

CHI CAGO BOARD OF EDUCATI ON
FY 22 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING

(Zoom)

hel d on

Jul y 20, 2021

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
had in the above-entitled matter held via Zoom,
Chi cago, Illi noi s, commencing at 6:04 p. m. and
concl udi ng at 7:28 p. m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

MR. MI GUEL del VALLE, Presi dent

MR. SENDHI L REVULURI , Vi ce Presi dent

MS. LUI SI ANA MELENDEZ

MS. AMY ROME

MR. LUCI NO SOTELO (Arrived at 6:15 p. m.)

MS. ELI ZABETH TODD-BRELAND

MR. DWAYNE TRUSS

Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR

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APPEARANCES:

MR. JOSEPH MORIARTY, General Counsel
DR. JOSE TORRES, Interim Chief Executive
Officer (Arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
MS. LINDY McGUIRE, Interim Chief
Operating Officer
MS. ESTELA BELTRAN, Secretary to the
Board

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(Whereupon, the following
proceedings commenced at
6:04 p.m.)

PRESIDENT del VALLE: Good evening,
Ladies and gentlemen, I am Miguel del Valle, on
behalf of my fellow Board Members, welcome to
the first Fiscal Year 22 Budget Hearing. Today
is July 20th, 2021. We are holding the first
Fiscal Year 22 Budget Hearing electronically via
Zoom. The purpose of this first hearing is to
comply with the School Code provisions regarding
the Fiscal Year 22 Budget.

Madam Secretary, please state for the
record the notice procedure for this hearing.

SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you,
Mr. President.

Notice of this public hearing was
published in the Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper
of general circulation in the City of Chicago,
and posted at the Principal Office and 42 West
Madison Street Lobby on July 15th, 2021. Notice
was also posted on the CPSBOE.ORG and CPS.EDU
websites on July 15, 2021. I will now read into
the record the public notice as published.

18:04:52
18:04:53
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18:05:39
18:05:45
18:05:48
18:05:56
18:06:00

1 NOTICE: Public Hearings FY 22 Budget 18:06:00
2 for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Chicago Board of 18:06:02
3 Education, commonly known as Chicago Public 18:06:07
4 Schools. 18:06:09
5 To Whom It May Concern: Public notice 18:06:10
6 is hereby given by the Chicago Board of 18:06:12
7 Education that it has prepared an FY 22 Budget 18:06:15
8 for the FY -- for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year in 18:06:18
9 tentative form, and that five copies thereof, 18:06:23
10 available for public inspection, have been filed 18:06:26
11 and are now on file in the Office of the Board 18:06:28
12 of Education of the City of Chicago, commonly 18:06:31
13 known as Chicago Public Schools, One North 18:06:33
14 Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois, 18:06:35
15 60602, and available at WWW.CPS.EDU/BUDGET. And 18:06:38
16 that said Board of Education will hold two 18:06:47
17 public hearings upon said budget. 18:06:48
18 Date: Tuesday, July 20th, 2021, 18:06:49
19 Hearing Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 18:06:52
20 Date: Wednesday, July 21st, 2021, 18:06:55
21 Hearing Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 18:06:58
22 Pursuant to the Gubernatorial Disaster 18:07:01
23 Proclamation dated June 25th, 2021 and to 18:07:03
24 protect the public's health in response to the 18:07:07

1	COVID pandemic, the public will have access to	18:07:09
2	the meeting via livestream at CPSBOE.ORG and the	18:07:12
3	public participation will be held via an	18:07:13
4	electronic platform.	18:07:16
5	For these two public hearings advance	18:07:17
6	registration to speak will begin on July 15th,	18:07:20
7	2021 at 10:30 a.m. and will close on Monday,	18:07:23
8	July 19th, 2021 at 5:00 or until all -- all 30	18:07:27
9	slots have been filled for each hearing,	18:07:30
10	whichever occurs first. Advance registration	18:07:33
11	during this period is available by the following	18:07:36
12	methods: Online at WWW.CPSBOE.ORG or by phone	18:07:38
13	at (312) 989-7313.	18:07:44
14	The public participation segment of the	18:07:47
15	public hearing will conclude after the last	18:07:49
16	person who has registered to speak has spoken or	18:07:51
17	at 8:00 p.m. on July 20th and 6 p.m. on July	18:07:52
18	21st, whichever occurs first.	18:07:55
19	Members of the public may submit	18:07:58
20	written comments related to the FY 22 tentative	18:08:00
21	budget via the Written Comments Form on the	18:08:03
22	Board's website at WWW.CPSBOE.ORG or mailed to	18:08:06
23	One North Dearborn, Suite 950, by 5:00 p.m. ,	18:08:11
24	July 22nd, 2021.	18:08:15

1	Dated at Chicago, Illinois, July 13th,	18:08:17
2	2021, Chicago Board of Education. By: Miguel	18:08:20
3	Delaware, President, and attest Estela G.	18:08:24
4	Beltran, Secretary.	18:08:28
5	Mr. President, I would like to also	18:08:29
6	note for the record the members that are present	18:08:31
7	at this first Budget Hearing.	18:08:35
8	Member Rome?	18:08:37
9	MEMBER ROME: Here.	18:08:41
10	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Member Melendez?	18:08:42
11	MEMBER MELENDEZ: Here.	18:08:45
12	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Vice President	18:08:48
13	Revuluri?	18:08:49
14	VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Here.	18:08:49
15	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Member	18:08:51
16	Todd-Breland?	18:08:53
17	MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Here.	18:08:53
18	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Member Truss?	18:08:55
19	MEMBER TRUSS: Here.	18:08:56
20	SECRETARY BELTRAN: And President del	18:08:57
21	Valle?	18:09:00
22	PRESIDENT del VALLE: Here.	18:09:00
23	SECRETARY BELTRAN: We have six members	18:09:02
24	present. There is a quorum.	18:09:04

1 I would also like to recognize Joseph 18:09:07
2 Moriarty, our General Counsel. We also have 18:09:10
3 Lindy McGuire, our Interim Chief Operating 18:09:18
4 Officer. And I don't know if Dr. Swinney is on, 18:09:21
5 but I know for sure we have Lindy McGuire on. 18:09:26
6 Thank you, Mr. President. 18:09:30
7 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Okay. Thank you, 18:09:32
8 Madam Secretary. 18:09:35
9 We will now proceed with a presentation 18:09:37
10 on the Fiscal Year 22 Budget. The presentation 18:09:40
11 will be done by Heather Wendell, who is the CPS 18:09:44
12 Budget Director. Heather, please proceed. 18:09:48
13 MS. WENDELL: Thank you, President del 18:09:52
14 Valle. 18:09:54
15 Good evening, Members of the Board. So 18:09:55
16 we're here to present the FY 22 proposed budget. 18:09:57
17 CPS's FY 22 proposed budget totals \$9.3 billion. 18:10:02
18 This proposed budget includes over \$1 billion in 18:10:09
19 Federal relief funding and is a record-high 18:10:12
20 investment in CPS students that promotes equity, 18:10:15
21 prioritizes resources for schools and students 18:10:19
22 who need them most. 18:10:22
23 If we can advance the presentation to 18:10:26
24 slide two please. Thank you. 18:10:30

1 Key investments reflected in the '22 18:10:32
2 proposed budget include \$225 million in 18:10:34
3 additional funding for school budgets, which 18:10:37
4 includes flexible spending for schools, equity 18:10:40
5 grants, enrollment-based funding, special 18:10:43
6 education teachers and paraprofessionals, case 18:10:46
7 managers, early childhood investments, funding 18:10:48
8 for charter schools and additional supplemental 18:10:53
9 aid and title funds, \$672 million in guaranteed 18:10:56
10 capital funding to address equitable facility 18:11:01
11 investments throughout the city and 267 million 18:11:04
12 to support year one of the Moving Forward 18:11:07
13 Together initiative, which is the district's 18:11:11
14 two-year \$525 million plan to address students' 18:11:13
15 social and emotional needs, accelerate student 18:11:18
16 learning and prepare students for success beyond 18:11:22
17 the pandemic through a holistic equity-based 18:11:24
18 approach. 18:11:27

19 The proposed budget of \$9.3 billion 18:11:29
20 includes three primary components: Operating, 18:11:33
21 Capital and Debt Service Funds. The Operating 18:11:36
22 Budget totals \$7.8 billion. This includes CPS's 18:11:39
23 day-to-day expenses, staff costs and benefits, 18:11:44
24 contractual services, including transportation, 18:11:47

1 supplies and equipment. The Operating Budget is 18:11:49
2 funded by a variety of Local, State and Federal 18:11:52
3 resources, with roughly half of the operating 18:11:56
4 expenses coming from property tax revenue. 18:11:58
5 The second component of the budget is 18:12:01
6 the Capital Budget. As proposed it is \$7.7 18:12:03
7 million. The Capital Budget provides funding 18:12:09
8 for building repairs, technology investments and 18:12:12
9 other long-term investments in district 18:12:14
10 infrastructure. The Capital Budget is funded 18:12:16
11 primarily through the issuance of long-term 18:12:19
12 bonds. 18:12:21
13 The third component of the proposed 18:12:21
14 budget is the Debt Service Budget, which totals 18:12:24
15 736 million. The Debt Service Budget covers 18:12:28
16 payments on long-term bonds issued by the 18:12:30
17 district to fund capital projects. And the Debt 18:12:32
18 Service Budget is primarily funded through State 18:12:36
19 revenues. 18:12:39
20 The FY 22 Budget as proposed and the 18:12:44
21 investments reflected within it were informed by 18:12:48
22 public feedback. For the second year in a row 18:12:51
23 CPS engaged in city-wide public forums to 18:12:53
24 solicit feedback on our approach to school 18:12:57

1 funding. Feedback from the public included the 18:12:59
2 following that informed some of our major 18:13:02
3 investments: 18:13:04
4 First, an increase -- increase equity 18:13:05
5 in school funding. To this point the budget as 18:13:08
6 proposed reflects a 50 percent increase to the 18:13:12
7 school equity grants, which now total 66 million 18:13:15
8 and the use of the district's Opportunity Index 18:13:18
9 to identify schools most in need of additional 18:13:20
10 funding. 18:13:23
11 A second component informed by the 18:13:24
12 feedback was the emphasis on accounting for the 18:13:26
13 impact of COVID-19 on enrollment. To that end, 18:13:31
14 the budget reflects \$32 million in new funding 18:13:35
15 to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on 18:13:38
16 enrollment-based school allocations. 18:13:41
17 And the third piece of stakeholder 18:13:44
18 engagement and feedback that's reflected here is 18:13:46
19 the provision of additional resources to help 18:13:50
20 school communities make the best possible use of 18:13:53
21 all of their available resources. So both 18:13:57
22 within the original school budget rollout in the 18:13:59
23 spring as well as budgets have advanced post 18:14:04
24 July 1, we are working with principals and LSCs 18:14:07

1 to ensure that they're making best use of all 18:14:10
2 available dollars aligned to their individual 18:14:13
3 needs and continuous improvement plans. 18:14:16

4 The FY 22 Budget includes a record \$4.4 18:14:26
5 billion in direct school funding. The budget 18:14:31
6 here reflects funding in the FY 22 Budget of an 18:14:33
7 increase of by -- of 225 million with new 18:14:37
8 investments including 85 million in flexible 18:14:42
9 funding to address the needs caused by the 18:14:44
10 pandemic. 18:14:46

11 \$66 million, which is an increase of 22 18:14:47
12 million from the FY 21 allocation in equity 18:14:51
13 grants to support high-needs schools and ensure 18:14:55
14 all students are able to access a high-quality 18:14:57
15 education. 18:15:00

