1	CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2	PUBLIC HEARING
3	PROPOSED FY19 CAPITAL PLAN
4	Held on
5	Thursday, July 19, 2018
6	
7	STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
8	had in the above-entitled matter, held at Kennedy
9	King College, 740 West 63rd Street, Chicago,
10	Illinois, commencing at 6:00 o'clock p.m.
11	
12	PRESENT:
13	MS. MARY DE RUNTZ, Deputy Chief, Capital
14	Planning and Construction
15	MS. HEATHER WENDELL, Director of
16	Budgeting
17	MS. MEGAN HOUGARD, Chief of Network 11
18	MS. CHERYL WATKINS, Moderator, Chief of
19	Network 13
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23	Reported By: April T. Hansen, CSR, RPR
24	License No.: 084-004043

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MS. WATKINS: Good evening, everyone.
 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Good evening.
 MS. WATKINS: Thank you for that. I appreciate
 it. My name is Cheryl Watkins, I am Chief of
 Network 13.

On behalf of Felecia Sanders, who is Chief of Network 9, in her absence; and on behalf of Jeff Days, Chief of Network 12, in his absence; and on behalf of Megan Hougard, Chief of Network 11, we welcome you.

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This is the Capital Plan Hearing. I want to let you know who's in the room on the Chicago Public Schools' side, and then introduce a couple of people to you and then we're going to jump right in.

So we have Mary De Runtz, who is to my left. And Mary is the Deputy Chief of Capital Planning and Construction. Seated next to Chief Hougard is Heather Wendell, and Heather is the Director of Budgeting. In our audience we have Barbara Williams, who would like to say what she's here to support.

23 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Oh, I'm the sign
24 language interpreter, and if there are any deaf

1	people here, I'm here to interpret for them.
2	MS. WATKINS: Thank you for that. And we also
3	want to acknowledge Alderman Moore who is seated
4	here. Alderman.
5	ALDERMAN MOORE: Thank you.
6	MS. WATKINS: You're very welcome.
7	I'm going to ask that Megan come up and
8	give just a little bit of overview about the
9	Capital Plan Hearings. You will see me at some
10	point, if you are speaking. You will see me hold
11	up a "20 seconds" sign, and then a "time is up"
12	sign, in hopes that you are able to get things out
13	that you need to get out. You will have a
14	presentation, so we're just going to go straight
15	ahead through.
16	MS. HOUGARD: Thank you, Dr. Watkins. I would
17	like to still claim her as being a former Deputy
18	Chief of Network 11. We like to keep our people
19	close.
20	Thank you all for joining us this
21	evening. So as you know, we'll begin at 6:00 p.m.
22	and we will end promptly at 8:00 p.m. or when the
23	last speaker has concluded, whichever is earlier.
24	Those who signed up to speak will be given an

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opportunity to make a statement of up to two minutes until the meeting is adjourned.

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Speakers will be called in the order they signed up. Speakers will be limited to the topics related to the Capital Plan. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to two minutes so that everyone would like to speak will have an opportunity to do so. As Dr. Watkins referred to, we will have signs.

And then when multiple speakers from the same organization or school are listed, only one member per organization or school will be allowed to speak regarding the same issue.

If the speaker has a follow-up question, we ask that you please speak to CPS staff members. We will be on site to help you fill out follow-up cards. The full Capital Plan is on the CPS website. You can provide feedback or leave questions on the website. We will provide that on the screen, but visit CPS.edu/capitalplan for additional details.

We will now proceed with thepresentation. Thank you.

MS. De RUNTZ: Thank you, Megan.

I'm Mary De Runtz, I'm the Deputy Chief of Capital Planning and Construction, so thank you for coming out tonight and we will start with our presentation.

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The CPS Capital Budget funds long-term investments in the District such as the construction of new schools, repairs and renovations to existing schools, and other major projects.

CPS's FY19 Capital budget is funded through bonds issued by the District and funding from outside sources, and provides capital projects to over 150 CPS schools.

Improvement in CPS financial health is providing greater access to capital funding in FY19. To build on the record setting academic progress that has earned national recognition for Chicago Public Schools, CPS is investing \$989 million in capital funding for FY19, an increase of \$853 million over FY 2018 capital budget and the largest single year capital plan in more than two decades.

23 Education investment highlights include24 state-of-the-art high school science labs, high

speed internet access and devices, expansion of free full-day pre-K, IB, STEM, Magnets, and Classical ed expansion programs.

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there are three key academic initiatives that support our optimal learning, and that's one is warm, safe, and dry, which is deferred maintenance; education programs; and overcrowding.

A prioritized list of critical building needs to support academic initiatives. Mechanical systems such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and controls, building envelope, roof, masonry, and windows, represent 90 percent of the capital building needs in our District.

We also have safety, which is fire alarms, security, security cameras, playgrounds needing repairs and replacement, and other systems such as turf field, AC replacement, and pool upgrades.

19 Critical building needs are
20 geographically diverse and include all SQRP levels.
21 Education programs and enrollment provide capital
22 investment opportunity.

Going back to our initial side when wetalked about the three initiatives, you can see

them across here. Warm, safe, and dry, education programs, and overcrowding.

