

1 CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3 PROPOSED FY19 CAPITAL PLAN

4 held on

5 Thursday, July 19, 2018

6
7 STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in
8 the above-entitled matter held at Malcolm X
9 college, 1900 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago,
10 Illinois, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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13 PRESENT:

14 MS. JENNIE HUANG BENNETT, Chief Financial
15 Officer of Chicago Public Schools

16 MR. CAMERON MOCK, Presenter, Senior Policy
17 Advisor Chicago Public Schools

18 MR. RANDALL JOSSERAND, Moderator, Chief of
19 Schools for Network 3

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23 Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR

24 License No.: 084-004072



1 MR. JOSSERAND: So good evening to
2 everyone. I want to welcome each of you and
3 thank you for coming this evening. I want to
4 tell you a little bit about how the meeting will
5 proceed this evening, and then we will move
6 ahead with the importance of this topic.

7 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: What is your
8 name?

9 MR. JOSSERAND: I am Randall Jossierand,
10 I am the Chief of Schools for CPS for Network 3
11 on the west side of Chicago.

12 So I'm going to provide a little bit of
13 an overview of what we'll be doing this evening.

14 The Capital Plan Hearing will begin
15 promptly at 6 p.m. and we will end at 8 p.m. or
16 when the last speaker is finished speaking,
17 whichever comes first.

18 Those who signed up to speak will be
19 given an opportunity to make a statement for up
20 to two minutes until the meeting is adjourned.
21 We want to hold our speaking to two minutes to
22 allow all of those who had an opportunity to
23 sign up to speak that opportunity before we get
24 to our 8 o'clock end time this evening. So



1 please do hold your comments to two minutes.

2 Speakers will be called in the order in
3 which they signed up, and speakers should have a
4 number indicating the order that they will be
5 speaking this evening. We will be asking
6 speakers to limit their comments to the topics
7 related to the Capital Plan.

8 When multiple speakers from the same
9 organization or school are listed, we ask that
10 only one member of the organization or school
11 speak regarding the specific issue. If a
12 speaker has a follow-up question, we'll ask you
13 to speak to one of the CPS staff members who
14 will be in the auditorium, they will give you a
15 card where you'll be asked to write your
16 follow-up question so that it can be addressed
17 before we leave this evening.

18 The full Capital Plan is available on
19 the CPS website. You can also provide feedback
20 and leave questions on our website, which is
21 cps.edu/capitalplan.

22 Now we'll have a brief presentation
23 regarding the Capital Plan before we move on to
24 your questions.



1 MR. MOCK: Good evening, everyone, my
2 name is Cameron Mock, I'm the Senior Policy
3 Advisor for the District, and I have a short
4 Capital Plan to walk you through the basics of
5 what we're looking at for Fiscal Year '19.

6 I want to first appreciate everybody
7 coming out to voice their opinions, concerns,
8 approval on the variety of capital projects we
9 have here. And so hopefully this presentation
10 will give you a little bit more context around
11 what we're thinking for the Fiscal Year '19
12 Capital Plan.

13 We stand up here today in a much better
14 financial position than we have been in recent
15 years. As a result of -- largely due to the
16 actions in Springfield to secure more stable
17 funding and equitable funding for CPS, we've
18 gained better access to capital markets,
19 improved financing rates, and as a result we are
20 looking at a \$989 million Capital Plan this
21 year, which is sizably larger than previous
22 years. It's actually the largest Capital Plan
23 in over two decades.

24 Included in this plan is a series of



1 highlights, but one of the main ones I want to
2 mention upfront is the education investment
3 highlights. As you see this Capital Plan will
4 feature state-of-the-art high school labs, high
5 speed internet access and devices, expansion of
6 free full-day pre-K, as well as expansion of IB,
7 STEM, Magnet and Classical schools.

8 We have kind of three key buckets for
9 academic initiatives as it relates to capital.
10 One is the warm, safe and dry, also known as
11 deferred maintenance. We have pretty old
12 portfolio buildings in the District, and so as
13 you might imagine there's a lot of facility
14 repair needs, and so that's what we bucketed
15 into the warm, safe, dry category.

16 You also have your education program,
17 so as I mentioned before things like IB, Magnet,
18 STEM, one-to-one computing, state-of-the-art
19 high school labs, things of those nature to
20 further the academic interest beyond just
21 providing for a warm, safe, dry environment for
22 our students.

23 And the third is overcrowding, and so
24 we see migration and demographics just in the



1 city, and so the overcrowding piece is to
2 address some of those shifts.

3 Laid out in further detail of these
4 three buckets, you can see here on the fourth
5 slide we have about 1.8 billion in critical
6 prioritized need for the warm, safe, dry area
7 and some light safety issues and environmental
8 issues that we're seeking to address, including
9 improved fire alarms, modernized security
10 cameras, and as well as some addition of turf
11 and playgrounds that are safer and more
12 improved.

13 On the education side as I mentioned
14 before you see the STEM science, art and music
15 rooms, these are specifically targeted at
16 improving students' academic achievements, and
17 the one-to-one computing too, which is part of
18 the multi-year plan to roll out one-to-one
19 computing for all students District-wide.

20 As you see for the overcrowding area as
21 well, again, due to some of the shifts in
22 enrollment around the city, you see certain
23 areas that have become overcrowded, and so we
24 seek to provide for those students in



1 combination with other capital plans that
2 provide some capital dollars for other students
3 across the city so that we can provide a
4 comprehensive Capital Plan that touches every
5 student in every geographic region of the city.

6 As far as the financing goes for this
7 capital budget, you see here the breakdown, 189
8 million is actually carryover appropriation from
9 the prior year. We issued about 290 million in
10 the fall or will in the fall of 2018. And then
11 the capital improvement tax which began a couple
12 years ago and now we finance on the increment
13 every year. This is an important one for us
14 because this is not touching the operating
15 dollars, this is a separate dedicated levy for
16 capital improvements. Then we have some place
17 holder or some additional projects in the
18 externally funded and some interfund transfers,
19 and then we have future proceeds of about 305
20 million. And that gets us to the 989 million
21 that are needed to fund this project.