16 30 million in additional special 18:15:00
17 education funding to advance equity and meet 18:15:04
18 student needs. 18:15:07

19 \$32 million invested to mitigate the 18:15:08
20 impact of COVID-19 on school enrollments. 18:15:10

21 16 million to expand access to full 18:15:13
22 universal pre-K. 18:15:17

23 And 17 million to increase -- of 18:15:19
24 additional funding to increase the nurse, social 18:15:23

1	worker and case manager staffing levels to an	18:15:26
2	all-time high within the district.	18:15:28
3	Next slide, please.	18:15:33
4	As mentioned, the district's Moving	18:15:35
5	Forward Together plan makes an unprecedented	18:15:38
6	investment to address the impact of COVID-19.	18:15:40
7	The plan was informed by feedback from school	18:15:42
8	leaders, teachers, students, parents, community	18:15:45
9	partners and is part of a two-year \$525 million	18:15:48
10	overarching multi-year initiative. This funding	18:15:56
11	will address the pandemic's impact on student	18:15:59
12	learning and social/emotional needs. This	18:16:03
13	initiative includes 160 million in flexible	18:16:05
14	school funds that schools will be encouraged and	18:16:11
15	supported to tailor the use of those dollars to	18:16:12
16	the specific needs of their student and school	18:16:14
17	population with a focus on providing additional	18:16:17
18	resources for those communities hardest hit by	18:16:19
19	the pandemic.	18:16:22
20	The initiative also includes 165	18:16:23
21	million in priority resources for all,	18:16:26
22	supporting evidence-based academic and	18:16:29
23	social/emotional resources that are	18:16:31
24	district-organized district-wide initiatives	18:16:34

1 that all schools and students would have access 18:16:37
2 to. 18:16:39

3 And another 201 million in targeted 18:16:40
4 student supports which our resources focus 18:16:43
5 toward particular student priority groups. 18:16:46

6 In all there's 267 million of the total 18:16:49
7 investment under the Moving Forward Together 18:16:52
8 plan is included in this FY 22 Budget. 18:16:53

9 Next slide. 18:17:00

10 Federal funding provides vital 18:17:02
11 resources to address student needs and that's 18:17:04
12 reflected in our proposed FY 22 Budget. Like 18:17:06
13 all school districts throughout the country, 18:17:11
14 COVID-19 impacted student learning and 18:17:13
15 social/emotional needs which drove the need for 18:17:15
16 new investments in an environment that has 18:17:18
17 limited revenue growth. So to meet the needs of 18:17:20
18 our students in this time, the FY 22 Budget 18:17:23
19 includes 1.06 billion of ESSER II and ESSER III 18:17:26
20 funding to address student needs aligned to the 18:17:31
21 three ESSER priority areas. 18:17:34

22 Number one, emerging stronger 18:17:36
23 post-pandemic with a focus on a safe return to 18:17:38
24 in-person instruction. 18:17:41

1 Number two, maintaining continuity of 18:17:43
2 service, including maintaining staffing and 18:17:45
3 adding additional resources to schools. 18:17:48

4 And the third priority is on resource 18:17:51
5 equity, continuing to address the 18:17:54
6 disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on 18:17:56
7 communities of color and communities 18:18:00
8 experiencing poverty. 18:18:03

9 Next slide. 18:18:04

10 The 1.06 billion of ESSER funding 18:18:09
11 that's included in the FY 22 Budget reflects 18:18:12
12 investments in the following: 18:18:14

13 As mentioned, 600 -- I'm sorry, 267 18:18:16
14 million of the funding is for the first year of 18:18:21
15 the two-year 525 million Moving Forward Together 18:18:23
16 plan. 18:18:27

17 Another 132 million in ESSER funding is 18:18:27
18 included in this budget to support student 18:18:31
19 reengagement and school reopening costs in the 18:18:34
20 fall, covering one-time costs related to 18:18:37
21 technology, PPE, cleaning and maintenance, 18:18:40
22 vaccination efforts and other transition costs 18:18:42
23 as we work towards a return to school in fall. 18:18:46

24 \$100 million has been allocated of the 18:18:50

1 ESSER funding to support air quality projects. 18:18:52
2 Another 288 million is included to support 18:18:55
3 school-based programmatic investments for the 18:18:58
4 increases in the equity grants, special 18:19:01
5 education positions, early childhood programming 18:19:04
6 and new academic programs. 18:19:07
7 There's \$178 million that supports 18:19:11
8 school-based instructional positions. 18:19:13
9 And finally, 95 million for the 18:19:15
10 proportionate share of the ESSER funding for the 18:19:17
11 charter and contract schools. 18:19:20
12 I'd like to introduce Deputy Chief of 18:19:25
13 Budget and Grants Management Mike Sitkowski who 18:19:28
14 will go over the next section of the 18:19:31
15 presentation, including highlighting additional 18:19:34
16 facets of the Operating Budget. 18:19:36
17 Mike. 18:19:38
18 CHIEF SITKOWSKI: Thank you, Heather. 18:19:40
19 Good evening, Board Members. As 18:19:41
20 Heather mentioned, my name is Mike Sitkowski, 18:19:43
21 I'm the Deputy Chief Officer of Grants for CPS, 18:19:46
22 and what I'm going to do is walk down the 18:19:50
23 high-level components of the Operating and 18:19:50
24 Capital Budget for FY 22. 18:19:52

1	Next slide, please.	18:19:55
2	So starting with the revenue sources	18:19:59
3	that support CPS's Operating Budget, we have	18:20:01
4	total operating revenues of \$7.8 billion in FY	18:20:05
5	22, 50 percent of which comes from local	18:20:09
6	sources. These are primarily property taxes,	18:20:12
7	personal property replacement tax and TIF	18:20:15
8	surplus funds that come from Chicago taxpayers.	18:20:18
9	The second component of the Operating	18:20:22
10	Budget are State funds, which comprise 23	18:20:24
11	percent of our overall budget or \$1.8 billion.	18:20:27
12	The primary source of funding from the State is	18:20:31
13	evidence-based funding or EBF, in addition to	18:20:32
14	teacher pension normal costs and categorical	18:20:35
15	grants.	18:20:40
16	The third component of our Operating	18:20:40
17	Budget is funded by Federal resources, and this	18:20:41
18	comprises 27 percent or \$2.1 billion of our	18:20:44
19	overall budget. In the FY 22 Budget we have	18:20:49
20	both recurring Federal revenue sources,	18:20:53
21	including title funding and lunchroom funding,	18:20:55
22	which primarily support low-income students, and	18:20:56
23	as Heather outlined on previous slides, we also	18:20:59
24	have additional Federal relief funding in this	18:21:03

1 budget, over \$1 billion of ESSER II and ESSER 18:21:03
2 III dollars that's supporting some of our 18:21:07
3 return-to-school efforts, our Moving Forward 18:21:10
4 Together initiatives and other onetime costs. 18:21:13
5 Next slide, please. 18:21:15
6 When we look at the expense side of 18:21:20
7 this FY 22 Budget or what we're actually 18:21:23
8 spending this money on, we see here that 18:21:26
9 salaries and benefits comprise 77 percent of our 18:21:28
10 total expenses. Looking at the pie chart on the 18:21:32
11 left, you see teacher salaries, benefits and 18:21:35
12 charter tuition as well, which primarily funds 18:21:39
13 salaries and staff benefits. And this is over 18:21:42
14 three quarters of our total budget. 18:21:45
15 The remaining 23 percent of our 18:21:47
16 Operating Budget is used to pay non-personnel 18:21:49
17 expenses, including commodities like food and 18:21:52
18 utilities, instructional supplies, equipment and 18:21:52
19 software, student transportation and building 18:21:59
20 repair along with contractual services, such as, 18:21:59
21 Facilities Management and Safe Passage. 18:22:03
22 Next slide, please. 18:22:08
23 Of the 77 percent of our budget that's 18:22:14
24 supporting salaries and benefits, we have over 18:22:16

1 41,000 employees that are a part of the FY 22 18:22:19
2 Budget. I want to highlight here that over 96 18:22:23
3 percent of CPS employees in the FY 22 Budget 18:22:27
4 directly support schools. This includes our 18:22:30
5 teachers, school support staff and our school 18:22:33
6 administrators who make up 81 percent of CPS 18:22:35
7 employees and another 15 percent providing 18:22:38
8 city-wide support services to schools, which are 18:22:42
9 employees that are managed centrally like 18:22:44
10 custodians and are working in our schools on a 18:22:48
11 daily basis. Less than 4 percent of CPS's 18:22:50
12 employees are Central Office administrative 18:22:54
13 positions as denoted in the yellow and the gray 18:22:57
14 slices of the pie chart. 18:23:02

15 Next slide, please. 18:23:05

16 One item that we wanted to highlight as 18:23:09
17 well as part of the FY 22 Budget are our teacher 18:23:12
18 pension costs, our liabilities of which remain a 18:23:15
19 source of funding in equity between CPS and 18:23:19
20 districts throughout the State. The State has 18:23:23
21 come a long way in recent years to improve 18:23:25
22 funding for teacher pensions, including the 18:23:29
23 funding of what we refer to as normal costs that 18:23:31
24 I mentioned before, but CPS remains the only 18:23:33

1 district in the State required to fund its own 18:23:37
2 teacher pensions. The normal costs that I 18:23:39
3 mentioned from the State totals \$277 million of 18:23:41
4 the district's required \$945 million FY 22 18:23:46
5 pension payment. So what this means is that the 18:23:50
6 district has \$668 million remaining to pay into 18:23:53
7 the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund that's funded 18:23:58
8 by Chicago taxpayers. These are dollars that 18:24:01
9 could otherwise be invested in classrooms. The 18:24:04
10 pie chart on the right shows the breakdown of 18:24:07
11 the various sources of funding with the State 18:24:10
12 funding highlighted in yellow and the small gray 18:24:12
13 slice, and the remaining portions funded by 18:24:15
14 Chicago taxpayers in the orange and blue slices 18:24:19
15 of the pie chart. 18:24:24
16 Next, I want to give an overview of the 18:24:27
17 sources and uses of funding in the FY 22 Capital 18:24:29
18 Budget. Next slide, please. 18:24:32
19 So as Heather mentioned before, this is 18:24:40
20 the second component of our overall budget. And 18:24:42
21 the Capital Budget provides \$672 million in 18:24:44
22 guaranteed funding, and these are essentially 18:24:47
23 investments in CPS infrastructure, so our 18:24:49
24 buildings, our technology infrastructure and 18:24:53

1	making sure that our buildings are ready to	18:24:56
2	welcome students back full time and support 21st	18:24:58
3	Century Learning environments.	18:25:01
4	Some highlights from the FY 22 Capital	18:25:02
5	Budget include \$100 million of Federal funding	18:25:05
6	to support significant capital mechanical	18:25:08
7	renovations and address air quality at 17	18:25:11
8	campuses. So this is funding from our Federal	18:25:14
9	ESSER III allocation that's going to make sure	18:25:17
10	that schools have -- are ready for students to	18:25:20
11	return in the fall.	18:25:25
12	Additionally, we have \$328.6 million in	18:25:27
13	funding for critical maintenance and interior	18:25:31
14	improvements, including roof and envelope	18:25:34
15	repairs, modular refurbishments and other	18:25:37
16	repairs to our school buildings. We also have	18:25:42
17	\$20.5 million to increase ADA accessibility in	18:25:45
18	33 schools. And this is part of our five-year	18:25:47
19	commitment to invest \$100 million to improve	18:25:49
20	accessibility throughout the district.	18:25:52
21	We also have \$80 million to complete	18:25:55
22	the remaining pre-K expansions and conversions	18:25:57
23	for the 21-22 and 22-23 school years as part of	18:26:00
24	our universal pre-K expansion effort.	18:26:05