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The opportunity for warm, safe, and dry is to prioritize our critical needs. We have a \$1.8 billion critical needs in our District. Academic capital investments include IB, STEM, Magnet, pre-K, modernized computing and military. And overcrowding is to provide space for overcrowded or soon to be overcrowed schools.

10 You want to jump down to tactical and key 11 considerations, which ensure we address life, safety, and environmental concerns, and warm, safe, 12 13 and dry. Academic research suggests 14 well-maintained and well-equipped school buildings support learning. Under education programs, 15 technical and key consideration. Ensure programs 16 such as the science STEM labs, art, music rooms, 17 18 facility renovations. Opportunity for Magnet or IB, and the one-to-one computing. And then 19 20 overcrowding, invest in schools that are 21 experiencing overcrowding and projecting future 22 growth.

FY19 finance plan covers capital
expenditures projected through the majority of FY

1 2020. These are a list of the bonding funding 2 sources, and they equate to \$989 million. The FY 2019 capital budget includes \$989 3 million for facility needs, programmatic 4 investments, overcrowding relief, IT, security and 5 building system investments, site improvements, 6 7 capital projects support services, contingencies for additional outside funded projects. It's the 8 largest single year capital investment in our 9 10 schools in over two decades. 11 The FY19 capital budget includes \$336 million for facility needs such as exterior 12 envelope projects, roofs for example, mechanical, 13 14 and maintenance projects. The budget also includes \$339 million 15 for programmatic improvements such as new schools, 16 state of the art high school science labs, 17 18 expansion of free full-day pre-K, and the IB, STEM, Magnet and Classical expansion. 19 20 The FY19 capital budget includes \$138 21 million to overcrowding relief at five schools. 22 The budget also includes \$88 million for 23 investments in IT, security, and building system 24 improvements, including \$50 million in funding

towards District-wide one-to-one modernized computing.

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The FY19 Capital Budget includes \$46 million for site improvements such as space to grow, play lots, and turf fields. The budget also includes \$25 million in support service to implement capital projects, \$16 million in potential land acquisitions, and \$1 million in contingency for additional outside funded projects.

Up here you will see a map. The FY19 capital expenditures are allocated in a way that supports students across all areas of the District. For example, state of the art high school science labs, high speed Internet access and devices, expansion of free full-day pre-K, IB, STEM, Magnet and Classical expansion. So these dots represent where the programs that we just listed are located.

18 And that concludes the presentation.19 Thank you.

MS. WATKINS: So we are at the public comment portion of tonight. What we will do is we'll call your name. You actually have cards that have your number on them, and right now we have someone who is retrieving the rest of the speakers, if indeed

there are more. Right now there are 11. 1 2 I think it would be beneficial if you 3 would come up in groups of four. So speaker 1, 2, 3 and 4 would be in line, and then we will call the 4 5 next ones. So remember you will have two minutes, 6 7 and you will get some little flashes of paper that say "1 minute," "20 seconds," and then "time is up" 8 9 from me, and I'll just be seated right there. The first speaker is Royce Cunningham, 10 11 and may I say that your printing is beautiful. 12 From the educator. So you can step right up to the 13 microphone there. 14 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Thank you so much. MS. WATKINS: Behind Mr. Cunningham is Sarah 15 16 Rothschild, Gerald Johnson, and Natunji West. 17 Ms. West, I did pronounce that correctly? 18 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: NO. 19 MS. WATKINS: No. She said no. Come on. tell 20 me what it is? I want to get it right. 21 Natunji. MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: 22 MS. WATKINS: Natunji. Thank you. So you are 23 speaker No. 4, so if you can line up in that order. 24 Speaker No. 1, Royce Cunningham; speaker No. 2,

1	Sarah Rothschild; speaker No. 3, Gerald Johnson;
2	and then speaker No. 4, Natunji West.
3	Now I see five to be up there, coming up
4	there. Mr. Johnson? Somebody is Mr. Johnson?
5	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Yes.
6	MS. De RUNTZ: Okay, there we go.
7	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: It's two Johnsons, one
8	is Gerald and one is Darryl.
9	MS. WATKINS: This is Gerald.
10	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Just clarifying.
11	MS. WATKINS: Okay. So I'm going to don't
12	start talking yet. I'm going to sit down with my
13	timer, and then so actually Megan is going to
14	time you, which I just love.
15	You may begin.
16	MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good evening, everyone. You
17	guys hear me okay? I'm Royce Cunningham, and I am
18	the vice chair of the Dolittle LSC, and I am the
19	community representative on the LSC.
20	I'm speaking on behalf of the Dolittle
21	students. Those families have had their third
22	principal in four years. And I am also the
23	director of the Real Men Breed program in
24	collaboration with the neighborhood school and

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Urban Rep Academy.

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Those students are sharing some outdated technology, computers. With over 300 students in the building, they are down to 30 or 40 machines. Breaks my heart to see the classes where they are doubling up on computers.

It's imperative that this funding be used to modernize the technology within these schools, including Dolittle. Our students don't have the chance, if they are unable to compete globally, if they are not computer literate, it just won't happen. With our room read program, we want to read along with the students as they have their own computers as some of the fluent (inaudible) and when that end.

So in closing, please ensure that the proper financial resources are allocated to the schools such as Dolittle to make sure that these students, that these neighborhood students, become neighborhood leaders. We can't do it without the proper resources. Thank you so much.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Rothschild.