22 within the three kind of categories of
23 funding you see we've broken down a more
24 itemized list, and I'll go into each of these



1 categories in further detail. As you see about
2 a third of it -- a third of the 989 million is
3 for critical facility needs. A lot of this,
4 over 200 million, is for critical tuckpointing,
5 envelope work, roofs, masonry, things of that
6 sort. Another third approximately is
7 programmatic investments, as mentioned before
8 these high school labs and IB and STEM and, you
9 know, Classical and Magnet expansion. You see
10 in the 88 million for IT, security and building
11 system investments that's, as I mentioned
12 before, fire alarm improvements, camera
13 upgrades, as well as the \$50 million for
14 one-to-one computing, which includes both
15 devices, as well as infrastructure improvements
16 to make sure that the IT infrastructure is
17 enough to support the devices themselves.

18 within the facility needs bucket, as I
19 mentioned before, the vast majority of that is
20 going towards these envelope projects. We have
21 right now 27 schools identified in need and on
22 the list too that we'll provide envelope
23 improvements for, including roof, tuckpointing,
24 masonry, things of that nature. 78 million is



1 for mechanical maintenance projects, you know,
2 old boilers, things of that nature, that need to
3 be upgraded. And then the remaining you can see
4 there we see the contingency for emergency
5 facility repairs. Again, as our buildings grow
6 older, as you might imagine, we need to keep a
7 good deal of contingency in there to be able to
8 fix critical projects on the spot so that it
9 doesn't deter or delay our academic mission.

10 In the programmatic improvements you
11 see you have 145 million for new schools, you
12 have 62 million for educational programs and 50
13 million for education program expansions. You
14 can see the schools listed there that are in
15 that. And then 43 million is for the
16 aforementioned STEM, IB and Magnet expansion
17 high school labs. So that bucket includes the
18 other third.

19 So we have a remaining third that's
20 broken down over the, as you can see,
21 overcrowding relief. This is across four
22 different schools here for the annexes and then
23 the Belmont-Cragin neighborhood school.

24 88 million as you can see here, the 50



1 million for one-to-one modernized computing for
2 students, again the first part of the multi-year
3 plan to phase this out -- or phase this in
4 rather District-wide.

5 Another 8-and-a-half million is for
6 those IT infrastructure upgrades and system
7 enhancements, including cps.edu and the recent
8 GoCPS to support those endeavors.

9 46 million of the 989 is going towards
10 site improvements. A big portion of this is for
11 space to grow. There's another 6.4 million for
12 playlots and ongoing repairs, replacements of
13 playlots and turf fields at over ten schools.
14 And then you can see the turf fields
15 specifically below, as well as the modular
16 definition of assignments and other externally
17 funded improvements.

18 The remainder -- the 25 million you see
19 there and the 16 million, the 25 million is as
20 you can imagine with close to a billion dollar
21 budget there's some capital support services
22 that are needed on our team and on our side,
23 things like environmental assessments, eventual
24 land acquisitions and other things to assess and



1 manage certain projects on our end.

2 We keep 16 million there for
3 potentially an acquisition as we identify places
4 to put schools and a small place to look for
5 potential additional outside funds from State,
6 local, Federal sources that are outside CPS's
7 traditional revenue sources. So in total those
8 areas add up to the 989 million.

9 And finally we'll show that, you know,
10 of the Fiscal Year '19 capital expenditures they
11 do span across the geographic gamut of the city.
12 Demographically geographically we've done this
13 in a way to try and support all students across
14 the city. You have, you know, your one-to-one
15 school investment, your high speed internet
16 access and devices, expansion of all day pre-K
17 and the IB, STEM, Magnet expansion. These are
18 intended to make sure all students have a shot
19 at these additional programs, and in some cases
20 some exciting technological advances to further
21 their academic progression via one-to-one
22 computing.

23 With that said, I believe we can open
24 up the public forum for discussion.



1 MR. JOSSERAND: So this evening we do
2 have 37 individuals who signed up to speak. We
3 do want to make sure that each of those
4 individuals has the opportunity to speak this
5 evening. In order to do so we need to ensure
6 that everybody is limited to two minutes to
7 speak individually. To assist with that we will
8 have someone that will help us to show time when
9 someone has 20 seconds left in that two-minute
10 segment.

11 We will be calling individuals in the
12 order by which they signed up to speak. Each
13 individual who signed up to speak should have a
14 number that designates their order. So we will
15 begin by asking speakers 1 and 2, beginning with
16 speaker 1, to come to the microphone please.

17 MS. ROSE: Good evening, I'm Judy Rose,
18 PAC chairperson at RTC Medical Prep High School.
19 In the fall I'll have a senior attending the
20 school. Since she's been at the school each
21 year we've been asking for adequate heating, air
22 conditioning, new windows and new security
23 doors. Each year we've been told we are on the
24 list to receive these improvements. This will



1 be the fourth year. They have yet to happen.

2 In the spring and summer months our
3 students are forced to endure learning in hot
4 sweltering classrooms, and in the winter our
5 students must wear a jacket or coat because the
6 classrooms have inadequate heating.

7 when I look at the proposed Capital
8 Plan list of funding of what schools are
9 receiving for their school improvements and RTC
10 Medical Prep is not on the list to receive any
11 of those improvements for another year I am
12 incensed. I see other schools receiving \$7
13 million to update or receive a turf field, but
14 RTC can't get adequate heating and air
15 conditioning. How is this considered even fair?
16 why is it so difficult to provide funding to RTC
17 for proper basic mechanical improvements and
18 updates for our school as well as front entry
19 security doors and safety security and well
20 being for our student scholars?

21 I attended a town hall meeting hosted
22 by Dr. Jackson. The message was clear and
23 concise, there will be improvements and equal
24 funding for all schools regardless of the



1 school's location and not just certain schools
2 receiving all the benefits of building
3 improvements, while schools in less desirable
4 areas receive the bare minimum or receive
5 nothing at all. I'm sure the students and
6 parents at RTC would greatly benefit from having
7 heating, air conditioning, windows and security
8 doors over a \$7 million turf field any day.