1 We have \$30.5 million in building 18:26:08
2 modernization to make sure that all schools are 18:26:12
3 able to support 21st Century Learning 18:26:14
4 environments. 18:26:16
5 \$37.6 million to design and build new 18:26:17
6 playgrounds, play lots and school yards at over 18:26:20
7 30 schools across the city. 18:26:21
8 And over \$48 million to upgrade school 18:26:24
9 network infrastructure addressing equitable 18:26:27
10 connectivity, replacing aging technology and 18:26:30
11 providing new security equipment to our schools. 18:26:33
12 Next slide, please. 18:26:37
13 So that's how we're investing the money 18:26:41
14 in our FY 22 Capital Budget. Now I want to talk 18:26:43
15 about where the funds are coming from. 18:26:47
16 So Heather mentioned previously that 18:26:50
17 our Capital Budget is funded primarily through 18:26:53
18 bonds, long-term bonds that CPS issues. And the 18:26:56
19 anticipated bond offerings and other capital 18:26:56
20 funds that are supporting our FY 22 Capital 18:27:01
21 expenses total just over \$554 million. 18:27:03
22 We also have the previously referenced 18:27:08
23 \$100 million of our ESSER III funding that's 18:27:10
24 supporting the investments and mechanical 18:27:15

1 systems and air quality at schools. And then we 18:27:16
2 have an additional 17.4 million in confirmed 18:27:18
3 external funding for Space to Grow, which are 18:27:22
4 school-site improvement projects and other ITS 18:27:26
5 projects, primarily the Federal E-Rate funding 18:27:30
6 that CPS receives. 18:27:33

7 As part of our FY 22 Capital Budget, we 18:27:34
8 also have \$35 million for other potential 18:27:37
9 external funding that may materialize throughout 18:27:40
10 the year that will allow CPS to undertake 18:27:42
11 projects funded by the City, the State or other 18:27:47
12 sources. And so this totals our \$706.6 million 18:27:49
13 Capital Budget. 18:27:58

14 And with that, I'm going to turn it 18:27:59
15 over to our treasury -- our Treasurer and Deputy 18:28:02
16 CFO Wally Stock. 18:28:04

17 MR. STOCK: Thank you, Mike. 18:28:07

18 Good evening, everybody. Could we turn 18:28:08
19 to the next slide on liquidity? 18:28:11

20 So our financial condition has been 18:28:14
21 improving in recent years, and we've maintained 18:28:14
22 stability despite COVID-19. Our FY 22 proposed 18:28:17
23 budget is also very solid. That said, there's 18:28:21
24 still more improvement that CPS desires to 18:28:26

1 achieve on the financial front. This is not 18:28:31
2 going to be something that can be complete in a 18:28:32
3 single year, it's a work-in-progress and 18:28:33
4 something that's going to happen over time. 18:28:36

5 One of the major financial 18:28:38
6 considerations in particular that we need to 18:28:40
7 improve upon is our operating fund balance at 18:28:41
8 year end. We currently have an operating fund 18:28:44
9 balance that is approximately 7-and-a-half 18:28:48
10 percent of our annual expenses, and we have been 18:28:51
11 increasing it slowly. However, our goal is to 18:28:55
12 take this up to 15 percent, and we really are 18:28:59
13 only halfway there. What this will achieve is 18:29:02
14 greater financial stability and less reliance on 18:29:05
15 short-term borrowing within each fiscal year 18:29:06
16 that is depicted on this slide. 18:29:11

17 In recent fiscal years and within the 18:29:12
18 upcoming FY 22 fiscal budget, short-term 18:29:17
19 borrowing structured as Tax Anticipation Notes, 18:29:17
20 which we refer to as TANs, will be used to 18:29:19
21 support all operations across the district 18:29:22
22 because the receipt and the timing of budgeted 18:29:26
23 revenues lags behind the pace of budgeted 18:29:29
24 expenses, and our fund balance is still not 18:29:34

1 large enough to bridge this timing gap. 18:29:37

2 Specifically what the chart shows is a 18:29:39
3 ground zero cash position in green for the last 18:29:42
4 five years versus the actual liquidity position 18:29:47
5 in orange that ranges from lows of negative \$1.5 18:29:48
6 billion and highs of approximately \$600 million 18:29:53
7 in gradual improvements. 18:29:56

8 Whenever the liquidity position is less 18:29:58
9 than zero we use TANS, depicted by the blue 18:30:02
10 line, to bridge the gap. For FY 21 our maximum 18:30:06
11 TANS outstanding was at \$950 million. And we 18:30:06
12 ended the fiscal year with \$244 million in TANS 18:30:15
13 outstanding. And this, with the year-end 18:30:18
14 position, was an improvement versus FY 20. 18:30:20

15 In FY 22 TANS will still be required. 18:30:28
16 Our budget contemplates \$12 million for interest 18:30:31
17 expense in their use again. If we could hold 18:30:35
18 onto that slide for one more minute here. So 18:30:38
19 TANS will still be used, and this is despite the 18:30:40
20 receipt of additional Federal stimulus revenues. 18:30:44
21 The receipt of Federal revenue is, of course, an 18:30:48
22 unprecedented benefit to CPS, but the Federal 18:30:50
23 revenue is temporary and non-reoccurring sources 18:30:54
24 of revenue. In addition, all the Federal 18:30:57

1 revenue is structured as reimbursements, 18:31:00
2 therefore, we need to spend on expenses before 18:31:03
3 we receive the moneys. And so, therefore, this 18:31:07
4 will be another financial issue in the expense 18:31:09
5 versus revenue timing that we need to manage 18:31:11
6 from a liquidity standpoint, and it will require 18:31:14
7 the use of TANs to bridge the gap because that 18:31:17
8 fund balance is still lower than optimal. 18:31:20
9 So can you turn to the next slide and 18:31:22
10 then I'll touch base on long-term debt? 18:31:26
11 So long-term debt is another aspect of 18:31:29
12 the FY 22 Budget that you've heard a little bit 18:31:29
13 about tonight. CPS uses the debt in the form of 18:31:34
14 municipal bonds to fund capital improvement 18:31:34
15 projects. A majority of the funding for capital 18:31:40
16 improvements comes from the sale of bonds. CPS 18:31:42
17 currently has \$8.4 billion of long-term bond to 18:31:45
18 debt outstanding, and it's being repaid out to 18:31:49
19 the year 2046. This chart illustrates the 18:31:52
20 repayment. The colors represent types of 18:31:56
21 revenue pledged and the largest source of 18:31:58
22 pledged revenue towards the repayment is general 18:31:59
23 State aid showed in green. Above the green is a 18:32:03
24 blue line which is personal property replacement 18:32:07

1 tax revenues. Those two sources together come 18:32:10
2 to a total shown by the black line. The black 18:32:16
3 line represents moneys that could flow into the 18:32:18
4 operating account had they not been needed for 18:32:18
5 debt service. Said another way, while CPS 18:32:22
6 long-term debt funds capital plans and building 18:32:24
7 improvements throughout the district, the debt 18:32:28
8 is primarily paid by operating revenues and a 18:32:29
9 balance exists between funding classroom bricks 18:32:30
10 and mortar items and versus funding for 18:32:33
11 classroom instructional needs. 18:32:36

12 Overall the FY 22 Budget includes 18:32:38
13 appropriations of approximately \$763 million for 18:32:41
14 debt service payments on our long-term debt. 18:32:45
15 519 million of the 763 million or 68 percent is 18:32:51
16 paid by State aid and personal property 18:32:52
17 replacement tax revenues, which could be 18:32:55
18 considered operating revenues had they not been 18:32:58
19 budgeted for debt service. 18:33:02

20 And with this, I'm going to turn the 18:33:03
21 presentation over on the next slide to our Chief 18:33:05
22 Financial Officer Miroslava Mejia Krug for a 18:33:13
23 conclusion. 18:33:13

24 CHIEF KRUG: Thank you so much, Wally, 18:33:15

1 and good evening to everybody. 18:33:17

2 So in summary, across the three rounds 18:33:18

3 of Federal ESSER relief funding, CPS will 18:33:21

4 receive 2.8 billion in short-term stabilization 18:33:25

5 dollars over five years that will allow CPS to: 18:33:28

6 1: Meet new needs of students and 18:33:32

7 schools resulting from the pandemic. 18:33:37

8 And 2: Fulfill existing commitments to 18:33:39

9 district priorities and contract all obligations 18:33:41

10 and continue to invest in areas that have driven 18:33:45

11 student growth. 18:33:49

12 Despite Federal relief, CPS remains 18:33:49

13 greatly underfunded. CPS State revenue provide 18:33:53

14 only 66 percent of what the district needs to be 18:34:00

15 adequately funded, a funding gap that translates 18:34:03

16 to \$2 billion per year. 18:34:08

17 I want to highlight that Federal ESSER 18:34:12

18 funds are a onetime resource that can be 18:34:15

19 critically used to support students' needs for 18:34:17

20 the next three years but the challenges 18:34:21

21 identified necessitate structural funding. CPS 18:34:25

22 will continue to advocate for meaningful 18:34:29

23 long-term revenue solutions. 18:34:33

24 President del Valle, this is the end of 18:34:34

1 our presentation. I will turn it over to you 18:34:36
2 now for questions from Board Members. 18:34:39

3 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Thank you. 18:34:45

4 I want to thank everyone, beginning 18:34:46
5 with, of course, Heather and Miroslava and 18:34:50
6 Walter and others who presented. I know that 18:34:55
7 you've put in countless hours in working on this 18:35:03
8 budget over the last several months, and I 18:35:07
9 really appreciate and the Board appreciates all 18:35:09
10 the work that you've done, and I really 18:35:11
11 appreciate the clarity of this presentation. I 18:35:13
12 appreciate the fact that you've laid out how it 18:35:19
13 is exactly that we're using the Federal dollars, 18:35:22
14 the ESSER I, II and III dollars. 18:35:25

15 What we're going to do now, rather than 18:35:31
16 keep the public waiting online, waiting on the 18:35:33
17 phone, what we'll do is we'll proceed to public 18:35:35
18 comment, and then after public comment then 18:35:40
19 we'll open it up for Board Member questions and 18:35:43
20 comments. So staff, please stay with us because 18:35:47
21 there will be questions, okay. 18:35:52

22 So, Madam Secretary, let's now proceed 18:35:55
23 with the public comment segment. 18:35:57

24 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, 18:35:59

1	Mr. President.	18:36:00
2	And before I proceed with the public	18:36:00
3	comment directions, I would just like to note	18:36:02
4	for the record that Board Member Lucino Sotelo	18:36:04
5	and Interim CEO Dr. Torres joined the panel at	18:36:10
6	approximately 6:15. Thank you, Mr. President.	18:36:15
7	For the record I would like to note	18:36:18
8	that registration for the public hearing began	18:36:19
9	on Thursday, July 15th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. and	18:36:22
10	closed on Monday, July 19th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.	18:36:27
11	or until all 30 slots filled, whichever occurred	18:36:32
12	first. Individuals who registered to speak will	18:36:36
13	have two minutes to comment. In order to	18:36:36
14	facilitate and expedite the public comment	18:36:39
15	segment, I will be calling speakers out of order	18:36:43
16	and grouping them. As noted previously, members	18:36:46
17	of the public may submit written comments	18:36:49
18	related to the FY 22 tentative budget via the	18:36:49
19	Written Comments Form on the Board's website at	18:36:55
20	WWW.CPSBOE.ORG or mail to One North Dearborn,	18:36:57
21	Suite 950 by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 22nd,	18:37:02
22	2021.	18:37:07
23	This hearing will conclude after the	18:37:07
24	last person who has registered to speak has	18:37:09