MS. ROTHSCHILD: Hi. I work for CTU, and I was

McCorkle Litigation Services, Inc. Chicago, Illinois (312) 263-0052 the institutional liaison to the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force for the years that that was in effect, and helped write the bill that oversees facility planning and spending management in CPS.

And this is one more example, year after year, of gross violation of the law and complete reckless spending and it's completely inequitable. You haven't done any facility needs assessment since 2014, so you don't even know the condition of your buildings. There is no facility master plan for the District, which is in complete violation of state law. Why are you building annexes when there are nearby schools with under enrollment and you could just (inaudible).

Waters Elementary in Lincoln Square is right next to Albany Park, which is losing students because of charter expansion and because of unaffordable housing issues. Children in Albany Park are doubling up in their classes. They're 21 having to split level reading classes, and you're giving annexes to wealthy schools just east of it. That's completely inequitable.

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Our neighborhood schools are crumbling.

They're full of rodents and infested. Yet you're spending millions in programmatic investments in elite tactical schools for the top students. There are only three reasons schools ever get capital support in Chicago: Gentrification, school actions, and political clout. You're holding our schools hostage for the benefit of developers and to get the Mayor's supports reelected.

CPS should not move forward with this Capital Plan until it complies with state law and completes a comprehensive and democratically developed educational facilities master plan.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

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Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: That's tough to follow.

My name is Gerald Johnson, I'm the 16 Hi. 17 co-chair of the Devon High School LSC. I'm here 18 with our other LSC members. Devon High School is a 19 small high school on the southeast side of Chicago. 20 Small is not bad for us because all the teachers 21 know the students' names and we have a very thriving community. We just recently ordered a 22 23 contract for the principal, Principal Horton, and 24 she has provided a very strong vision and dedicated energy to where the growth of the school is heading to.

Devon has a pre-energy program and working machine shop, which is something unique to the schools in the area. We are expanding with the number of advanced placement classes and what we are doing is changing our environment and ensuring we're reflecting positive messages through our parents, through facilities, and the attitude of teachers, staff, and parents.

One of the things I didn't hear addressed, maybe you can address this at some point later, is when does the program start. When do you actually start spending, when will you actually start seeing the facilities change.

And the second thing, question posed, also is who and how were the schools selected to determine where these resources would go to.

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That's all I got.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you so much.

Ms. West.

MS. WEST: Hello. I am the LSC chair for Bronzeville Scholastic Institute, and I'm here to speak on behalf of the school because we are a

1	boutique school. We are in the building of DuSable
2	High School, which is a historic building. It does
3	need upgrading, because I've been in the school
4	with my kids between the two, like, six years, and
5	there hasn't been any improvement in the building
6	at all. It's crumbling. And our kids need our
7	kids needs to be able to compete with the rest of
8	the world. And we're an IB school. So if we don't
9	have those resources and equipment to compete, how
10	can our kids even, as an IB school, how can they
11	compete with the world like they're supposed to.
12	They can't without the resources.
13	Thank you.
14	MS. WATKINS: Thank you very much.
15	I would like to now call Mary Long,
16	speaker No. 5. Hannah Hayes, speaker No. 6.
17	Keriesha Charleston, speaker No. 7. And Pamela
18	Smith, speaker No. 8. So Mary Long, Hannah Hayes.
19	Are you Ms. Hayes?
20	MS. HAYES: Yes.
21	MS. De RUNTZ: Keriesha Charleston, okay. And
22	Pamela Smith. Is Ms. Smith in line? Okay. There
23	you are. Thank you. And there is one behind you?
24	Okay, thank you. I just want to make sure I wasn't

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missing anyone.

Please go ahead.

MS. LONG: Good evening. My name is Mary Long, and I'm president of the Sacred Ground Ministries and community partner with Hirsh High School. We partnered with Hirsh in 2012 and we've worked with the school administration since then providing mentorship, tutoring, social services, parenting support, volunteer support, and other services to the administration, staff, students of Hirsh Metropolitan High School. We know that you can't do it all. We do our part as a community. But we need the support of the Board in order for our school to thrive.

I stand here representing a coalition of residents, business owners, students, and parents organized as the Greater Grand Crossing Strategic Implementation Team. Our goal is revitalization of our community and our neighborhood schools.

20 We need the Board to end the neglect we 21 suffer under. As I review your 2019 financial 22 plan, there are no plans to provide the Grand 23 Crossing community with the upgrades we need to 24 provide a quality education and our neighborhood schools.