9 MR. JOSSERAND: Speaker number 2
10 please.

11 MS. RATAJCZAK: Hello, my name is
12 Elaine Ratajczak, I'm a community member of
13 Josiah L. Pickard Elementary School. And I just
14 want to thank you for your funding our efforts
15 to become an International Baccalaureate school,
16 our children can't wait to start the program.
17 And for the start of our arts and science room
18 and for supporting our special ed program so
19 well. But we do need air conditioning fixed in
20 our addition. The boiler is burned out and it
21 requires parts. And also some of the air
22 conditioners in our older building are very old
23 and they do need to be replaced.

24 Also, the turf, the playground turf,



1 you don't talk about playground turf for a
2 football field, we're talking about turf for a
3 play yard, we need that fixed, it's just mud out
4 there. And we could also use some painting.
5 Since we've gone so far with some of these other
6 things our school we have great pride in it as a
7 community member, and our LSC really wants to
8 thank you for all your help so far and for a
9 little more help. Thank you.

10 MR. JOSSERAND: Thank you.

11 If we could have speakers 3 and 4 come
12 forward please.

13 MS. TINGWALL: Good evening, my name is
14 Allison Tingwall, and I'm the principal at Curie
15 High School. We just are here tonight, a few
16 representatives from our community, because we
17 continue to be grateful that when opportunities
18 for investment come forward to the Board that
19 Curie has been considered. With 3,000 students
20 of whom about 300 generally have IEPs and 504
21 Plans, the two case manager positions and social
22 worker positions are much needed. In all three
23 years that I've been principal previously we had
24 to allocate funds to hire our own social worker,



1 as well as borrow teaching positions so that our
2 case management happens properly. So we're glad
3 that the District has been moving forward with a
4 continuous improvement model, and we truly
5 believe that Curie is a body in progress in
6 every way.

7 The huge crane on the new roof that you
8 can see happening this summer is symbolic of the
9 transformation in our progress on the outside
10 but also symbolic of what's happening inside the
11 building. While our data from this past year is
12 still preliminary, I can broadly state that in
13 the past three years our college enrollment has
14 risen over 10 percent, our Freshman On Track
15 rate has risen over 10 percent, our Sophomore On
16 Track rate has risen 8 percent, and our fall to
17 spring SAT growth this year doubled our results
18 from last year. So students and the staff and
19 the parents in our community are working hard
20 and doing their part, and I can't emphasize how
21 much it means to have the District also
22 investing in our progress.

23 As Cesar Chavez said, the fight is
24 never about grapes or lettuce, it's always about



1 people. And for us the fight isn't about
2 science labs or case managers, it's about
3 students. So thank you to the District and the
4 city leadership for understanding and sharing
5 that vision.

6 MS. BAHENA: Good afternoon, ladies and
7 gentlemen, my name is Elva Bahena, and I am the
8 science chairperson at Curie High School. A few
9 weeks ago I read an article that mentioned major
10 improvements in CPS and that they wanted to make
11 these improvements in specific schools. I could
12 only wish that that would -- that our school
13 would be selected. At a meeting last week with
14 Dr. Tingwall and other teachers she shared that
15 our school is one of the schools selected to
16 receive a new lab and things to be repaired. I
17 really wasn't sure if I was hearing her
18 correctly. I felt like I was ready to jump out
19 of my seat. And when she confirmed that we
20 would be getting a new lab I was elated, very
21 elated, and I really felt like I had to hold
22 back tears.

23 And the reason why is because we are in
24 big need, we have been in big need of repairs.



1 Our labs are not necessarily labs, some of them
2 are just classrooms, some have running water,
3 some don't. If there is running water sometimes
4 it's rusty water, very dirty. Sometimes we have
5 hot water, sometimes we have cold water,
6 teachers have to switch classrooms to be able to
7 do good lab, if that is possible, otherwise
8 teachers have to make the decision of not
9 carrying on the specific lab with their
10 students, and I think that that just hinders the
11 students and sets them back.

12 So basically today I am here to thank
13 you on behalf of the Curie family and the
14 science department and our students for choosing
15 our school for these improvements. And I think
16 that this will bring a lot of excitement not
17 just to our teachers but our students, which is
18 the most important thing. Thank you.

19 MR. JOSSERAND: Thank you.

20 Speakers 5 and 6 please.

21 MR. ESPINOZA: Good evening, my name is
22 Alejandro, and I am an alum of Curie High
23 school, a homeowner in the community and a
24 representative on its Local School Council. On



1 behalf of all its members, I'm here to express
2 my gratitude for your continued support of our
3 neighborhood high school. Thank you for
4 providing our students with a modern science
5 lab. Thank you for providing us a full-time
6 social worker. And thank you for believing in
7 our diverse learners and provided them two
8 additional full-time case managers. Thank you
9 also in advance for your future investments in
10 our students.

11 MS. RUIZ: Hi, everyone, my name is
12 Sonya Ruiz, I'm from Prosser Career Academy, and
13 I work with Community United. I'm here to talk
14 about the \$1 million that the mayor has invested
15 in CPS and the new school that is being built in
16 the Belmont-Cragin area. In my opinion I
17 believe the money should go to the current
18 school that we have now. Why now? Why is this
19 now being done? It is not a coincidence since
20 the election is coming up the mayor wants to
21 give us money. I believe he just wants votes,
22 and if we give him the votes that he wants, what
23 makes us think that he'll do anything for us in
24 the next four years. The mayor doesn't actually



1 live in the Belmont-Cragin area so he doesn't
2 know what this community needs and what we
3 don't, and we don't need that new school.

4 The mayor and CPS said that they want
5 the community to get the suggestions, but I and
6 the people that I work with are a part of this
7 community and we have not been given a voice.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 7 and 8
10 please.