1 spoken or 8:00 p.m., whichever occurs first. 18:37:13
2 When called, please state your name for the 18:37:18
3 record. 18:37:21
4 And, Mr. President, I will start by 18:37:21
5 calling the first speaker, speaker number 2, 18:37:23
6 Sophia Lukatya, followed by speaker number 4, 18:37:26
7 Stuart Abram. 18:37:30
8 Please unmute, star 6, speaker number 18:37:34
9 2. Thank you. Please proceed. 18:37:38
10 MS. LUKATYA: Hi, my name is Sophia 18:37:49
11 Lukatya, and I am a bilingual teacher who was 18:37:52
12 laid off from Carl Von Linne Elementary last 18:37:56
13 month. My layoff letter, as well as many 18:37:59
14 others, cited budget cuts for the reason for the 18:38:01
15 termination of my position. Meanwhile, Chicago 18:38:04
16 Public Schools is receiving nearly \$2 billion in 18:38:07
17 additional funds to recover from the pandemic 18:38:10
18 that is still raging on. 18:38:12
19 When I look at the outline for spending 18:38:14
20 of these additional funds it does not, as usual, 18:38:16
21 make much sense. If we are going to move 18:38:20
22 forward together, CPS has got to make funding 18:38:23
23 transparent. For example, Skyline and MTSS are 18:38:27
24 stated over and over again as tools for 18:38:31

1 recovery. These are both tools and practices 18:38:35
2 that have been in the works for years. How is 18:38:38
3 this a new investment and how do these -- how 18:38:41
4 much of these Federal funds will go into funding 18:38:43
5 previous projects rather than providing 18:38:49
6 additional staff to schools? 18:38:49

7 Speaking of staffing, why aren't the 18:38:51
8 tutoring corps temporary miscellaneous employees 18:38:54
9 instead of PSRPs or more teachers for smaller 18:38:58
10 classes? Our kids need consistent and qualified 18:39:03
11 adults to join and re-stabilize their school 18:39:10
12 communities, not temporary workers. These funds 18:39:11
13 should be -- should not be a Band-Aid for a few 18:39:13
14 months on the gushing wound of the pandemic. 18:39:15
15 They should be real long-term investments in our 18:39:19
16 school communities -- 18:39:22

17 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:39:22
18 seconds. 18:39:24

19 MS. LUKATYA: -- such as, reading 18:39:24
20 specialists, math interventionists and PSRPs and 18:39:24
21 teachers. For 70 million or just 3 percent of 18:39:29
22 the \$2 million, CPS could have a nurse, a social 18:39:34
23 worker and a librarian in every single school, 18:39:38
24 yet CPS has chosen to leave hundreds of schools 18:39:42

1 without them in this budget. When we go back to 18:39:46
2 30-plus students in a room and no nurse or 18:39:49
3 social worker in a building, how exactly is this 18:39:52
4 promoting the safety and recovery of our 18:39:53
5 students? Thank you. 18:39:56
6 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, speaker 18:39:57
7 number 2. 18:39:58
8 We'll continue, Mr. President, with 18:39:59
9 speaker number 4, Stuart Abram, followed by 18:40:01
10 speaker number 5, Kelly Cirino. 18:40:05
11 MR. ABRAM: Hello. Can you hear me? 18:40:10
12 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Yes. Please 18:40:11
13 proceed. 18:40:13
14 MR. ABRAM: Hi there, my name is Stuart 18:40:13
15 Abram, and I'm lucky to be a teacher at an 18:40:13
16 amazing school on the near west side, Whitney 18:40:17
17 Young. My comment, I'd like to stress that if 18:40:18
18 the Board wants to move forward together, it's 18:40:20
19 essential that CPS make funding transparent. I 18:40:23
20 was sincerely hoping that the Board could use 18:40:23
21 this huge opportunity, this \$2 billion in 18:40:27
22 additional recovery funds, for all schools in a 18:40:30
23 way that could help keep them safe and make them 18:40:32
24 a nurturing learning environment similar to my 18:40:34

1 school. But it's sadly to see such an 18:40:37
2 inadequate response to such huge trauma. 18:40:38
3 There is not adequate staffing in the 18:40:40
4 vast majority of schools in our city, and they 18:40:43
5 desperately need CPS to listen to parents and 18:40:45
6 families who want caring support for our 18:40:48
7 children. We need a nurse five days per week in 18:40:49
8 a pandemic. We need adequate numbers of 18:40:49
9 counselors and social workers to care for our 18:40:54
10 students and the trauma they've suffered this 18:40:55
11 past year and a half, as well as librarians and 18:40:55
12 extracurricular activities so our children can 18:41:00
13 explore their passions. 18:41:03
14 CPS is making the choice not to have 18:41:04
15 nurses, counselors and librarians in every 18:41:06
16 school when they could very well do so for a 18:41:09
17 mere \$70 million, they choose to spend only 17 18:41:10
18 million. When the Board -- we should tell the 18:41:14
19 Board how we feel about them choosing to deny 18:41:15
20 our children social/emotional support. It is 18:41:18
21 not Moving Forward Together when under the 18:41:20
22 proposed plan a mere 33 of 400 schools will have 18:41:23
23 their ADA accommodations met. It is not moving 18:41:27
24 forward together when only 17 of 300 schools 18:41:31

1 will get their needed ventilation repairs. 18:41:32
2 COVID spreads in the air, remember. These half 18:41:35
3 measures will cost many lives. Let's be very 18:41:36
4 real about it. 18:41:40
5 My school is 40 percent free and 18:41:40
6 reduced lunch, and even we have students without 18:41:43
7 stable housing. The Board is making a choice -- 18:41:45
8 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:41:45
9 seconds. 18:41:46
10 MR. ABRAM: -- not to guarantee housing 18:41:46
11 for all of our students when \$300 million could 18:41:49
12 give our children that security. Allocating a 18:41:53
13 mere \$85 million is unacceptable. How can you 18:41:57
14 learn if you're hungry and do not have a house 18:41:57
15 in which to study? CPS should not allow 20,000 18:41:58
16 homeless students to remain a fact of life in 18:42:01
17 CPS that we just have to accept. 18:42:02
18 Spending \$135 million on a new 18:42:05
19 curriculum does not help students grow. 18:42:07
20 Addressing its problem helps them grow. Hiring 18:42:07
21 hundreds of miscellaneous staff is not 18:42:12
22 transparent. CPS has a poor record hiring 18:42:14
23 targets and these broken promises hurt families. 18:42:16
24 There are concrete ways to improve the lives of 18:42:19

1 our students -- 18:42:22

2 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Please conclude. 18:42:23

3 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Speaker number 4, 18:42:23

4 thank you for your comments. Next speaker, 18:42:24

5 please. 18:42:24

6 Thank you, Mr. President. Our next 18:42:32

7 speaker is speaker number 5, Kelly Cirino, 18:42:33

8 followed by speaker number 10, Hannah Park. 18:42:38

9 Please unmute, speaker number 5. Thank 18:42:41

10 you. Please proceed. 18:42:44

11 MS. CIRINO: Good evening, I'm Kelly 18:42:46

12 Cirino, and I'm a Scammon Elementary alumni, and 18:42:48

13 I have four children, one graduated this year 18:42:51

14 from Scammon, and I have three more grades K, 18:42:52

15 3rd and 5th. 18:42:55

16 Reflecting on my own days at Scammon, I 18:42:57

17 remember being able to play double dutch, 18:43:00

18 volleyball, tag and much more on a smooth, ample 18:43:00

19 outside space. Sadly, I can't say the same for 18:43:06

20 my children. Unfortunately, due to Chicago's 18:43:09

21 harsh weather, the outdoor space is literally 18:43:11

22 damaged. There are dangerous holes throughout 18:43:11

23 the deteriorated blacktop, which is a safety 18:43:15

24 hazard for children. Mobiles are not any 18:43:16

1 better. Mobiles are leaning to one side, 18:43:20
2 exterior wood siding is falling apart and water 18:43:20
3 damage has resulted in leaking ceilings, 18:43:25
4 softened drywall, bubbling wallpaper and, of 18:43:28
5 course, a horrible moldy smell. Unfortunately, 18:43:31
6 the mobiles are approximately 16 to 20 years old 18:43:33
7 and age takes a toll. 18:43:36

8 At the last LSC special meeting on July 18:43:38
9 15th, Alderman Reboyras emphasized on how the 18:43:40
10 school's maintenance issues need to be 18:43:43
11 addressed. We are so grateful that he is 18:43:45
12 advocating for the safety of our children, 18:43:49
13 however, during that same meeting parents became 18:43:49
14 disheartened when we were told we did not need 18:43:54
15 to worry about these issues. As a mom with a 18:43:55
16 child with juvenile arthritis, joint damage can 18:44:00
17 be an injury -- caused by an injury would be bad 18:44:00
18 for her. And let's not go into the air quality 18:44:03
19 and mold issues and how it can impact asthmatics, 18:44:06
20 which I have one. 18:44:10

21 My husband and I entrust the children 18:44:11
22 to CPS with the expectation that they will be 18:44:13
23 well taken care of. While at school CPS is 18:44:16
24 responsible for providing -- 18:44:19

1 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:44:21
2 seconds. 18:44:21
3 MS. CIRINO: -- environment for 18:44:22
4 learning. I hope that CPS considers equitable 18:44:23
5 funding for Scammon Elementary, which is a 92.8 18:44:29
6 low-income school, tier 1 plus, so that I can 18:44:33
7 tell my kids that CPS truly believes in 18:44:34
8 equitable funding for all. 18:44:38
9 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you for your 18:44:42
10 comments, speaker number 5. 18:44:43
11 We'll proceed, Mr. President, with 18:44:45
12 speaker number 10 Hannah Park, followed by 18:44:46
13 speaker number 9, Kathryn Rose. 18:44:50
14 Please unmute, speaker number 10. 18:44:59
15 Thank you. Please proceed. 18:45:01
16 MS. PARK: Hi, my name is Dr. Hannah 18:45:02
17 Park, my husband and I grew up in Chicago and 18:45:10
18 our proud products of CPS education. I now have 18:45:13
19 a 4-year-old preschooler that will be starting 18:45:17
20 this fall at our neighborhood CPS elementary 18:45:21
21 school in Irving Park named Jonathan Y. Scammon 18:45:23
22 Elementary. I went in for a tour of the school 18:45:30
23 and found it appalling that an elementary school 18:45:33
24 does not have a playground. Instead of being 18:45:33

1 di sappointed and moving my child to a private 18:45:33
2 school like most of my wealthier neighbors, I 18:45:42
3 decided to take it upon myself and advocate for 18:45:43
4 what my child and all the other children in my 18:45:46
5 neighborhood deserve. I made a Facebook group 18:45:48
6 named Scammon Campus Improvement Project, and I 18:45:51
7 made 125 new friends and in two weeks obtained 18:45:53
8 over 350 petition signatures with my new 18:46:01
9 friends. 18:46:01
10 Through this parent organization 18:46:02
11 attending LSC meetings in the last six weeks I 18:46:04
12 was able to learn more about the lack of 18:46:07
13 resources given to Scammon Elementary. What 18:46:09
14 shocked me the most was the condition of the 18:46:12
15 modulars that my 4-year-old son will be entering 18:46:16
16 into daily. These modulars that have been over 18:46:17
17 20 years old, meant only to be used for ten 18:46:17
18 years, have structural water damage, rusting, 18:46:21
19 molding and inconsistent heating and cooling. 18:46:24
20 How can I trust that my 4-year-old will be safe, 18:46:28
21 warm and dry? Not only that, but the school lot 18:46:33
22 is filled with potholes that are dangerous for 18:46:38
23 small children such as mine and is a liability 18:46:41
24 for the school. 18:46:43