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We hear repeated questions. The community wants to go to Hirsh. That why should I send my child to Hirsh? Well, we answer loudly, the residents of Grand Crossing has signed almost a thousand petitions saying that they are tired of traveling to and from long distance trying to get their child to selected enrollment schools, and that they would enroll in Hirsh High School when the Board funds advanced placement classes and qualified instructors, institute first responder 11 academy, build a fully functioning school library, and provide a state of the art computer lab. 14 Student athletes will enroll when the 15 Board funds a quality sports program with updated equipment and skilled physical education staff. Students with technology --17 18 Ma'am. it's time. MS. WATKINS: MS. LONG: -- will enroll. 19 20 MS. WATKINS: Ms. Long, your time is up here. 21 Thank you. MS. LONG: Can I get more one minute, please? 23 MS. WATKINS: NO. 24 MS. LONG: Okay. So we are asking the Board --

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1	MS. WATKINS: Ms. Long, I'm sorry, dear. Your
2	time is up. We can only give two minutes per
3	speaker. But you are welcomed to come afterwards
4	to talk to the individuals who are representing
5	here. So thank you so much.
6	MS. LONG: Thank you.
7	MS. WATKINS: Yes, ma'am.
8	Ms. Hayes.
9	MS. HAYES: My name is Hannah Hayes, I'm the
10	LSC community rep at Reavis Elementary Math and
11	Science School. Like many schools in the south
12	side, we have waited far too long for facility
13	upgrades. In fact, we are called the math and
14	science specialty school, but we don't even have a
15	science lab. We virtually have no support with
16	that title.
17	While our teachers do the best they can,
18	we feel our students deserve more. Like other
19	people were saying, I felt very dismayed when I
20	first saw the Capital Improvement Plan because it
21	seemed like there was so much new construction,
22	building annexes, when there are so many
23	neighborhood schools on the south side, like
24	Reavis, that really need these repairs we have been

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waiting for.

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So we were notified that we are on the list for repairs, so I do want to read some of those off because I think these are shared by many schools on the south side.

So initiative science lab, which I think is (inaudible) for STEM schools. We have a lot of health-related things which are tied to mechanical repairs. Like air conditioners, like a lot of other schools that do not have air conditioning in working and we know that impacts our students' health and learning. The gym is so badly in need of repairs. We have mold coming from the ceiling. Our plumbing is over 50 years old. There have been very few updates. The faucets leak, so the bathrooms are sometimes full of water and not useable. Our engineer reported that our hot water system, the circulating pump, the ventilation system all is in need of repairs.

Our security system is so old that it's pretty useless. So when you go to look at a picture from the camera, you can't even see anything, who is what. Our engineer also pointed out that LED lamps would be very cost effective. There's other things. But I want to say I think the previous speaker wanted to say is that we really hope that this Capital Improvement Plan will benefit neighborhood schools on the south side that have been overlooked for so long.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

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MS. CHARLESTON: Yes. In 2013, 50 schools were closed on the south and west sides, and those children look like me. And now, five years later, there are still schools that are on the south and west side that are not getting money. I do not understand why the Board continues to give it to affluent schools and not the neighborhoods that need it.

It doesn't make sense that the way you can get a fair education with the Board is either the way you look or where you live. And that is not fair.

MS. WATKINS:

Ms. Smith.

MS. SMITH: I live in the 7th Ward. This budget disproportionately favors the north side Magnet, selective enrollment schools, whereas schools that service black and brown students are

Thank vou.

1 undercut and under funded. 2 For instance, in the one the heating is 3 The heating is either 100 or off on there sub par. 4 and the children and adults suffer nose bleeds. Or 5 faulty outlets, crumbling windowsills, things of 6 that nature. Security cameras that do not work. 7 we need support. We need resources for 8 all, all students, in the City of Chicago. And we 9 need an environment for all our students to be educated. That is conducive to learning. Thank 10 11 you. 12 MS. WATKINS: Thank you. 13 Speaker 9, Debra Hass. Speaker 10, Mr. Curtis, last name Bynum? 14 15 MR. BYNUM: You got it right. 16 MS. WATKINS: Thank you, sir. 17 Ms. Edwards? I can't read the first 18 name. MS. EDWARDS: Yletha. 19 20 MS. WATKINS: Ms. Yletha Edwards, speaker 11. 21 And Jose -- is it Requene? 22 MR. REQUENE: Requene. 23 Okay. Thank you. Speaker 12. MS. WATKINS: 24 You may begin.

MS. HASS: Good evening. I'm Deb Hass, speaking for Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education. Regarding (inaudible), how did CPS came to a decision? Where is the transparency? How is it laid out to the public? To have a fair framework based on needs, how did CPS engage the community on these decisions?

CPS did not update their facility assessments as required by law in 2017. This information is vital to the public and to having a solid plan. We are not against any school getting the necessary repairs and upgrades they need. Most schools have waited far too long for facility upgrades from CPS.

What we are asking is for information on how CPS chooses who has to wait and who doesn't. Parents, schools, and the public deserve the right to know this, and a more equitable framework where every school that has a crumbling roof or failed plumbing system is considered equal and worthy of capital dollars. (Inaudible) CPS has \$3 million in unmet capital needs for their existing buildings, but 60 percent of their capital budget since 2011 spent on new construction or new programming. In

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this budget. 33 and 36 million is going to needs at existing schools, and 600 million is going to new construction and programs.

Why is CPS spending so much on new construction when basic needs aren't being met? We think CPS should halt new construction until they improve their practice of community engagement and transparent governance and should value the needs of all students equally.

CPS must provide a transparent 11 explanation to the public on what factors they use to determine which schools are priorities and which schools get passed over for improvements. By law, 13 14 CPS is supposed to adhere to a long term facility plan in developing with robust community input 15 regarding our students. When hundreds of millions 16 17 of public dollars are expended with no transparency 18 about the process and no oversight, that's a 19 problem. The CPS unelected Board of Education 20 should not vote on a capital plan, but instead 21 should engage in a transparent equitable process to 22 determine capital projects.

