPR and AED training.

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more talents and elevate community quality and cultural level. This high school is what everyone expects. I hope it will provide a good education first and highlight Chinese culture, and therefore can diversified the Chicago public school system. Moreover, this high school should provide good extracurricular resources, entertainment, sports, services, practice, and should offer more opportunities for young people to exercise their body. Last but not the least, I also hope this high school can help improve the safety of the community.

- 16 I am the parent of a 5th grade student. My child is going to high school soon, but we have no idea what to do because all high schools are far from where we live. We are



every day. They can participate more in after-school programs like learning piano, chess, calligraphy, painting, swimming and any sports activities they like. Not only can they travel short distances by themselves and go to school safely, but our parents can also choose better jobs with peace of mind. All of this means we will have more time to participate in community civic education, financial management and parent-child social activities.





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June 15, 2022

Raquel Don o y f

Representative of Parents/Caregivers in CPS



06/19/2022

Dear Board of Education,

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group throughout the city of Chicago. It is booming in the Bridgeport area. According to the 2020 census, the Asian population has increased by 31% from the year of 2010 to 2020. It makes up 7% of the city's residents. We are thrilled that CPS's commitment to allocating the funds this year to build a high-quality neighborhood high school for the students in the Chinatown area.

Currently, CPS high schoolers in Chinatown have to commute an average of between 30 minutes to an hour to their designated high schools every day. It means that they

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# The Civic Federation

10 North Dearborn Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602 | 312-201-9066 | civicfed.org

June 21, 2022

Miguel del Valle  
President  
Chicago Board of Education  
1 North Dearborn Street, Suite 950  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President del Valle and Chicago Board of Education Members:

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providing historic financial assistance to states and local governments to mitigate  
the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Civic Federation calls upon CPS to  
utilize some of the remaining federal funds and/or reduce expenditures before taxing  
to the cap. The Federation’s analysis points out that it supported past property tax  
increases as well as the restoration of the teachers’ pension levy, which is not  
subject to the tax cap, because they were critical to resolve the District’s financial  
crisis. Chicago taxpayers have shouldered a significant burden that helped restore  
CPS to sustainability. CPS must consider that before imposing further maximum  
annual increases.

The Federation is well aware that CPS is facing difficult choices ahead as federal  
funds run out and that it must find recurring sources to close future gaps. The  
District still needs to address long-term issues to support personnel and spending  
increases, including underfunded teachers’ pensions, while enrollment continues to  
decline. No public long-term financial plan outlining strategies for these and other  
challenges has been presented.

If CPS were to significantly reduce the increase to its education fund levy for the next fiscal year, the Federation could support this budget proposal because there are many positive elements that improve its overall financial outlook, including a much improved level of reserves as well as improved cash position.



American Heart Association & American Stroke Association [Lauren.Peters@heart.org](mailto:Lauren.Peters@heart.org)



Buenos Días valiosos miembros de la Junta, Presidente del Valle y CEO Martínez.

Mi nombre es Leyde Carvajal y soy una mamá de Escuelas Acero cuyos hijos asisten a la escuela primaria Roberto Clemente en la comunidad de Belmont-Cragin. Tengo dos estudiantes en Clemente que están en séptimo grado, Adriana y Adrian. Empecé en Clemente cuando abrió por primera vez en 2012. En ese momento tenía a mi hijo mayor, Onan, inscrito en el kinder, quien se graduó y ahora está en la universidad. El apoyo que recibió mi hijo me hizo comprometerme con Clemente e inscribir a mis dos hijos.

Tanto Adriana como Adrian son estudiantes del cuadro de honor y sobresalen académicamente. Estoy orgullosa de ser parte de Roberto Clemente, que cumple con todos los estándares en SPED y disciplina e históricamente ha sido calificado como encomiable por ISBE. Las escuelas Clemente y Acero han hecho de la seguridad la principal prioridad para las familias a medida que todos regresamos al aprendizaje en

6/14/22

Board of Directors  
Chicago Public Schools  
42 W. Madison  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Board Members

We are writing this letter to express our opinion that CPS should not use the site of the former Harold Ickes Development to build a new high school, ostensibly for the Chinatown community. Chinatown has needed a local high school for decades, and we were very happy that funding for a school has finally been appropriated. There are many potential sites for a new school and we want CPS and the Board of Education to complete a thorough and transparent process to determine the best location for the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop.

When the Harold Ickes development was torn down, residents were promised the return of public and affordable housing in the CHA's Plan for Transformation. Instead, Black families were displaced, with many of them leaving Chicago. CHA's commitments have dwindled from 1008 units of housing to 68. This is unacceptable and CPS should not become a party to this betrayal.