1 I am saddened to realize that my tax 18:46:46
2 dollars do not actually get equally distributed 18:46:49
3 to even my neighborhood school which my children 18:46:50
4 will attend. I know you are discussing the 18:46:52
5 budget that is equitable for everyone, but why 18:46:55
6 is Scammon Elementary only listed for a 18:46:58
7 playground? You know, Scammon Elementary has 18:47:03
8 over 88 Hispanic/Latino population as well as 92 18:47:04
9 percent of low-income students. The student 18:47:07
10 enrollment is actually trending downwards, and 18:47:09
11 this is because of a lack of investment of CPS 18:47:12
12 in our school. 18:47:13

13 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Speaker number 10, 18:47:14
14 thank you for your comments. 18:47:15

15 Our next speaker, Mr. President, is 18:47:19
16 speaker number 9, Kathryn Rose, followed by 18:47:20
17 speaker number 12, William Choslovsky. 18:47:23

18 Please unmute, speaker number 9, star 18:47:32
19 6. Thank you. Please proceed. Please unmute. 18:47:35
20 Speaker number 9, please unmute, star 6. There 18:48:03
21 you go. 18:48:07

22 MS. ROSE: Hi. Thank you. 18:48:08

23 A lot of families are eager to get back 18:48:08
24 to normal, but what we call normal was not 18:48:10

1 working for many students and families and now 18:48:13
2 we have a significant opportunity to address 18:48:15
3 these issues and make vital changes to create a 18:48:16
4 new normal and produce better student outcome. 18:48:20

5 One of those issues is many CPS 18:48:23
6 children are being taught to read in a way that 18:48:25
7 study after study have found to be wrong. At 18:48:27
8 least 55 elementary schools were identified as 18:48:30
9 not having a phonics program necessary for early 18:48:33
10 literacy development. On national tests only 18 18:48:36
11 percent of black 4th graders scored proficient 18:48:41
12 or above in reading. The figure for white 4th 18:48:46
13 graders was 45 percent. Those figures should 18:48:49
14 outrage anyone who cares about equity and social 18:48:49
15 justice. The pandemic has only worsened these 18:48:54
16 outcomes. Black and Latino boys saw a sharper 18:48:56
17 increase in falling grades and steeper 18:48:59
18 attendance decline than girls. 18:49:02

19 I know in the budget you have allocated 18:49:06
20 27 million to ensure all students are proficient 18:49:07
21 readers. Please do not simply drop a new 18:49:09
22 reading curriculum into teachers' classrooms, 18:49:12
23 that isn't going to be enough. Teachers need 18:49:19
24 more training, more support, more coaching and 18:49:20

1 more time. American teachers have among the 18:49:23
2 most highest contact hours with students, but we 18:49:24
3 need more time to train to be literacy experts 18:49:28
4 to plan and collaborate so that the hours with 18:49:30
5 our students really count. 18:49:32
6 The best investment you can make right 18:49:34
7 now is in your own people, not hiring more staff 18:49:36
8 but giving your own employees -- 18:49:40
9 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:49:41
10 seconds. 18:49:43
11 MS. ROSE: -- effective science-based 18:49:43
12 professional learning opportunities so they can 18:49:43
13 grow their skills and boost student outcome. I 18:49:49
14 know it's tempting to hire ore staff, buy new 18:49:51
15 programs, those are not long-term investments 18:49:52
16 and it will only burden the budget in years to 18:49:55
17 come. Thank you. 18:49:58
18 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you for your 18:49:59
19 comments, speaker number 9. 18:50:00
20 Mr. President, we'll continue then with 18:50:02
21 speaker number 12, William Choslovsky, followed 18:50:03
22 by speaker number 13, Dulce Arroyo. 18:50:06
23 Please unmute, speaker number 12, star 18:50:16
24 six. Thank you. Please proceed. 18:50:19

1 MR. CHOSLOVSKY: Hi. Good, evening 18:50:24
2 Board, my name is Bill Choslovsky and I'm a CPS 18:50:26
3 parent of three kids. I'm also a somewhat 18:50:28
4 long-time LSC member at first their grammar 18:50:32
5 school and now their high school. 18:50:34
6 I want to take a slightly contrarian 18:50:37
7 approach. Though this is a budget meeting, I 18:50:43
8 frankly do not think it is really about money. 18:50:43
9 To frame it I'll give you a few statistics. 18:50:46
10 The budget in ten years has gone up 18:50:50
11 approximately 50 percent, 6.6 billion and 9.3 18:50:54
12 billion, but your student enrollment has 18:51:02
13 dramatically plummeted from ten years ago over 18:51:05
14 400,000 to this year 340,000. And I bet you 18:51:09
15 whatever you want when your 20-day numbers come 18:51:09
16 in in September that you'll see further 18:51:14
17 plummeting. 18:51:16
18 Your teachers are about the same number 18:51:16
19 as ten years ago, 21,000, but your other staff 18:51:21
20 has skyrocketed to about 41,000, as was said 18:51:23
21 earlier. 18:51:27
22 The budget is so big now that 18:51:27
23 Ms. Wendell's bio I think needs to be updated 18:51:30
24 because it says she presides over a \$5.7 billion 18:51:34

1 Operating Budget, but that's obviously very old 18:51:37
2 news. 18:51:39

3 So what's my point here? My point 18:51:40
4 here, this is not about money. I could give you 18:51:43
5 another \$10 billion and guess what? You're 18:51:45
6 going to keep losing students. And why are you 18:51:51
7 losing students? That's what you need to ask 18:51:53
8 yourself. Part of it is -- 18:51:55

9 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:51:56
10 seconds. 18:51:57

11 MR. CHOSLOVSKY: My answer is you have 18:51:57
12 a union that's obstructionist and you have too 18:51:58
13 much bureaucracy within your own ranks. What 18:52:07
14 you're missing is rigor, educational rigor, 18:52:07
15 which cannot be solved with money. Your 18:52:12
16 student/staff ratio is way better than it was 18:52:14
17 ten years ago. But is learning up? No. Is 18:52:17
18 education up? No. You can use all the buzz 18:52:19
19 words you want, equity and everything else, and 18:52:22
20 you're about to become the fifth largest school 18:52:22
21 district in the country from third. 18:52:29

22 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, speaker 18:52:31
23 number 12. 18:52:32

24 MR. CHOSLOVSKY: That's how much your 18:52:32

1 enrollment is plummeting. 18:52:32

2 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you for your 18:52:33

3 comments. 18:52:34

4 Mr. President, we'll continue then with 18:52:34

5 the next speaker, speaker number 14, Dulce 18:52:36

6 Arroyo, followed by speaker 14, Laura Koroski. 18:52:39

7 Please unmute. Thank you. Please 18:52:44

8 proceed. 18:52:53

9 MS. ARROYO: My name is Dulce Arroyo, 18:52:54

10 and I'm a former teacher at Carl Schurz High 18:52:56

11 School. I say former because I was one of the 18:53:00

12 443 laid off staff members last month. CPS lays 18:53:00

13 off staff every year, and in a pandemic the 18:53:00

14 Board thought it was justifiable to lay off 443 18:53:09

15 of us in a time of mental, physical, emotional 18:53:10

16 and financial crises. Where is the humanity and 18:53:13

17 logic in that decision? 18:53:16

18 We need the \$2 billion recovery funds 18:53:17

19 from President Biden to address immediate needs 18:53:19

20 for our students and to properly fund staffing 18:53:23

21 in our schools. This could cover having 18:53:26

22 librarians, counselors, social workers and 18:53:27

23 nurses at every school, plus provide at least 18:53:28

24 300 teachers to reduce class sizes for those 18:53:31

1 students who need more individual attention and 18:53:32
2 support, yet the Board chooses to hire 18:53:35
3 miscellaneous workers who may not even be 18:53:38
4 certified educators to tutor students. 18:53:38

5 CPS can also make funding transparent 18:53:43
6 by doing the following: 18:53:43

7 \$300 million would house all homeless 18:53:44
8 CPS students and their families for one year. 18:53:47

9 Over 400 CPS schools also need ADA 18:53:49
10 accommodations for staff with disabilities, but 18:53:52
11 this year's budget addresses only 33 schools ADA 18:53:54
12 needs. We could make every school ADA compliant 18:53:59
13 for less than a third of CPS's Federal funds. 18:54:00

14 CPS has \$100 million in federal funds 18:54:03
15 for air quality upgrades, but of the nearly 300 18:54:07
16 schools with students and staff with respiratory 18:54:13
17 issues that need them, only 17 schools will 18:54:13
18 actually get the repairs they need. 18:54:17

19 Plus, CPS has rolled \$100 million on 18:54:17
20 their digital curriculum, Skyline, that 18:54:22
21 thousands of students won't even be able to use 18:54:23
22 because of insufficient in their schools. 18:54:27

23 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:54:28
24 seconds. 18:54:28

1 MS. ARROYO: Although CPS is only 18:54:29
2 two-thirds of what we need to help our 18:54:31
3 communities and schools recover, Mayor Lightfoot 18:54:31
4 continues to shift props to CPS to plug a city 18:54:35
5 budget hole. She continues to like community 18:54:37
6 leaders, like union delegates when we tell her 18:54:40
7 what we need so that she can benefit from the 18:54:42
8 Federal funds. 18:54:47
9 CPS can be a visionary and lead by 18:54:47
10 example for all other districts in the nation if 18:54:49
11 we use this money to truly listen to our 18:54:53
12 teachers, listen to our students and parents and 18:54:55
13 help our communities recover from traumatic 18:54:57
14 situations created by or worsened by the 18:55:02
15 pandemic. Thank you. 18:55:03
16 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, speaker 18:55:04
17 number 13. Thank you for your comments. 18:55:05
18 We'll continue, Mr. President, then 18:55:07
19 with speaker number 14 please, Laura Koroski. 18:55:09
20 Please unmute. 18:55:18
21 MS. KOROSKI: Hi, my name is Laura 18:55:19
22 Koroski, I am a teacher at Spry Community Links 18:55:19
23 High School in Little Village. When students 18:55:19
24 had the opportunity to return to the building in 18:55:19

1	4th quarter, only ten students in my entire	18:55:29
2	school chose to, ten total. Why? Partly	18:55:31
3	because it was not safe. Their zip code had the	18:55:35
4	most COVID cases of any zip code in the entire	18:55:38
5	state. Would you risk your life and the lives	18:55:45
6	of your family members in those conditions?	18:55:45
7	But a larger reason that only ten	18:55:45
8	students returned is that there was nowhere to	18:55:48
9	return to. Spry Community Links High School	18:55:51
10	does not have a school building. All of our	18:55:57
11	classes are held in rented space in the Boys and	18:55:57
12	Girls Club, which does not meet our needs. We	18:56:00
13	had to fight for four months to get the	18:56:03
14	ventilation in the rooms turned on so that they	18:56:05
15	would be COVID safe. The day staff returned in	18:56:10
16	person, we were forced to teach our first period	18:56:10
17	class from the sidewalk because the building was	18:56:14
18	not yet safe to use.	18:56:16
19	Funding is not the issue here. The	18:56:19
20	district has built multiple new schools and new	18:56:21
21	wings in the last decade with its Capital	18:56:24
22	Budget. The issue is that no one in power	18:56:28
23	cares. Specifically, you do not care. My	18:56:30
24	students know that you, the Members of the	18:56:33