11 MS. CAPELO: Good evening, my name is
12 Angelina Capelo, and I work with Community
13 United. I am a sophomore at Prosser Career
14 Academy. As we know our mayor is investing \$1
15 billion in CPS and building a new school in
16 Belmont-Cragin. The new school will cost \$44
17 million, which is being taken out of a \$1
18 billion investment. That money needs to be
19 invested in our existing schools that need
20 repairs. We are demanding the money to be in
21 already existing schools. What is the point of
22 building a new school? In my school there needs
23 to be reconstruction in the classroom, the walls
24 are caving in and falling and cracking. CPS



1 needs to prioritize where they're putting their
2 money. No one came to my school and asked me
3 what we needed, they just assumed we needed a
4 new school. CPS needs to be aware -- needs to
5 be aware where the community about decision
6 making process and tell us ahead of time about
7 the budget proposal so there is more community
8 input on making decisions. Thank you.

9 MS. LIU: Hello, my name is Debbie, I
10 am with the Coalition for a Better Chinese
11 American Community. Over the past couple of
12 decades the Chinatown community discussed with
13 previous CPS officials and the Mayor's office
14 about the need for a nearby high school in the
15 community. These never seemed to be resources
16 until November 2016 when CPS released a
17 supplemental capital budget. There was \$75
18 million earmarked for a south side high school.
19 Chinatown began advocacy for these funds used
20 for the needs of greater Chinatown but also for
21 Bridgeport and South Loop.

22 while we are disappointed that the
23 brand new high school is slated for Englewood,
24 we knew that the correct -- that corrects some



1 of the historical disinvestment in that
2 community. We were repeatedly told that there
3 are only funds for one new high school. The
4 conversion of NTA into a high school caused
5 tension and now a lawsuit against CPS. Rather
6 than being a cause for celebration and a long
7 unmet need was being addressed, this -- now we
8 are in a situation that we are in. However,
9 what this new Fiscal Year 2019 capital budget
10 somehow has funding for two new high schools,
11 the rebuilding of Hancock, a selected enrollment
12 high school on the south side -- southeast side,
13 and 70 million allocated for a new high school
14 on the near west side. CPS should have come
15 up -- should have used some of these funds to
16 come up with a long-term solution for the near
17 south side.

18 Tonight there is a hearing that's
19 occurring at IIT about the NTA boundary.
20 Parents from Bridgeport and sections of
21 Bronzeville will be asking CPS to include their
22 students in this high school boundary. As
23 stated in our previous testimony, this
24 conversion is only a 1200-student capacity



1 school and may be its efficient -- parts of the
2 community is not fully included.

3 TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

4 MS. LIU: It is truly -- if we are
5 truly a city of neighborhoods, we need to think
6 about investments in the same communities that
7 this city is celebrating in a more equitable
8 way. CPS, you must do better with transparency
9 and community-based long-term planning.

10 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 9 and 10
11 please.

12 (Whereupon, the following
13 speaker was in Spanish and was
14 interpreted by an interpreter.)

15 MS. NERI THROUGH AN INTERPRETER: Good
16 afternoon, my name is Leticia Neri, I'm a mother
17 of two students from elementary school Marvin
18 Camras, and also I live in the community of
19 Belmont-Cragin. The thing is when a new school
20 is built, these new schools take away the
21 recourses -- the resources of the school, the
22 existing school. For example, my children used
23 to go to Burbank, and when the new school UNO
24 was built in 2013, the students went to that



1 school. And since 2013 Burbank School has not
2 been able to recover.

3
4 (Whereupon, the following
5 speaker was in Spanish and was
6 interpreted by an interpreter.)

7 UNKNOWN PERSON THROUGH INTERPRETER: My
8 school needs new chairs and air conditioner.
9 For example, during my son's graduation we got
10 him so well dressed up, he was wearing his nice
11 pants and his special clothing for that day, we
12 wanted to take pictures with the family, it was
13 a very proud moment for our family. However,
14 last minute we had to change his clothes.
15 Minutes before graduation he started to cry, he
16 was sweating a lot because he was so hot. We
17 had to change his nice clothes and his nice
18 outfit to shorts. And also during the ceremony
19 it was so hot that the students were just very
20 restless.

21 Also, it was very dangerous, some of
22 the chairs were not in good state and it was
23 very dangerous for us to sit down. And some of
24 them -- many of us were worried that the chairs



1 were going to break. We want you to invest in
2 the schools that exist already. We need all
3 that needs to be covered. We don't need a new
4 school. Our school is not overcrowded. Where
5 are you getting that new information that
6 Belmont-Cragin needs a new school?

7 Also, where is this new school going to
8 be built? And what has been the communication
9 between CPS and the community? Thank you.

10 MS. GOETZ: My name is Kate Goetz, I'm
11 a member of Parents for Teachers and a recent
12 CPS parent, my daughter just graduated from
13 Whitney Young. I think that this plan should
14 not be passed and should be suspended until
15 there is a process in place that is transparent,
16 accountable and equitable, which this plan and
17 whatever process led to it clearly is not.

18 I'm hearing about schools that are
19 surprised about their capital allocations as if
20 they're random Christmas presents. We're
21 talking about our public infrastructure that our
22 tax dollars support so there should be
23 transparency and accountability, they should not
24 be surprise gifts falling from the sky.



1 As far as equity goes, I was horrified
2 on looking at the WBEZ analysis which showed the
3 dollars in this plan versus numbers of students
4 and socioeconomic levels. And then I thought
5 that the map we saw that I guess was probably in
6 terms of numbers of projects not dollars just
7 seemed really disingenuous in light of that.

8 Also, speaking to equity, as a Whitney
9 Young parent I received the letter yesterday
10 that said what the allocations were there. They
11 include HVAC, a turf field and refurbishing of
12 the restrooms which work perfectly fine. So it
13 was upsetting to hear from the first speaker
14 tonight and the previous speaker about heating
15 and air conditioning problems in schools and
16 knowing that a selective-enrollment school that
17 raises tens of thousands of dollars of private
18 parent money every year that are available for
19 capital improvements is getting HVAC
20 improvements when other schools don't have
21 functioning systems or don't have any toilet
22 paper in their restrooms refurbished or not.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 11 and 12



1 please.