Thank you.

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Mr. Bynum.

MS. WATKINS:

MR. BYNUM: Yes, good evening. So real quick, it just doesn't make sense. I'm looking at that a total of \$564 million is being spent. And out of that, 40 percent of that money is being spent on the north side. Okay, that's fine. New math, I get it, all right. But I want to say this point to it. We are going to have an election coming 2019 and we know where this falls. This is clearly the mayor's doing. So if the mayor doesn't see an investment in this community, it's high time that fool is out of office.

MS. WATKINS: Ms. Edwards.

MS. EDWARDS: Good evening. I am Yletha Edwards. I'm a citizen of the south side Shore Community. I am a teacher at Walt Disney Magnet School, which is on the north side. My school is great. We have great resources.

But I'm here because I'm concerned. I'm concerned about the dis-investment in certain communities and the prioritizing of funding in the north and central communities versus the south and west communities. This message has been ringing clear all night long.

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Where I live schools are lacking

resources. I'm again concerned about this. The south and west side schools has been always under this mayor's misleadership are again being shortchanged. The CPS CEO has called smaller projects on the south and west sides in an equity effort, but I think we know they are in fact racist, classist, inadequate, and unfair.

When it's time for me to, of course, send my child to school, I want a quality education for my child. So we need an elected school board. We need to invest in all students and all schools so receiving an education that is fair for everyone. And parents can feel good about sending their child to a quality school for a quality education.

MS. WATKINS: Mr. Requene, good evening.

MR. REQUENE: Thank you. I'm Jose Requene, I'm a teacher assistant at Edwards Elementary. I want to say my school is very fortunate. We're one of the the schools that had an annex added to their building, and it really alleviates our overcrowding issue. It replaced four outdoor classroom modules and satellite campus and it created a much better culture, a lot more morale within the school.

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Parents now drop off and pick up their kids with a lot more comfort and a lot more pride.

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But we have to be really honest about why we got that annex in 2016, and that's putting political pressure on Edward Burke, one of the longest serving aldermen in the City of Chicago and chair of the finance committee.

It was not an easy fight. Not every one of the staff or faculty, parents or their children, enjoyed this victory were able to stay on or get credit for this. But the truth of these capital budgets in Chicago is that they're political budgets where the people on top pick the winners and losers based on their immediate political calculus.

The politics of Eddie Burke and, you know, other people. Joe Berrios would push back on the scrutiny that his office received. However, we saw that, you know, the people of Chicago wants to hold him to account and his office.

And -- I'm sorry. So I just want to say to the citizens of Chicago, look to the finance committee, to the aldermen that are going to be running in 2019. Look to the leadership of the finance committee, look at people whose tenure has
 been around since Daley the first, since Mayor
 Sawyer, since Harold Washington. Eddie Burke was
 actually very active during Harold Washington's
 tenure. He was there for Daley the second, and now
 this other guy.

So who created the political culture that favors these political budgets? And that's what I would like everyone to think about when they go vote in February 2019. Thank you.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you. Speaker 13, Guadalupe Valerio. Speaker 14, Mayra Cuevas.

Am I pronounce that correctly? MS. CUEVAS: Yes.

MS. WATKINS: Okay, thank you. Speaker 15, Kimberly Henry. And speaker 16, Tiffany Harper.

Are you Ms. Harper at the end?

MS. HARPER: Yes.

MS. DE RUNTZ: Okay. So go ahead, Ms. Cuevas.
MS. CUEVAS (Through Interpreter): Good
afternoon. My name is Mayra Cuevas and I'm a
president of the LSC and I'm here representing the
school Henry Clay.

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And I'm to ask that the school gets

reparations. We have broken roofs, the bathrooms need sanitation, and the kitchen. We don't have air conditioner. The floor of the playroom is broken, we have had lot of accidents because the floor is broken, then the kids have broken their arms and their legs. The gym's roof is falling, especially when the kids exercise.

The windows of the classrooms are old and they also need reparation. The restrooms of the girls, the girls' restrooms don't have doors. And we special request is that our buildings are in good condition to represent our students.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

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MS. CUEVAS: That's all.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

Ms. Evans?

MS. WICKUM: Good afternoon. My name is Latoya Wickum (phonetic) and I'm a student or former student at Henry Clay, and now I'm a current student at Gwendolyn Brooks.

I want to go for Gwendolyn Brooks first. Most of the money goes to the sports department which I don't think is fair because the arts department is messed up right now. It's always been torn up, kids are tripping. We don't have proper instruments. My teacher has to spend money from his own pocket to repair instruments. Which, I mean, some people go for the profession of the arts, and I don't think that is fair that just athletics is supported. We ask what you spent your money on.

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So Clay, some things she didn't touch. I'm a woman, I have something come every once in while at the end of the month. I know you guys can't provide that, but I would like if you guys put like a metal bin to support stuff. Because I'm sick and tired of girls throwing them up in the air or trying to flush it down an already broken toilet.