1 Board, do not consider them worthy enough to 18:56:36
2 learn in a building that belongs to them. 18:56:41

3 Some people might say that having a 18:56:43
4 rented building is fine, it's normal for some 18:56:45
5 campuses. But I am here to tell you normal was 18:56:46
6 never acceptable. It was never fine. 18:56:46

7 SECRETARY BELTRAN: You have 30 18:56:46
8 seconds. 18:56:46

9 MS. KOROSKI: The district claims to 18:56:52
10 provide an equitable education to all its 18:56:53
11 students, but unless the Members of this Board 18:56:56
12 direct funding in this budget to the capital 18:56:58
13 projects of long forgotten schools, such as, 18:57:00
14 mine, that tag line of equity will continue to 18:57:04
15 be a lie. My students know that budgets and 18:57:08
16 that a failure to build a school for them is a 18:57:10
17 failure to prioritize them, their learning and 18:57:10
18 their community. I demand that this Board 18:57:10
19 reallocate capital spending to the school that 18:57:20
20 has no home, Community Links High School. Thank 18:57:22
21 you. 18:57:25

22 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you for your 18:57:25
23 comments, speaker number 14. 18:57:26

24 Mr. President, this concludes the 18:57:28

1	individuals on the speakers' list. We'll	18:57:30
2	proceed with the elected officials. Alderman	18:57:32
3	Byron Sigcho-Lopez from the 25th Ward, please.	18:57:35
4	Please unmute. Thank you, Alderman.	18:57:40
5	Please proceed.	18:57:40
6	ALDERMAN SIGCHO-LOPEZ: Can you hear me	18:57:50
7	now?	18:57:51
8	SECRETARY BELTRAN: Yes. Please	18:57:51
9	proceed.	18:57:52
10	ALDERMAN SIGCHO-LOPEZ: Thank you so	18:57:53
11	much.	18:57:53
12	And I want to thank all the parents,	18:57:54
13	all the educators and the community at large for	18:57:59
14	taking the time to come in this very important	18:58:02
15	discussion. I want to urge the Members of the	18:58:06
16	Board of Education to take these comments that	18:58:16
17	we have heard seriously and to heart. You have	18:58:21
18	heard from parents who feel that the Board of	18:58:23
19	Education does not take into consideration the	18:58:25
20	needs and the urgency of investment in the most	18:58:29
21	deplorable communities.	18:58:35
22	We see in the City of Chicago so much	18:58:37
23	violence, so much suffering, so much despair.	18:58:38
24	We see the finger pointing. We see all the	18:58:43

1 things that we see in the media, but nobody has 18:58:47
2 talked about how we got here, the closing of 50 18:58:50
3 schools in the poorest areas of our city, mainly 18:58:54
4 in black communities, shutting down of the 18:58:58
5 mental health clinics, half of them being shut 18:59:00
6 down. Those are the consequences of bad public 18:59:04
7 policy that I hope that we never repeat again 18:59:08
8 but unfortunately that continue to guide this 18:59:11
9 administration and the liberal policies that 18:59:14
10 continue to govern the City of Chicago with 18:59:15
11 horrible results. 18:59:17

12 I urge today the Board of Education 18:59:19
13 that has now the responsibility to oversee over 18:59:22
14 \$900 million in funding that is coming from the 18:59:26
15 Federal government to alleviate the suffering 18:59:30
16 that we see in our communities. 18:59:33

17 I do appreciate some of the information 18:59:35
18 that we have received, at least three schools in 18:59:37
19 our district have been fine for investment. 18:59:39
20 However, the many others who need desperate 18:59:42
21 funds, but yet they're still in the waiting line 18:59:48
22 for years. Cinco Elementary where there's no 18:59:50
23 AC. We have schools like Smith Elementary where 18:59:52
24 we don't even have a ramp for people with 18:59:55

1	disabilities to access the second floor.	18:59:58
2	There's so many needs in our community, and	19:00:01
3	these are the communities that need it the most.	19:00:03
4	More importantly and urgently I want to	19:00:06
5	bring up some of the discussions that we have	19:00:10
6	had with the youth in our community. Our young	19:00:11
7	people in our high schools and our elementary	19:00:11
8	schools, middle schools across the board and our	19:00:14
9	families are in urgent need for social/emotional	19:00:16
10	support, social workers, nurses, a plan to	19:00:19
11	prevent the spreading of the Delta variant and	19:00:22
12	so many other urgent needs. We're still waiting	19:00:29
13	for CPS to have our school, Benito Juarez, as a	19:00:32
14	permanent vaccination site for local schools.	19:00:34
15	These are things we need to see.	19:00:34
16	I urge the Board of Education to change	19:00:43
17	the legacy of segregation, of disinvestment of	19:00:44
18	structural racism to invest in what we need the	19:00:47
19	most, curriculum that is sensitive to the needs	19:00:51
20	and the history and identity of our students.	19:00:54
21	Educators need to be empowered to teach	19:00:55
22	creativity, to teach and inspire students for a	19:01:01
23	better future. We need curriculum that is not	19:01:02
24	guided by testing and corporations with	19:01:04

1 something they want to sell us or furniture or 19:01:06
2 whatever else to control and continue to invest. 19:01:09
3 We need desperate need in infrastructure, basic 19:01:12
4 infrastructure, social/emotional support and 19:01:16
5 curriculum that our kids more than any other 19:01:19
6 time before need urgently. 19:01:21

7 And finally, I would like to urge the 19:01:23
8 Board of Education to listen to the cry and the 19:01:25
9 suffering of our kids and our youth who need 19:01:29
10 after-school programs. We need desperately 19:01:31
11 after-school programs, arts, culture, music, 19:01:35
12 sports, the trades, so many options. You have 19:01:39
13 today a decision to listen to the kids or 19:01:42
14 families and educators or continue to lead them 19:01:47
15 to the leads who have created this mess in our 19:01:47
16 public schools and in our City of Chicago. I 19:01:54
17 urge you to listen to the people, to invest in 19:01:55
18 the school community, to invest in our schools, 19:01:57
19 but invest in us, invest in our future and stop 19:02:00
20 the business as usual that continues to fail our 19:02:04
21 communities today more than ever before. 19:02:07

22 Thank you so much, and we look forward 19:02:09
23 to collaborating and making our city a community 19:02:11
24 for everyone, not only those few who continue to 19:02:14

1 run i t. 19:02:18

2 SECRETARY BELTRAN: Thank you, 19:02:18

3 Alderman. 19:02:19

4 Mr. President, this concludes the 19:02:19

5 public comments segment. 19:02:21

6 PRESIDENT del VALLE: We will now 19:02:23

7 proceed to questions and comments from Board 19:02:24

8 Members. 19:02:27

9 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: President del 19:02:40

10 Valle. 19:02:42

11 PRESIDENT del VALLE: I'm sorry, 19:02:42

12 please, Vice President Revuluri. 19:02:43

13 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thanks to 19:02:45

14 Heather, Mike and the whole team. 19:02:47

15 As President del Valle said before, it 19:02:52

16 is really helpful when all your efforts to make 19:02:54

17 the budget, which is large and complex, a little 19:03:00

18 more understandable. I had a couple of 19:03:03

19 questions. 19:03:05

20 First, there were a number of folks who 19:03:05

21 were wondering or concerned about the effects of 19:03:09

22 what they believe are temporary enrollment 19:03:13

23 changes in their school's budget, and so I was 19:03:16

24 wondering if you could say a little more about 19:03:20

1 how enrollment affected school budgets for the 19:03:22
2 coming year? 19:03:25

3 MS. WENDELL: Thank you. Sure. 19:03:30

4 So we, this year, understanding the 19:03:31
5 public feedback and the stakeholder engagement 19:03:35
6 sessions that we did this winter, that was one 19:03:38
7 of the resounding themes that came up in all of 19:03:41
8 the discussions. And so the school budgets that 19:03:43
9 were provided to principals and school 19:03:46
10 communities in April reflected an enrollment 19:03:48
11 approach that provided schools essentially an 19:03:52
12 adjusted enrollment that would honor their 19:03:56
13 natural enrollment trend but for the pandemic. 19:03:59
14 And so there was a \$32 million investment to 19:04:03
15 provide and mitigate some of those enrollment 19:04:07
16 impacts to ensure that schools could retain 19:04:11
17 vital programming and staff in a space where the 19:04:15
18 enrollment may have been out of the ordinary. 19:04:19

19 And so that \$32 million additional in 19:04:21
20 schools this spring, you know, worked really to 19:04:26
21 allow some contextualization at the local level 19:04:29
22 to ensure that they could maintain staff and 19:04:33
23 programming in spite of, you know, what the 19:04:36
24 impact of the pandemic may have been on 19:04:38

1 enrollments for fall this past year. 19:04:41

2 Those dollars will also be retained in 19:04:43

3 schools, regardless of what enrollments may look 19:04:46

4 like at 20th day this year so that established 19:04:49

5 essentially the four for school budgeting this 19:04:52

6 year. And there won't be any disruption to 19:04:55

7 those dollars no matter what the enrollments may 19:04:58

8 look like in fall. 19:05:01

9 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you. 19:05:03

10 President del Valle, I have a couple 19:05:04

11 more questions, if that's okay? 19:05:05

12 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Yes, please. 19:05:07

13 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: The next 19:05:08

14 question is a number of the public commenters 19:05:09

15 referenced the Federal funds that you explained 19:05:13

16 our current plan to use. And I just wanted to 19:05:18

17 clarify, do we expect those funds to keep coming 19:05:23

18 year after year and thus able to support new 19:05:27

19 staff positions and that kind of expansion? 19:05:31

20 MS. WENDELL: Yes, so thank you for the 19:05:40

21 question and elevating that. 19:05:41

22 So essentially the Federal dollars that 19:05:43

23 have been allocated under ESSER II and ESSER III 19:05:46

24 follow three sort of elements, and understanding 19:05:49

1 that these were really provided as stabilization 19:05:51
2 dollars around those three core pieces that the 19:05:54
3 Biden administration has laid out, which is 19:05:58
4 really around emerging stronger post-pandemic, 19:06:01
5 maintaining the continuity of service. And so 19:06:04
6 trying again to ensure that as schools work 19:06:06
7 towards a return to in-person instruction, there 19:06:09
8 is a continuity of the staff and services 19:06:12
9 certainly in that space and then continuing to 19:06:15
10 address resource equity. 19:06:17

11 The dollars have been allocated really 19:06:19
12 for that point in time, so we're talking about 19:06:22
13 funding that expires in FY 24. And so while 19:06:24
14 we're extremely grateful for the stabilization 19:06:27
15 dollars, the intent here really is to invest in 19:06:30
16 elements that will support school and students 19:06:33
17 returning strongly and allow for continued 19:06:36
18 operations. So things that are point in time 19:06:39
19 sort of investments while we and every district 19:06:42
20 in the country look for some of that revenue 19:06:46
21 return, and as Miroslava gave voice to, some of 19:06:48
22 those longer term structural solutions that we 19:06:52
23 are looking towards in the out years. 19:06:55

24 So essentially the focus here on our 19:06:58

1 investments aligns to the Federal investments, 19:07:00
2 which is really around continuity of service as 19:07:02
3 opposed to, you know, an increase of something 19:07:05
4 that would put other sort of pressures on the 19:07:08
5 budget in out years. 19:07:11