2 MS. CLENDENNING: Good evening, my name
3 is Joy Clendenning, I'm speaking for Raise Your
4 Hand for Illinois public education. I'm a
5 Chicago public school parent, I'm on my 18th
6 year in the system. Regarding the \$1 billion
7 capital budget we have some questions.

8 How is CPS making decisions? Where is
9 the transparency? How is it laid out for the
10 public? Is the care of framework based on
11 needs? How does CPS engage the community on
12 these decisions?

13 CPS did not do their 2017 facility
14 assessments, which are required by law, so this
15 information is really vital to the public and to
16 how to install a plan. We're not against any
17 school getting the necessary repairs or upgrades
18 and need, and we're not here to say any school
19 doesn't deserve something. Most schools have
20 waited far too long for facility upgrades in
21 CPS.

22 What we are asking for is information
23 on how CPS chooses who has to wait and who
24 doesn't. Parents, schools and the public



1 deserve to know this and to have a more
2 equitable framework where every school that has
3 a crumbling roof or failed plumbing system is
4 considered equal and worthy of capital dollars.
5 The WBEZ report explained that CPS has \$3
6 billion in unmet capital needs for their
7 existing buildings, but they spent 60 percent of
8 their capital budget since 2011 on new
9 construction or new programs. In this budget
10 336 million is going to needs in existing
11 schools and 600 million is going to new
12 construction and programs. Why is CPS spending
13 so much on new construction when basic needs
14 aren't being met? We think CPS should halt new
15 construction until they improve their process of
16 community engagement and transparent government
17 and they need to value the need of all students
18 equally.

19 CPS must provide a transparent
20 explanation to the public on what factors they
21 use to determine which schools are priorities
22 and which schools get passed over for
23 improvements. By law CPS is supposed to adhere
24 to a long-term facilities plan developed with



1 robust community input to guide its decisions.
2 when hundreds of millions of public dollars are
3 expended with no transparency about the process
4 and with no oversight that's a problem. The CPS
5 unelected Board of Education should not vote on
6 this Capital Plan but instead should engage in a
7 transparent equitable process to determine
8 capital projects. Thank you.

9 MR. CHANDABHAI: Hello, my name is
10 Shabbir Chandabhai, I'm a parent at Pritzker
11 Elementary in Wicker Park and also an architect
12 by profession and a member of Friends of
13 Pritzker Organization, and I represent the
14 school's organization and the school itself. We
15 initiated an exterior outdoor playlot and play
16 field rejuvenation a couple of years ago based
17 on the needs that there were many life safety
18 issues. It's an existing playlot with
19 inefficiencies, blind corners, security
20 problems, parking issues. Also, it's not ADA
21 compliant. And so we took this upon ourselves
22 to start planning for this new play field at
23 Pritzker. We got great support from the school,
24 the Alderman and the neighborhood after having



1 various meetings prior to approaching CPS. We
2 presented and did a lot of drawings on a pro
3 bono basis by the Friends of Pritzker. We
4 raised considerable funds and then approached
5 CPS last summer. We had Mark Aleski and Mary
6 Druntz and they also supported the project, but
7 we have no financial support for this project.

8 I know as per the list which you just
9 mentioned, life safety turf fields, they're all
10 related to the capital funding, and we are
11 actually ready, we've raised 200 ourselves, and
12 we have another 400 by the Alderman and a
13 hundred by OSIF (phonetic). So currently our
14 project budget is 1.3 million. We've already
15 transferred 600,000 to CPS, and we are waiting
16 for the remainder amount. We are asking for
17 financial support from CPS for the remainder.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 13 and 14
20 please.

21 MR. OSBORNE: Good evening, my name is
22 Greg Osborne, and I am a parent at Pritzker
23 Elementary School. I have two boys there, 7th
24 grade and 3rd grade. I really love this school.



1 One of the reasons why I love this school is
2 because of its diversity. One thing that you
3 may not be aware of it's a regional gifted
4 program and, in fact, 68 percent of the kids
5 that go to the school are bussed in from outside
6 the neighborhood which adds to the diversity of
7 the school. And so when we are making
8 improvements to Pritzker School, we are actually
9 helping kids throughout the entire city.

10 Again, you know, by installing a soccer
11 field and a turf field at Pritzker Elementary
12 school we're actually providing revenue for the
13 school. We've had youth and adult soccer
14 leagues approach us saying that they will rent a
15 field, which we think it would be a great asset
16 for the community. And so here's an opportunity
17 to return the school to a community asset. So
18 far the District has been very supportive of our
19 project, but we've done all of this on our own.
20 You have to understand when you see Pritzker
21 Elementary School listed as a school on the
22 capital improvement list, however, there has
23 been no financial support, and we have a
24 \$700,000 funding gap. So if this project is



1 going to happen we need the \$700,000, otherwise
2 everything has gone to waste and the parents are
3 no longer going to be willing to donate anymore
4 money. So here's an opportunity to turn around
5 and keep the momentum going. Thank you.

6 MS. CASTANEDA: Can you hear me? First
7 of all, I would like to ask two questions that I
8 didn't get to ask before. And that is, the
9 information that we received on the screen, I
10 would like to have a copy of that information if
11 you don't mind, and tell me where I can get it.

12 And the other one is that this is
13 opportunity for all of us that have read and
14 gone over the budget and know because we're
15 involved in the education of our children that
16 we -- that we unite ourselves because, you know,
17 we realize that although you guys get paid the
18 salary to do the job you're supposed to do,
19 there's a lot of things that are complicating
20 this matter, and that is a political nature.