And the cafeteria, our school is like 100 16 17 years old, I think 101 now, and we have old pipes. 18 Our, like, our walls are chipping. The playground, kids, their school is on top of the slide, kids 19 20 stick their head up like because they're younger. 21 The towels from the playground are also like 22 falling off. Kids trip, there are accidents every 23 day. I don't think that's good. It's not safe. 24 From you what guys keep talking about,

1	that it's warm, safe, and dry. I don't think it's
2	true when water leaks down from the gym. So I
3	wouldn't like this to be like a joke type of thing,
4	but I guess that's what the Board of Education
5	thinks of it.
6	MS. WATKINS: Thank you.
7	Ms. Harper.
8	MS. HARPER: My name is Tiffany Harper, I'm a
9	fifth grade gifted teacher at Beasley Academic
10	Center on 52nd and State Street.
11	Beasley used to be that light that shown
12	bright right across the street from the Robert
13	Taylor Homes back in the day, and I wish I could
14	have taught during those times. Beasley today,
15	that light is kind of dim. In fact, it's almost
16	made a 180 degree turn from the Beasley that I'm
17	constantly hearing about.
18	We have no playground, no music teacher,
19	yet we have this beautiful music room with all of
20	these instruments. We have a lovely industrial
21	arts room, yet no industrial arts teacher. In
22	fact, this room is used to hang up coats and
23	book bags.
24	We have a library but there is no

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librarian, no library teacher, no library resources. We have a dance room, yet there is no dance teacher. In fact, due to the behavior, the students thought it was a good idea to go in the dance room and shatter the mirrors.

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I am a fifth grade gifted teacher and the gifted program there is actually dwindling. We have no gifted curriculum. We have no curriculum. This past year, thank God for donors' shoes and other companies that feel our pain and generous donors outside of the educational realm, I was able to teach reading, math, through novel sets, Chromebooks, pens, pencils. The list goes on and on and on. I'm that teacher that walks into Office Depot and says, "Hi, I'm a teacher. Is there anything you can donate to my class? We have nothing."

I know about the great resources in the past because they're still in my room, dated 1988.

Perhaps this panel could go back to the decision makers and relay the message to invest money to all students at all schools. And that map that you shown just a minute ago with the Chicago map with the dots? Perhaps maybe this little one

1	here can shade it all in blue so all schools
2	receive what we need. Thank you.
3	MS. WATKINS: Thank you. May I just make sure?
4	Ms. Henry, Kimberly Henry?
5	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: She's declining.
6	MS. WATKINS: She's declining. Okay. I just
7	wanted to make sure I didn't miss anyone. Thank
8	you.
9	We will start with speaker 17, LaTonya
10	Gordon. Speaker 18, Brenda Pious.
11	Did I say that correctly? I hope I did.
12	MS. PIOUS: Pious.
13	MS. WATKINS: Pious, thank you. Speaker 19,
14	Shakia Smith. And speaker 20, David Vanis.
15	MR. VANIS: I decline.
16	MS. WATKINS: And Mr. David Vanis. Thank you
17	so much, sir.
18	Yes, ma'am.
19	MS. GORDON: Good evening. I grew up in the
20	9th Ward, I bought my home in the 9th Ward, I work
21	in the 9th ward, and I am a product of Chicago
22	Public Schools.
23	So I think I have enough background
24	knowledge to know what I have seen over the years.

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I've been with Chicago Public Schools for over 20 I've been in many buildings from the south vears. side to the east side to the west side. Never on the north side. The conditions and status of some of the schools, be it because they are closed or horrible in conditions, affect property values. I live in that ward, so it does affect my property value as well.

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Schools are a reflection of the communities and the children that they serve. 11 while my school is awesome, and it really is, it really is, it's a diamond in the rough so to speak, but all students should have access to the same resources that the 40 percent is going towards in the other communities. There is not only a racial divide but a classism divide that perpetuates segregation across the city that dates back years before I was even born, and I'm 45.

Just like they say cleanliness is next to 19 20 godliness, a good clean environment with adequate 21 and appropriate resources that are not outdated is 22 crucial for a positive learning environment that 23 affects our students. Thank you.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you. Ms. Pious.

MS. PIOUS: Hello, and thank you for the 1 2 invitation to come and speak today. I'm the newly 3 elected chair of Nicholson STEM Academy. 4 I'm not familiar with all of the concerns of the school, but I'm learning every day what 5 those are. I know that security is an issue. An 6 air conditioning unit and heating unit, and just 7 8 other basic things that come with wear and tear of 9 a building. 10 But I do stand in solidarity with 11 everyone here who has spoken. I can appreciate 12 your concerns, and I do stand with you and I thank 13 you for the time. 14 MS. WATKINS: Thank you. Ms. Smith. 15 16 MS. SMITH: Hello. My name is Shakia Smith. Τ 17 am an educator, taxpayer here in Chicago, and 18 product of Chicago Public Schools. 19 I think it unfair that I have had to 20 travel to three different states in order to get a 21 proper education because I can't get it here in 22 I think that it sets the students in my Chicago. 23 neighborhood at disadvantages that they can't 24 receive the same resources as the students on the

north side and west side because they look like me and not like others. I just was hoping that you guys would really think about what is the right thing to do and not just what is your job, and make sure everybody is getting an equitable education and the funding they need.