6 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you. 19:07:16

7 And my third question and my last for 19:07:17
8 now is you mentioned some of the public 19:07:20
9 engagement and highlighted a couple of the ways 19:07:23
10 that -- that influence the budget decisions. 19:07:27
11 Could you say more about how that public 19:07:33
12 engagement informed the budget as both the COVID 19:07:35
13 situation progressed and the landscape of 19:07:41
14 Federal funding kept changing over the last 19:07:45
15 several months? 19:07:47

16 MS. WENDELL: Sure. 19:07:50

17 So the public forums that we held 19:07:51
18 around the budget in February were specific to 19:07:54
19 school funding and were really led with an 19:07:57
20 open-ended question for stakeholders and 19:08:02
21 communities to engage around, which was what the 19:08:04
22 district should keep top of mind as it relates 19:08:07
23 to school funding right now. And so within that 19:08:10
24 framework and that feedback, you know, it 19:08:12

1 informed not only some of the investments that 19:08:14
2 are highlighted at the highest level within this 19:08:16
3 Operating Budget but certainly the individual 19:08:20
4 school strategies that came out in spring. So 19:08:23
5 the equity grants and the use of the Opportunity 19:08:25
6 Index to really differentiate need and get very 19:08:28
7 granular in school, student and community need 19:08:35
8 was a new element this year that was informed by 19:08:35
9 some of that feedback as well. The increase of 19:08:39
10 the equity grants themselves, the use of an 19:08:40
11 Opportunity Index and a waiting -- a need-based 19:08:42
12 waiting that helped guide the distribution of 19:08:46
13 the funding that schools received under the 19:08:49
14 Moving Forward Together framework. So really 19:08:51
15 acknowledging the fact that schools and 19:08:55
16 communities and students were impacted 19:08:57
17 differently, you know, by the pandemic. 19:08:59
18 I think another portion of this was 19:09:00
19 around the continued support for some of the 19:09:02
20 programming that schools and communities have 19:09:05
21 come to rely on. So in spite of all of the 19:09:08
22 factors and drivers, continuing to invest in the 19:09:12
23 Universal Pre-K Programming, knowing that that 19:09:16
24 is a particular group that not only suffered 19:09:19

1 from -- you know, we're working on reenrolling, 19:09:22
2 that's an age group where we're really just 19:09:25
3 working to capture those youngest learners. So 19:09:28
4 continuing to expand those programming 19:09:28
5 offerings. The investments in special education 19:09:31
6 were another piece that came up as well. 19:09:33

7 And then finally, and I know I gave 19:09:35
8 voice to this earlier, and you asked this in 19:09:38
9 your first question, the enrollment piece was 19:09:40
10 what was most top of mind for people that we 19:09:44
11 heard time and time again. And so going into 19:09:47
12 this really understanding with leadership and 19:09:49
13 our options to try and mitigate what that is and 19:09:52
14 allow schools the ability to have access to 19:09:54
15 those resources and contextualize their 19:09:58
16 application to what their local level need is. 19:10:01
17 And so, you know, we endeavor to put dollars, to 19:10:04
18 the extent possible, in the hands of local 19:10:06
19 schools so principals, LSCs and school 19:10:09
20 communities could really make choices that were 19:10:10
21 most beneficial to their students. 19:10:12

22 VICE PRESIDENT REVULURI: Thank you. 19:10:17

23 MEMBER MELENDEZ: President del Valle. 19:10:18

24 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Yes, Member 19:10:19

1 Melendez. 19:10:22

2 MEMBER MELENDEZ: Yes, I just have a 19:10:23

3 couple of clarifying questions. 19:10:25

4 I just want to make sure that I 19:10:29

5 understand correctly. The ESSER funds, which 19:10:31

6 are temporal funds and are allocated earmarked 19:10:34

7 for particular efforts, include ensuring that 19:10:38

8 kids when they return to school in the fall are 19:10:44

9 provided with all the supports and the resources 19:10:47

10 to make a successful transition to what we hope 19:10:50

11 will be a regular school year. So there's been 19:10:56

12 a lot of questions raised in our public comments 19:10:58

13 today regarding the need for social/emotional 19:11:01

14 supports and also you addressed -- you 19:11:04

15 highlighted again in your response to Vice 19:11:08

16 President Revuluri that schools will have a 19:11:12

17 considerable degree of autonomy in, you know, 19:11:15

18 crafting how they're going to use the ESSER 19:11:21

19 funds that they're going to -- so I just want to 19:11:23

20 make sure that I understand, that my 19:11:27

21 understanding is correct, that the schools will 19:11:29

22 have and that there will be opportunities for 19:11:32

23 schools to make the choice of investing funds 19:11:34

24 for social/emotional supports, which I think we 19:11:39

1 all agree are very much needed at this 19:11:43
2 particular juncture in the pandemic. 19:11:47

3 MS. WENDELL: Yes. Thank you for 19:11:51
4 asking the clarifying question. And absolutely 19:11:52
5 there's a portion of the dollars under the 19:11:55
6 Moving Forward Together framework, schools 19:11:57
7 received allocations for both some of the core 19:11:59
8 programming as well as additional supports in 19:12:02
9 the out-of-school time. The overall Moving 19:12:05
10 Forward Together framework also includes a 19:12:09
11 variety of healing-centered framework, the SEL 19:12:12
12 supports and other elements that schools have 19:12:15
13 those evidence-based interventions available to 19:12:18
14 them both at the local level to make decisions 19:12:21
15 and then also within the offerings that the 19:12:25
16 district is supporting through the framework, 19:12:28
17 particularly targeting in a data-based approach 19:12:30
18 the students and schools that are most in need 19:12:32
19 of those SEL interventions. So that is 19:12:34
20 absolutely a core element of what the definition 19:12:37
21 at the Federal level and our own definition 19:12:40
22 means for a strong return to school. 19:12:43

23 MEMBER MELENDEZ: Thank you. 19:12:45

24 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Any other 19:12:49

1	questi ons?	19:12:50
2	MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Could I ask a	19:12:50
3	question, President del Valle.	19:12:52
4	PRESIDENT del VALLE: Yes, Member	19:12:53
5	Todd-Brel and.	19:12:56
6	MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: I was wonderi ng	19:12:56
7	can someone speak a bit more to revenues lost	19:12:57
8	over the course or in relation to COVID?	19:13:01
9	CHIEF SITKOWSKI: I'm happy to weigh in	19:13:14
10	on that questi on.	19:13:16
11	So there's a few key areas where we saw	19:13:17
12	less revenue growth or no revenue growth in some	19:13:17
13	areas where we had previously been expecti ng and	19:13:19
14	where hi stori cal trends have told us that we	19:13:21
15	could expect to see revenues conti nue to grow.	19:13:22
16	The fi rst big area I want to hi ghli ght	19:13:25
17	is wi th regard to State fundi ng. And we're	19:13:27
18	certainly grateful that the State i ncreased its	19:13:30
19	al l ocati on of evi dence-based fundi ng in their	19:13:32
20	FY 22 budget, but after the onset of the	19:13:34
21	pandemi c their pri or year budget di d not i nclude	19:13:38
22	any i ncreases i n State fundi ng. So as you mi ght	19:13:42
23	be fami li ar those are -- the i ncreases each year	19:13:45
24	are i ncluded -- are conti mplated i n the	19:13:48

1 legislation that was passed as part of 19:13:51
2 evidence-based funding, but the State's fiscal 19:13:53
3 situation last year prevented them from doing 19:13:56
4 that. 19:13:57

5 I want to highlight also again what we 19:13:57
6 referenced before and what I think is an 19:13:59
7 important data point. You know, by the State's 19:14:01
8 own assessment we are still only 66 percent 19:14:03
9 funded for what they think that we need based on 19:14:06
10 the students that we serve. 19:14:09

11 The second major area where we saw an 19:14:10
12 impact on revenue growth is around property 19:14:13
13 taxes. And so those of you that are homeowners 19:14:15
14 or familiar with what's going on with the County 19:14:19
15 and the Assessor's Office, the County did a 19:14:22
16 reassessment of home value and property values 19:14:25
17 due to the pandemic in 2020. And so what this 19:14:31
18 did is it lowered the equalized assessed value 19:14:34
19 of properties throughout the city, which in turn 19:14:38
20 lowered the amount of revenue that we collected 19:14:42
21 through our property tax levies. So while we 19:14:42
22 did see overall growth in that from FY 21 to 19:14:45
23 FY 22, we would have seen a substantial growth 19:14:51
24 but for the off-cycle reassessment done by the 19:14:56

1 Assessor's Office. 19:15:01

2 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thanks. I guess 19:15:03

3 one of the things I'm trying to get at is I 19:15:04

4 think for me it's been helpful to think about 19:15:06

5 some portion of the new Federal money that's 19:15:09

6 coming as replacement dollars, right? There 19:15:12

7 were dollars that we either got less than or 19:15:15

8 expected in regular growth that didn't come in 19:15:17

9 at all at all levels of government, local, State 19:15:20

10 and Federal prior to these new ESSER funds, the 19:15:22

11 most recent set of ESSER funds that we have to 19:15:26

12 replace just to like keep lights on and pay 19:15:29

13 bills. And I think that like if we go back, I'm 19:15:32

14 thinking where we were in December and looking 19:15:33

15 at forecasts and such without the ESSER III 19:15:37

16 dollars, we would have been in a very dire 19:15:39

17 circumstance. And so in many ways the ESSER 19:15:42

18 funds have allowed us, to your point, Heather, 19:15:44

19 about the continuation of service, to continue 19:15:47

20 to pay the bills that we already have. 19:15:49

21 And then there's also a portion, which 19:15:51

22 I think is important to note, that is above and 19:15:53

23 beyond that that we're able to then use for 19:15:57

24 other purposes that has been outlined through 19:15:58

1 the framework of Moving Forward Together, 19:15:59
2 et cetera, and I think duly noted by others. 19:16:01
3 The various ways that that's been informed by 19:16:04
4 the budget equity forums, which I was happy to 19:16:07
5 attend and saw hundreds of parents and community 19:16:10
6 members attend and give very clear feedback. 19:16:11
7 And I also want to note, I found it 19:16:13
8 interesting that the feedback we got this year 19:16:13
9 was actually slightly different than the 19:16:16
10 feedback that we got a year before because it 19:16:17
11 really was focused on stabilization, right? And 19:16:21
12 so part of what I think we're seeing here is a 19:16:23
13 response to that and that makes sense but also 19:16:27
14 the other, you know, community and stakeholder 19:16:29
15 feedback that we hear constantly as Board 19:16:31
16 Members. We receive, you know, communications 19:16:33
17 all the time about these various needs that have 19:16:35
18 been put forward. But at the end of the day 19:16:38
19 there is still a structural deficit in our 19:16:40
20 system, and so I think that I agree with many of 19:16:43
21 the people in public comment who are talking 19:16:45
22 about our dire need for long-term structural 19:16:47
23 solutions. \$2 billion sounds like a lot of 19:16:50
24 money, and it certainly is a lot of money, but 19:16:53

1 when parts of that is just replacement funds, 19:16:55
2 right, and they're not going to be long-term and 19:16:58
3 they're going to end two, two-and-a-half, 19:17:00
4 depending on how we're counting, years, the way 19:17:03
5 in which we approach spending that money is very 19:17:07
6 different than if we knew there was going to be 19:17:07
7 a long-term structural solution. 19:17:09

8 And so I just also want to like drill 19:17:09
9 down on what some of those structural solutions 19:17:12
10 are. I'm happy to have elected officials come 19:17:14
11 here because as a Board we're tapped at what we 19:17:16
12 can raise funds for. This is not a Board of 19:17:19
13 Education that can go out and raise property 19:17:21
14 taxes if we wanted to, that's not the powers we 19:17:23
15 have in the City of Chicago. What we get is 19:17:25
16 what we get from these various other entities. 19:17:27
17 And so at the local, state and federal level, 19:17:31
18 there is room and a necessity for long-term 19:17:33
19 structural solutions if we want to be able to do 19:17:37
20 many of the things that folks were talking 19:17:37
21 about, right, to have long-term solutions that 19:17:39
22 we know can last beyond the next year, 19:17:40
23 year-and-a-half, two years. 19:17:43