21 We have a mayor who's not willing to
22 give up his power and that is talking about the
23 elected school board, that's very important.
24 Yes, the \$989 million is a lot of money but not



1 enough for what has to be covered, and that is
2 something that -- what this money is going for.
3 Let's all remember this is what it's going for,
4 but it's not going for the entire city.
5 Unfortunately, there is discrimination which is
6 against the law. There's a law and that law
7 tells us that all our children are equal not
8 because you live on the north side or because
9 you live on the south side. And the thing is is
10 that all of you know that, you know that, and
11 you continuously follow the orders from somebody
12 who is only interested in politics. And this is
13 talking about educational programming, facility
14 needs, overcrowding relieve, security and
15 building system investments --

16 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

17 MS. CASTANEDA: Deciding improvement
18 capital projects support services, potential
19 land acquisitions, potential externally funded
20 projects. We know that things are needed, and
21 the reason that we're getting this much money is
22 because we've been neglecting, we've been
23 neglecting the system. This is our future. If
24 we don't fight, if we don't take up the



1 struggle, you as people who are also -- maybe
2 you live in the suburbs, maybe your children go
3 to different schools, but those of you that are
4 making the decisions on this money I know it's
5 time. Let me finish. This is life. This is a
6 life importance. For without the appropriate
7 money, our children cannot go to school. They
8 cannot have any other additional training. They
9 cannot rent homes. They cannot buy cars. This
10 is their life. And I'm not going to stop. I
11 urge everyone in this place that we need your
12 participation. We will fight this. We will not
13 sit here and take nothing of it.

14 So please understand that my name is
15 Magda Ramirez Castaneda, and I'm with Pilsen
16 Alliance. And please people if you clap it's
17 clapping for our children. Thank you very much.

18 MR. MOCK: We will make sure that the
19 presentation from today is publicly available on
20 our website.

21 MR. JOSSERAND: We fully understand and
22 appreciate all the passion that is in this room
23 particularly around this topic, but we do want
24 to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to



1 speak, I'm just asking again that everyone limit
2 their comments to two minutes.

3 MS. HEINZ: Good evening, my name is
4 Angel Heinz, and I'm a parent at Waters
5 Elementary School, a neighborhood school just
6 east of the Chicago River off the Brown Line.

7 The proposed Capital Plan includes
8 extensive repairs and updates as well as a new
9 annex for our neighborhood school. There are
10 spaces in our school building that are better
11 characterized as large closets than classrooms,
12 and yet they count as classrooms according to
13 the CPS space utilization formula. Many of our
14 most vulnerable students, our diverse learners,
15 English language learners, are receiving
16 services in a busy hallway or multi-purpose,
17 multi-user office space rather than a private
18 setting where their needs will be better met.
19 We have multiple traveling programs with no
20 designated classroom space. Our bathroom is in
21 such poor condition that we have students won't
22 use them. We have a single common space that
23 functions as a teacher's lounge, conference
24 room, break room, storage room, bilingual



1 education classes, volunteer work area, office
2 space and so on and so on.

3 As I walk through our neighborhood and
4 see all the young families with babies and
5 toddlers I wonder where will all these future
6 students go? Between 2007 to 2018 the waters K
7 through 8 enrollment nearly doubled increasing
8 by 86 percent. This tremendous growth has put
9 significant strain on our educators, our
10 families, causing our preschool program to be
11 closed in 2014 due to space limitation despite
12 the high demand. Through creative scheduling
13 and budgeting we, like other schools, are able
14 to make due with the space that we have, but we
15 are running out of solutions and we are now at
16 the risk of having to cut some of the very
17 programs that draw families to our neighborhood
18 school that I love.

19 As a person, a parent that lives daily
20 with a disability that progressively affects my
21 mobility, I just have to say it is my dream for
22 my kids to attend a school that is ADA compliant
23 to the max. If we are able to add a new
24 elevator to our school, parents, students and



1 community members with disabilities will have
2 total and complete access to our school so that
3 there -- all kids in the neighborhood so that no
4 child in a wheelchair doesn't have to have a
5 second thought about if their child will be able
6 to go there. There should be no room for
7 argument when it comes to accessibility
8 improvement for all Chicago Public Schools.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. TRUSS: Good evening, my name is
11 Dwayne Truss, grandparent -- custodial
12 grandparent of a child in CPS. I wish that CPS
13 would put the same effort to get parents here
14 and community stakeholders had like they had the
15 same effort when they had the tour for the CEO
16 being in different communities, but I guess
17 talking about the capital budget is not as
18 important.

19 But I want to say that the capital
20 budget is not geographically diverse at all.
21 This budget creates additional inequity by class
22 and race. Communities like the west side of
23 Chicago, which North Lawndale, East/West
24 Garfield Park and Austin are continuously being



1 divested from by CPS. But many of those
2 communities are creating what's called a quality
3 of life plan. And those plans have different
4 components that we have asked from CPS. And
5 also specifically we have asked for some of the
6 building trades or some of the old school
7 vocational programs, but a school like Prosser,
8 and we're not mad at Prosser, we're not mad at
9 any other schools getting any program or capital
10 budget, but it's like they got vocational
11 programs, you're adding those to there.

12 whereas, what are we going to have for our
13 children? Not anybody in the Austin community
14 is not going to go to college, but we want
15 programs on the west side of Chicago that
16 students can access during the day and adults
17 can access at night. But when you're talking
18 about this being a political season because of
19 Laquan McDonald I guess the mayor said he's
20 written off the west and south sides of Chicago.

21 Now, another thing I want to point out
22 is that you can tell this is a capital year
23 budget because of the fact that they said \$305
24 million of future proceeds which means they



1 don't have all the money, but the mayor wants to
2 announce all these turning objects and projects
3 without seriously following the law or common
4 sense that says that we need to have a real
5 transparent process to make sure that we have
6 equity within our school system.

7 And in conclusion, I know that's a
8 surprise for some people that I didn't use the
9 two minutes, give a standing ovation if you
10 really want to elect a school board. Thank you.

11 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 17 and 18.

12 (Whereupon, the following
13 speaker was in Spanish and was
14 interpreted by an interpreter.)

15 MS. SILVA THROUGH AN INTERPRETER: Good
16 afternoon, my name is Milagros Silva, and I'm a
17 parent and also member of the community. I'm a
18 parent of Luther Burbank School. And my
19 question is -- I have several questions. The
20 first one is did CPS do a population study of
21 Belmont-Cragin before building a new school?

22 My second question is, why do you think
23 that we need a new school where we have a school
24 that needs to be fixed?



1 One of the things that I have heard
2 today is a common theme of infrastructure,
3 people need cameras for security, people need a
4 new roof, air conditioner, heating and also
5 systems of security because of bullying.