The Chinatown community has been asking for a high school for decades. It's worth taking a few more months to make the best choice for the community's needs.

Likewise, the Harold Ickes community has been waiting for over 12 years for the city to provide them with new housing at the location they were promised. Building a high school on the Ickes land would irrevocably break that promise.

As stated above, it is important to conduct an open process involving members of all of the



I want to raise an objection to the proposed CPS budget. I represent parents and teachers at my children's school, Sabin Dual Language Magnet. I am a member of our local school council. 80% of families at Sabin are below the poverty line and our school has 98% Black and Latinx students. This is a student population that has been really hurt in the pandemic.

Due to budget cuts, kids at Sabin are going from 5 specials to only 3 in the upcoming year—we're losing technology and library classes! Meanwhile Pritzker, 3 blocks away, has 6 specials for their students. Specials should not be considered "extra"—they are key components of education and every student in the city deserves them. For racial equity to be achieved within CPS, close attention needs to be paid to the situations in individual schools. There is no one size fits all amount for low income schools. For example adding a single "lead coach" that then offsets the inequitable conditions in the school.

As a dual language school, we cannot combine dual language classes and English only classes so instead we are combining grades in the dual language program. This is hard on the teacher and makes it more difficult for the kids to catch up from the pandemic learning loss.

I attended the special sessions to learn how the extra federal covid relief money was being spent. They said covid relief money would be spent on social emotional needs for kids impacted by the pandemic, but cutting specials at Sabin and other schools is directly counter to that. Budget cuts for low income, minority schools like Sabin are the wrong decision for our kids and should not be instituted, especially when we have \$1 Billion in federal funds that have not been spent.

It is gravely shortsighted of the city to cut budgets at low income schools because a strong, healthy public school system is necessary for us to recover from the pandemic and to ultimately address violence in the city. Giving kids a shot at a future starts with well-funded public schools. The reality on the ground of this proposed budget is to continue a legacy of systemic racism within CPS. Please vote no on this budget and restore funding to our schools.

Thank you.

Hi, my name is Soo Lon Moy and I'm a retired Chicago Public Schools teacher. I taught at John C. Haines and Robert Healy Elementary Schools in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities respectively. I am also proud of the fact that I'm a product of the Chicago Public Schools. I am speaking today to urge CPS to pass the \$70 million budget proposed for a new high school to serve students in the Chinatown and Bridgeport communities.

In my teaching career of more than 30 years, as a bilingual lead teacher, I taught upper-grade Cantonese bilingual students and worked with their parents in the Bilingual Advisory Council. It was a struggle for parents and students to find a good high school to attend since there are no CPS high schools in the neighborhood.

Education is very important to immigrants. Students would benefit from a good neighborhood high school with quality education and appropriate bilingual programs without having to spend hours traveling to high schools outside of their neighborhood. The

# Joint Statement from Members of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community Education Committee

We ask that the Chicago Board of Education vote to approve funding for a new Chinatown Area High School on the Near South Side to serve the communities of Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop. For over 40 years, the Chinatown community has persisted in advocating for a neighborhood high school to serve the unique needs of students in the area. With the delay of the vote for more time for community engagement, we welcome an open and transparent discussion to jointly develop solutions that will both fund this need and not harm our neighbors.

As a coalition of parents, students, community organization leaders, and long-time residents, we envision a neighborhood high school that will serve the racially diverse, multilingual, and multicultural student population of the Chinatown Area.

- ” Located in the Chinatown Area, the high school will be accessible to local residents via numerous train and bus lines, and safe passage programs will ensure equitable access for parents and students alike.
- ” This high school will provide a closer option for many, allowing local students, parents, and community based organizations to be more involved in the school. Their involvement would help direct the school to meet the needs of the large population of immigrant families through culturally-attuned school day and after-school programs, multilingual translation services, and bilingual education programs.
- ” The high school will come equipped with world-class facilities such as a large auditorium, providing space for cultural exchange between students and the community, and a swimming pool, allowing students to maintain healthy and active lifestyles year round. Robust extracurricular offerings will bridge students across different backgrounds and interests.
- ” The high school will provide mental health support and socio-emotional learning resources for students processing the ongoing violence and bigotry that affect our diverse community.
- ” The school will offer a college preparatory curriculum with STEAM programs to introduce students to career opportunities and keep their post-secondary options open. Scheduling will permit and encourage the development of other skills and interests, including home economics.

We urge the board to allocate the \$70 million proposed by CPS and utilize the additional \$50 million that State Representative Mah has secured already for this new high school, which will be a space for all of the diverse students in the Chinatown, Bridgeport, and South Loop neighborhoods to learn and thrive with the support of their families and the neighborhood community.