24 And so I think that -- I just want to 19:17:44

1 continue to have -- like it's a disconnect 19:17:46
2 though. Like I understand the disconnect of 19:17:49
3 being like you all just got \$2 billion but also 19:17:51
4 we have a structural deficit, right? But also 19:17:55
5 we're still taking out TANs to pay our payments, 19:17:57
6 that that is still the situation we're in as a 19:18:01
7 district. And so just trying to figure out that 19:18:04
8 space between the -- how we're going to use this 19:18:06
9 money now and the best ways that we can 19:18:08
10 possible, understanding that is short-term money 19:18:10
11 and balancing that with at the same time. 19:18:13
12 Please, let's continue, all of us, to 19:18:15
13 advocate to the local, state and federal level 19:18:17
14 for things that are going to do things, like 19:18:20
15 actually get us our full state funding, for 19:18:22
16 things that are actually going to have the state 19:18:25
17 pay up our pensions the way they do every other 19:18:28
18 district in the state. I know there's a lot of 19:18:30
19 energy at the state level about making Chicago 19:18:33
20 like every other district in the state, and this 19:18:33
21 feels like another space to do that, to make 19:18:35
22 sure our pensions are paid like every other 19:18:38
23 district in the state. 19:18:41
24 So I just feel there's just a lot of 19:18:42

1 opportunity here for, you know, again at the 19:18:44
2 Federal level. Thank you all so much for these 19:18:45
3 funds, Biden Administration. And also, supports 19:18:46
4 for mental health are things we needed prior to 19:18:49
5 the pandemic and we need them even more now and 19:18:52
6 we're going to continue to need them. You know, 19:18:53
7 all these other supports are just going to 19:18:56
8 continue to be needed. So I hope that this can 19:18:57
9 also be a moment where we come together as a 19:19:00
10 community to galvanize and push for those 19:19:00
11 structural solutions that are really going to be 19:19:03
12 long-term and allow us to address the needs that 19:19:04
13 we know our students and families and 19:19:07
14 communities have. 19:19:10

15 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Any other 19:19:12
16 questions or comments from Board Members? 19:19:13

17 All right. If there are no other Board 19:19:21
18 Members with questions or comments, I have a 19:19:23
19 couple of questions and maybe Lindy could help 19:19:25
20 respond. 19:19:31

21 The money that's in this budget for the 19:19:35
22 17 schools, the ventilation work at 17 schools. 19:19:41
23 That's major work that's being done at 17 19:19:48
24 schools, but there's ventilation work at just 19:19:52

1 about all our schools. And we're going to make 19:19:57
2 sure, just as we did for -- during our plan for 19:20:01
3 reopening that our schools are -- that the air 19:20:04
4 quality is what it needs to be in all our 19:20:08
5 schools. Can you say something about the 19:20:10
6 spending in addition to what we're doing in 19:20:13
7 these 17 schools to address air quality in the 19:20:16
8 rest of our schools? 19:20:21

9 MS. McGUIRE: Certainly. Good 19:20:23
10 afternoon, and thank you, Mr. Board President -- 19:20:25
11 good evening, and thank you, Mr. Board 19:20:27
12 President, for that question. 19:20:30

13 Yes, building on the efforts extended, 19:20:31
14 as you referenced, in the previous school year, 19:20:33
15 our team is already out reviewing the indoor air 19:20:36
16 quality and making the necessary improvements 19:20:40
17 that are needed to make sure that our students 19:20:43
18 and staff are welcomed safely this August. And 19:20:46
19 so that work is ongoing very similar to the 19:20:51
20 indoor air quality reviews that we did 19:20:55
21 previously. 19:20:59

22 And again, I would remind the Board 19:21:00
23 that you can go to a specific school and search 19:21:03
24 by a specific classroom. And that information 19:21:06

1 is being updated and will be ready prior to the 19:21:08
2 start of school. 19:21:13

3 PRESIDENT del VALLE: And Federal funds 19:21:14
4 are being used for that purpose also? 19:21:16

5 MS. MCGUIRE: Certainly. Certainly. 19:21:18
6 We are thrilled, as Heather and Miroslava and 19:21:19
7 the team had referenced earlier in our hearing 19:21:24
8 tonight, that the Federal government had 19:21:26
9 provided us some flexibility to use the 19:21:28
10 capital -- the dollars for capital purposes. 19:21:31
11 And so as you so correctly lift up, we are 19:21:34
12 proposing \$100 million of those funds to 19:21:39
13 supplement the HVAC and the necessary facility 19:21:43
14 repairs that we need. 19:21:48

15 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Okay. It's just 19:21:50
16 the budget presentation indicated 17 schools, 19:21:52
17 and I don't want the public to think that we're 19:21:55
18 only doing this work in 17 -- only in 17 19:21:57
19 schools. We're doing work at all our schools. 19:22:01

20 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes. 19:22:05

21 PRESIDENT del VALLE: And all our 19:22:06
22 school buildings will be equipped, properly 19:22:08
23 equipped and will be prepared as they are now 19:22:10
24 for the fall. 19:22:16

1 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes. 19:22:17

2 PRESIDENT del VALLE: My other question 19:22:18

3 is regarding the money in the budget to deal 19:22:20

4 with modulars, can you say more about that? 19:22:22

5 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes, I'm happy to. Thank 19:22:26

6 you again for that. Good question. 19:22:29

7 So we in the proposed FY 22 capital 19:22:33

8 plan this year proposed the first year of a 19:22:37

9 multi-year plan to address modular refurb -- 19:22:39

10 what we're calling a Modular Refurbishment 19:22:43

11 Program. 19:22:48

12 As we've heard this meeting, as I know 19:22:48

13 you have heard in previous Board meetings, as we 19:22:50

14 have heard in our roles as management, we have 19:22:53

15 heard of modulars throughout the district that 19:22:55

16 are beyond their useful life. And we wish we 19:22:59

17 had the resources to address all of those issues 19:23:02

18 in FY 22. That is not possible until we are 19:23:06

19 proposing and hopeful to gain approval of a 19:23:11

20 multi-year plan to address the modulars that are 19:23:14

21 beyond their useful life. And that will be done 19:23:18

22 in close coordination with our Office of 19:23:20

23 Portfolio and with the local network -- with our 19:23:24

24 Office of Network Supports and the local school 19:23:28

1 communities to address the issues with the 19:23:32
2 modulars. 19:23:34

3 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Okay. When you 19:23:34
4 say get approval, you're talking about the 19:23:35
5 budget? 19:23:38

6 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes, sir. If. 19:23:39

7 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Budget approval? 19:23:41

8 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes, sir. Yes, we're 19:23:43
9 seeking that approval in the proposed FY -- 19:23:45

10 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Okay, that is now 19:23:48
11 revealing and we'll be voting on next week? 19:23:51

12 MS. MCGUIRE: Yes. 19:23:53

13 PRESIDENT del VALLE: Are there any 19:23:59
14 other questions or comments? 19:24:02

15 I have one last question, and I don't 19:24:07
16 know who to address it to, but it's regarding 19:24:08
17 the layoffs. I heard one speaker say that they 19:24:11
18 were laid off due to budget cuts. Are any 19:24:19
19 schools having their budget cuts -- cut this 19:24:24
20 next school year? Heather? 19:24:28

21 MS. WENDELL: Apologies, I couldn't 19:24:36
22 find my unmute. 19:24:38

23 So essentially any layoffs that had 19:24:39
24 occurred at the school level are primarily due 19:24:43

1 to either a change in programmatic focus or 19:24:46
2 need, so in spaces where we continue to endeavor 19:24:50
3 to make sure that students with IEPs have the 19:24:55
4 allocations of teachers and paras that are 19:24:58
5 necessary based on the composition of those IEPs 19:25:01
6 in that building or a change at a local level in 19:25:04
7 terms of principal and LSC discretion in how 19:25:08
8 they want to take and focus their programming. 19:25:12
9 So, for example, that may be a change in 19:25:14
10 approach for electives and things of that sort. 19:25:17
11 And so the layoffs that resulted with 19:25:20
12 relation to the school budgets, my understanding 19:25:24
13 from my colleagues in Talent is that there are 19:25:26
14 far more positions that are open for that 19:25:31
15 movement across the city. So if staff were 19:25:35
16 impacted at one particular school, there are 19:25:40
17 postings throughout the city of availability for 19:25:42
18 positions for upcoming fall. And so much of 19:25:45
19 that is just sort of the natural process as all 19:25:48
20 of our 500-plus schools reconsider their own 19:25:51
21 individual needs and what the composite needs of 19:25:54
22 their students are for the upcoming year. But 19:25:57
23 there will be more hiring availability than 19:26:00
24 there were impacted staff is my understanding. 19:26:03

1 PRESIDENT del VALLE: What you just 19:26:06
2 said is very important. And I always say we 19:26:07
3 have to remember that we're talking to the 19:26:12
4 public when we have public meetings. And so we 19:26:14
5 have to make sure that we provide clear 19:26:17
6 explanations in layman's terms so that people 19:26:23
7 understand. 19:26:27

8 In this case layoffs are primarily due 19:26:27
9 to programmatic changes and decisions that are 19:26:32
10 made at the local school level, the principal 19:26:38
11 working with the LSC and making decisions, 19:26:41
12 especially this year when every school is 19:26:46
13 getting additional resources to work with. 19:26:48
14 Those -- having additional resources doesn't 19:26:52
15 mean that programmatic decisions will not be 19:26:54
16 made that will effect a staff person or two. 19:26:57
17 That's the other point -- the one point. 19:27:01

18 The second point is that we have 19:27:04
19 vacancies. And I don't know what the number is 19:27:06
20 right now, but we have vacancies that 19:27:13
21 individuals who left the school will be able to 19:27:20
22 apply for. And many have applied for these 19:27:22
23 positions. And in past years a great percentage 19:27:26
24 of those who are laid off at the end of the year 19:27:28

1 as a result of programmatic changes or other 19:27:34
2 decisions that are made end up employed in other 19:27:36
3 schools. Is that a fair statement? 19:27:40
4 MS. WENDELL: Yes, that's a fair 19:27:45
5 statement in that individuals who have been 19:27:47
6 impacted have the opportunity to apply for and 19:27:50
7 in many cases can be matched to additional roles 19:27:54
8 elsewhere in the district. 19:27:57
9 This is a phenomenon that happens 19:27:59
10 generally each year as part of that local level 19:28:02
11 decision-making and the continuous, you know, 19:28:05
12 allocation of making sure that we're meeting 19:28:09
13 special education IEP resource needs. 19:28:12
14 PRESIDENT del VALLE: All right. Thank 19:28:22
15 you for your response. 19:28:23
16 Are there any other questions or 19:28:24
17 comments from Board Members? 19:28:25
18 Okay. If not, then this concludes the 19:28:35
19 first Fiscal Year 22 Budget Hearing. So we are 19:28:38
20 adjourned. Thank you all very much. 19:28:43
21 (Whereupon, the proceedings
22 adjourned at 7:28 p.m.)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
COUNTY OF COOK)

Karen Fatigato, 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
hearing, and that the foregoing is a true and
correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
given at said hearing.

Karen Fatigato



Karen Fatigato, CSR
LIC. NO. 084-004072

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