6 And my last question is, where do you
7 plan to build this new school?

8 MS. TOY: Hello, my name is May Toy,
9 I'm president of the Skinner Park Advisory
10 Council. First, I want to thank you for the \$70
11 million for the Near West high school, but I do
12 have a concern about that. I know one of the
13 locations that has been advocated for is the
14 Police Academy, and I'm here to say that I'm
15 opposed to putting the school at the Police
16 Academy where I believe that what should happen
17 in order to support a neighborhood program is to
18 add an addition on to Whitney Young High School,
19 which comprises of three square blocks. We're
20 actually in need of the Police Academy to expand
21 the Skinner Park onto because of lack of green
22 space.

23 Also, another issue is that on your
24 capital plan it does not list the new turf field



1 that Whitney Young is actually currently
2 installing and that I have a problem with
3 because that was funded by \$4.3 million through
4 a central west TIF. There was no community
5 process, no community input into it. I met with
6 Dr. King last week because her fence actually
7 encroaches onto the public land and she has
8 refused to remove that fence. Alderman Burnett
9 contacted her and she still refuses to remove
10 that fence.

11 I do not believe that CPS has a right
12 to act without transparency, and I believe
13 that -- I would hope that when this new high
14 school is being built that CPS will encourage
15 everyone in the community and not just a select
16 few to talk about where the location should be
17 and where attendance boundary is of this new
18 high school because I think that everyone has a
19 right to have input into this process. And I
20 want to address this issue about the lack of
21 transparency that happens regarding CPS.

22 TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

23 MS. TOY: So thank you very much. I
24 also have a letter here about that field. Thank



1 you.

2 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 19 and 20.

3 MS. EDWARDS: Hi, good evening, Lori
4 Edwards, I'm on the LSC, and I'm representing
5 Crane. Ms. Rose just spoke about how Crane
6 needs seats. Can you imagine going home when
7 it's 101 degrees, the first thing you go toward
8 is the air conditioning. And at night if it's
9 too cold the first thing you reach for is some
10 heat. So Crane doesn't have any, okay, no heat
11 and a cooling system. Schools need basic
12 things.

13 Secondly, they have exterior doors that
14 are so old you can't even open them properly.
15 Now, moreover, moreover the doors don't have
16 windows. Do you know how unsafe it is to open a
17 door and you don't know who's behind it. And in
18 the neighborhood that Crane is at they need
19 doors. The new security cameras, let's not talk
20 about that, we need to have security cameras to
21 be upgraded. Sorry, in our neighborhood we need
22 to know what's going on, and I'm pretty sure
23 that some other neighborhoods need the same
24 thing. I'm just surprised that we just can't



1 get basic things. Instead of trying to build a
2 new high school, fix what you have.

3 Secondly, we need a new swimming pool,
4 ours is currently inoperable because of cracks
5 in the foundation and the pool needs a new
6 liner. Those are other things.

7 But lastly, we currently have chairs in
8 our auditorium that haven't been replaced since
9 1960. You can't even sit in them. So when you
10 have a function in the school, you're talking
11 about graduation or anything else that the
12 parents have to come to, you can't sit down in
13 the seats, they're either broke or they just
14 don't work anymore. So building a new high
15 school, you should take it off your list. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. GALLAGHER: Hi, my name is
18 Katherine Gallagher, I'm the principal of
19 Christopher Elementary School. I am joined here
20 with the support of two of our parent leaders
21 and LSC members. Our mission at Christopher
22 School is to reach all, teach all and include
23 all. We educate students with disabilities
24 alongside their gen ed peers as we strive to



1 build an inclusive and nurturing academic
2 environment. We are here to say thank you to
3 the Board for funding two important projects at
4 our school this summer to support the health and
5 safety of our students.

6 The first project is upgrading our air
7 conditioning window units in our classrooms.

8 Many of the students at Christopher are
9 medically fragile with conditions like asthma,
10 diabetes and seizure disorders, in addition to
11 their intellectual disabilities. So having a
12 climate controlled classroom is very important,
13 and we thank you for providing this HVAC project
14 and upgrade.

15 The second project I'd like to say
16 thank you for is installing locks on our all our
17 classroom doors to keep our students safe and
18 secure. Because our doors are ADA compliant,
19 over the years the locking mechanisms have
20 become dysfunctional, so funding for this lock
21 project will restore the ability for our
22 classroom doors to lock and still be able to
23 open and close for our students with physical
24 needs.



1 Thank you for funding these capital
2 projects and for giving us the allocations for
3 two additional case manager positions for our
4 200-plus students with IEPs.

5 I would like to ask for assistance in
6 bringing our swimming pool at Christopher back
7 to full function. We need repairs on our main
8 drain and mechanics to be safe and operational.
9 And we'll also need financial support to fund a
10 lifeguard position so we can be in full
11 compliance with a revised aquatic safety policy.
12 Thank you very much to the Board.

13 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: We need that for
14 all the schools, all the schools.

15 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 21 and 22
16 please.

17 MS. WASHINGTON: Good evening, my name
18 is Veronica Washington, I am a parent and I am
19 also the LSC chair at Owen Scholastic Academy
20 located at 8247 South Christiana, Network 10.

21 I'll tell you I've been part of Owen
22 for some years now, my son graduated a couple of
23 years ago, and I currently have a daughter who
24 is in 7th grade. And the reason I am on the LSC



1 chair is because we need definite improvement at
2 this school. Owen is a very small magnet
3 school, it hosts 261 students. And I'll tell
4 you again our school is in dire need of capital
5 improvement and additional funds to improve our
6 school.

7 So you all stated that, yes, you were
8 given this money to the schools, but again, how
9 were the schools determined for this capital
10 improvement? And how is the equity evenly
11 distributed? I would really like to know that.

12 Our school is in dire need of cameras
13 around the building. There's been some concern
14 in the area. I mean, it's just unfortunate
15 there's been some shootings in the area, car
16 jackings, attacks on our children and robberies.
17 Again, it is a small school, but we are in dire
18 need of some additional assistance with funding.
19 We're one of the few schools that don't even
20 have cameras, and we want to make sure our
21 students, staff and parents feel safe and
22 secure.