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Our students want to be successful just like you guys are sitting up here, and it's on and off and unfair that you just become a security at McDonald's or WalMart or chip policy. So I just request that you guys give our students the same type of funding that you would want your children to have.

MS. WATKINS: The next speakers, speaker 21, Rodney Brooks. Speaker 22, Michael E. Brunson. Speaker 23, Edward Ford. And speaker 24, Jose Garza.

Thank you.

MR. BROOKS: Good evening. My name is Rodney
Brooks, I am the LSE chair of secondary at Cook,
8150 Bishop Street.

22 My concern is when I looked at the budget 23 that -- I'm kind of echoing what most have spoken 24 on this evening, that what is CPS doing to ensure that not only money is being allotted to the schools, but it's been allotted to those that need it most. Again, thankfully we've had the fortune to have Ms. Janet Jackson to come over to Cook in 2016 and she ensured that we got a science lab at the school over the summer last year. Also, currently, Spaces to Grow has helped to create a new play space, a community space for us behind Cook School that is in progress at the moment through the work of our interim (inaudible) Ms. Carol Short and the current, Dr. Esses.

But we are a long way from where we need to be to ensure that our students are better served. Bathrooms definitely are in disrepair. And I am a proponent of the CPS school system. I came from the school system, both elementary and high schools.

But there is a piece that I feel is missing in addition to the STEM that CPS is pushing. There is an arts and music piece that I think would go hand in hand with that STEM piece to ensure a well-rounded student, well-rounded children. And as a parent, speaking from experience, I'm transporting my senior across town

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to a selective enrollment school because the 1 2 opportunities in the neighborhood, in the 3 communities, just don't offer what I feel my child 4 deserve as a student. 5 Thank you. MS. WATKINS: 6 Mr. Brunson. 7 MR. BRUNSON: Hello, everyone. I know all the 8 money is going up north and other places like that 9 and it's not enough going here. Now. I done have 10 three choices of where to go. But I decided come 11 with the (inaudible) and that's right here with 12 these people right here. And I'm glad to see we have fellow teachers here, I have fellow members in 13 14 red over here, and I see Action Now over here in 15 blue. You're always heading down for our community and everything. So I want everyone to give 16 17 everybody a hand who come up and stood up here with 18 me, because this is where you're going to get 19 things to work. 20

Now, I just wish I had been there when you put that budget together. Because I see you putting things in STEM. One thing about STEM is every time you think about STEM you think about computer programing and the IT and all of that. But we need people, we need plumbers, we need carpenters, we need to work with leather. We need people who know how to build things so we can rebuild our neighborhood.

So I'm hoping that you can put some of that towards that and not everything towards computer. And that is one thing.

The other thing is I go to a lot of the schools around here, and I can tell you there are not enough adults in these schools. So if you can put some more money in things like restorative justice practices, and if you come, I can give you all the help you need on that. We need to be concerned about the conditions of our schools because there's too much violence in some of them. Kids are fighting each other. They are attacking our members. And we got parents coming in the school trying to settle scores.

So I need you to keep all these important things up front, okay. And the next time you all put a budget together, you all know how to get in touch with me. Call me, I'll help you out. Thank you very much.

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MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

MR. FORD: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Edward Ford. I'm a proud parent. Τ have a 5th grader now at (inaudible). Proud to say that every time I say it.

Mr. Ford.

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with that being said, for us outside on (inaudible) the board with this custody work out hard over there. They don't have much. I'm hoping that we get a lot and I'm hoping that they can start from working their way down to everybody on the south side to get that funding.

I'm not going to beat CPS up right now because the governor got to be got right now to pass a budget. And, you know, pass the budget now. So I know it put CPS in restraint about what you can and cannot do. But I do want to see some improvement, and part of me is coming up to see how well they do spend our money on our children and hopefully everything work out fine.

I don't want to say, like I say, I don't 21 want to beat up on you all too much because you all just got the money and you all haven't placed it nowhere yet to our liking. So I want to see that first, and then I'll comment about the budget plan

itself.

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MS. WATKINS: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Garza.

MR. GARZA: Hello, Dr. Watkins. Good to see you.

MS. WATKINS: Good evening.

MR. GARZA: I'm the LSC chair at (inaudible) and I came here to thank you because we are in line for new Internet upgrades and new computers and new iPads. We are not listed on the list of schools receiving it, but this is what I've heard. So I come here to thank you for that.

I'd also like to say that we need an updated playground. Our tiles are falling apart and it's a safety concern for many of the parents. And we need a new cafeteria. It's outdated and has many safety concerned associated with it.

So I'm hoping, if there is money that is rejected or not wanted from the north side, it would be channeled our way, because you can be sure we need that much.

And also, the vice chair at George Washington High School, and I came here to thank you for the work that's going to be done there. We're getting new roof, which is fantastic. Our students are had to suffer from mold issues with the school for many years. And this came about because our students civics group engaged Board of Education on the roof, and it was great that they were heard and action was taken. So thank you for that.

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we are also getting pool repairs, which we are grateful for, and a new science lab. So thank you very much for what you're doing for Network 13 in regard to (inaudible) and George Washington High School.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you. Now, speaker 25, Ms. Baker. I can't read the name.

15 Is that you? Tell me your name. 16 Sharon Baker. MS. BAKER: 17

MS. WATKINS: Sharon Baker.

MS. BAKER: Yes. I was scribbling, I'm sorry.

I'm going to give you a D in 19 MS. WATKINS: 20 handwriting.

21 MS. BAKER: And now that you said that, that's 22 how our kids are because you all are not doing what 23 you're supposed to be doing.

MS. WATKINS: I'm just playing with you,

1 Ms. Baker. 2 MS. BAKER: And I'm plaving with vou. too. Ι hope so because I say playing with you, it was just 3 4 smoke. MS. WATKINS: So wait, wait, wait. Hold on one 5 6 second. 7 So speaker 25 -- that will teach me, I 8 won't play with anybody else. Darryl Johnson is 9 speaker 26. And Tanya Watts, you're speaker 27. 10 Go ahead. 11 MS. BAKER: Thank you. First of all, I want to 12 apologize to you. I'm not saying it to be 13 offensive, but that's how it felt. And second, to 14 give me two minutes to speak is not enough. 15 First of all, we come here to come out because our kids are crying. You know, we on the 16 17 south side. Look here. On the north side, they 18 don't have to come out. And if you look at that 19 budget. that budget is not for us over here. You 20 pick out what you want and do what you want. Why 21 don't you ask us? Have a round table and ask what 22 we want. 23 These kids are crying for education. We 24 got a budget from the year I was born, 1976. I

1 know the schools has still got to give us the 2 chance to make it. The world is -- we want to be 3 there to take care of our kids as well as you take 4 care of yours. It takes a village to raise a 5 child. We need it. We crying. Can you please 6 help us.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

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Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name is Darryl Johnson. I am the chairperson at Corliss High School. I'm also the parent of a senior at Corliss High School and a product of CPS.

13 I have a bunch of concerns. I know I only got three minutes. I heard some of the other 14 15 speakers speak before me, and one of the things that I was taken aback by was when I registered my 16 daughter in Corliss, there is a charter school in 17 18 the same building. You know, you got a charter school, Corliss High School right there in the 19 20 building. And I think that is a total disservice 21 to the community, you know, to have those schools 22 there together. You know, it makes no sense. 23 They're in the same building. They got the same, 24 you know, line going down the middle of the gym

where Butler got this side of the gym, Corliss got this side of the gym. They got a swimming pool that they talking about converting into a garden, you know.

I also heard somebody speak about technical stuff in schools. We need to get back to that carpenter, electrical work, brick laying, anything where a person can come out of high school and go directly to work. All of our children are not college bound. They are students, you know. It's a fact.

One of the things -- and another thing, I drove on my way over here I saw them breaking ground for this multitude high school over here right there in Roslyn where I went to high school at, and I can't understand what makes them think putting three high schools together in one building is going to work. You ain't going to have nothing but violence. You got kids crossing over into other areas, it's not going to work. I guarantee you within five years it's going to be an empty warehouse.

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Ms. Watts.

MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

MS. WATTS: Good evening. My name is Tanya Watts. I am a (inaudible) of the 7th Ward, and I'm part of the LSC for Coles Elementary located at 8441 South Phillips.

My concern is that I've been on this LSC for a while I'm also a product of (inaudible) school. I don't understand how you all every year take away the budget for teachers or assistant principals. We don't have enough teachers to help teach the children what they need to learn and how they need to learn. So many children are in one classroom with one teacher. Teachers can't teach 50 children in one class. They don't have teachers since -- we don't have the proper supplies to help our kids get the education that they need. I don't know how that goes.

Also, I saw on the budget where you all are supposed to help with the parking lot or the areas. Kids trip, fall. It's unlevel. Our parking lot is not level at all. You have a hill on one side then you have a big huge pothole on the other side. So I just don't understand why they do that.

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I just want to see our schools and our

1	kids get better funding, better education, just as
2	just the same thing everyone else is saying. It's
3	just not fair.
4	MS. WATKINS: Thank you.
5	That does conclude the public speaking
6	portion.
7	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Can I sign up?
8	MS. WATKINS: I'm sorry. The sign up ended at
9	6:30.
10	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: (Speaking Spanish).
11	MS. WATKINS: So thank you all for coming. I
12	am again speaking on behalf of all of the chiefs
13	for the networks when I say we really do appreciate
14	you coming. I know that if you have further
15	comments, I'm not sure if there are if there are
16	cards. There are cards.
17	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Why can't he speak? We
18	are supposed to be here until 8:00.
19	MS. WATKINS: He was the last speaker who
20	signed up and the sign up time is 6:30.
21	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: It is difficult to get
22	to these meetings. We come from all over the place
23	to get to these meetings. You guys have it so
24	difficult to have

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1	MS. WATKINS: So thank you very much for that
2	comment. I appreciate your presence. Have a great
3	evening. If you would like to speak to anyone
4	here, you're welcome to do that, sir. Thank you.
5	(Which were all the
6	proceedings had in the above
7	cause this date and time.)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF C O O K

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April T. Hansen, being first duly sworn on oath, says that she is a court reporter doing business in the City of Chicago, and that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of said meeting, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid, and contains the excerpts of proceedings given at said meeting.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I hereunto set my verified digital signature this 7th day of August, 2018.

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Ill nois Certified Shorthand Reporter

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