23 We need air units in the gym, in the
24 classrooms. There is no air, completely no air



1 in our gym and classrooms. We need air
2 conditioning. We host assemblies, physical
3 education classes, parent trainings, LSC
4 meetings and lunch. So again we are in dire
5 need of additional assistance in our school.
6 Thank you. And again, on behalf of Owen
7 Scholastic Academy, we appreciate your time, and
8 we look forward to receiving funds to improve
9 our school.

10 MS. ALONZO: Hi, my name is Laura
11 Alonzo, I'm the LSC chair at Jungman Elementary
12 School in the Pilsen community. I would like to
13 thank the Board and Dr. Jackson for the
14 continued support in building a STEM/Magnet
15 program for the Pilsen community at Jungman, as
16 well as for a full-time ESL specialist and a
17 full-time social worker. These additions will
18 help make Jungman a better place for our
19 students, families and community.

20 My child came to Jungman five years
21 ago, since then the school has worked to
22 continuously improve despite the hurdles and
23 obstacles that we had to overcome, such as,
24 \$100,000 budget cuts to our very small school



1 last year.

2 As an LSC member our school is focused
3 on purchasing one-on-one technology, improving
4 teacher knowledge and providing free academic
5 support and enrichment programs, such as,
6 photography, cooking class, robotics, reading
7 and math tutoring to all of our students. I
8 can't stress enough how important these type of
9 programs are for our students. It keeps them in
10 school and focused and engaged.

11 Every year as part of our budget
12 Jungman has included their own funds to provide
13 these programs. In the past year we were
14 fortunate to receive the OST grant to pay for
15 some of this, however, we still use a lot of our
16 own funds to provide these programs to our
17 students. I feel that the Board should consider
18 using -- adding this type of out of school
19 programming throughout all of the city schools.
20 This programming targets students' needs and the
21 academic support and focus on student interests
22 so that all their needs can be met.

23 In addition, I would ask that the
24 transportation consider running a late bus to



1 our school so that students can take
2 transportation, have the opportunity to
3 participate in after school activities. And
4 also I would like to ask that I feel that the
5 students who are going into high school that
6 have special needs, such as, the low incidence
7 program, that the parents should be able to be
8 able to rank their choice and be able to choose
9 where their students can go to school. And we
10 would like to know where the cluster programs
11 are in these high schools so that we can visit
12 them at open house. Thank you.

13 MR. RITTER: I'm number 23. My name is
14 Martin Ritter, and I'm a former Chicago Public
15 Schools teacher and a former Local School
16 Council member, and I'm currently an organizer
17 for the Chicago Teachers Union. Network Chief
18 Jossierand said that this would be a discussion,
19 but there isn't any feedback coming back to the
20 public. I hear parents and community members
21 and numerous people saying like questions and no
22 one says anything, even though you guys have
23 microphones so that you could speak to them and
24 give them answers so you should probably start.



1 The unelected school board is just
2 that, appointed by the mayor and the mayor has
3 decided to bless the city with \$900 million in
4 capital plans. But as WBEZ and Chalkbeat said,
5 there's \$3 billion in unmet deferred needs, fix
6 those. Everybody says things are broken, but
7 they keep dropping down on the list while
8 certain neighborhoods with aldermen who are
9 connected to the mayor and rubber stamp all the
10 City Council policies get whatever they want,
11 and I think that's unfair. You hear about it
12 from community groups like Community United
13 right here, they're like the primary organizing
14 group in Belmont-Cragin but no one met with them
15 about a new school in their community. That's
16 not a good plan.

17 Speaking of plans, Illinois passed a
18 law a number of years ago called SB 630 that
19 demanded an Illinois -- I'm sorry, Chicago
20 education facilities master plan. Okay, master
21 plan, plan means like going forward. But almost
22 all the things you announced in this capital
23 plan were not in the master plan. So what's the
24 point of the master plan if you're not going to



1 follow it? We worked hard on that bill.

2 Committee groups worked hard on that bill, you
3 should respect that process.

4 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

5 MR. RITTER: The guy with the hand of
6 the kingpin from Games of Thrones over here told
7 me I have 20 seconds left. I'm not making that
8 up.

9 But in the last 20 seconds, we need
10 nurses. We need librarians. We need more
11 social workers and more case managers that was
12 starting to get announced on Monday. We need
13 about a thousand more, okay, of all of those
14 things. Prioritize the children by meeting
15 their wrap-around services. Work on this
16 deferred needs budget so that they get
17 prioritized. Security guy says I'm almost up.
18 what we also need is an elected school board and
19 a new mayor.

20 MS. BENNETT: Martin, it's always good
21 to see you. My name is Jennie Bennett, I'm the
22 CFO for CPS. So what we wanted to do in the
23 structure of the hearing is to give everybody an
24 opportunity to speak. The chief mentioned that



1 we are ending at 8 so we want to make sure we
2 give you time. We are taking notes, and we're
3 here to listen to you. So at the very end we
4 will provide some more commentary and listen to
5 all of the input you're providing.

6 MR. SHARKEY: Thank you, guys. I'm
7 Jesse Sharkey, I'm the Vice President of the
8 Chicago Teachers Union. I'm also the private
9 parent of two CPS students.

10 If you don't have a plan, someone else
11 will have a plan for you. And CPS does not have
12 a plan or at least not one that you use for
13 deciding how you spend money on school capital
14 projects. Because here's the thing of it, this
15 budget disproportionately funds school
16 construction on the north side and in
17 gentrifying neighborhoods. According to
18 Adeshina Emmanuel with Chalkbeat, schools that
19 serve predominantly white students get twice the
20 capital funding in this budget per pupil than
21 black and Latino schools get.

22 The slide that shows that projects are
23 circuited throughout the city, that might be
24 true, but a high school getting the Internet or



1 a new science lab is not the same as communities
2 getting an entire new school and that's the
3 picture. CPS needs a long-term facilities plan
4 so that we can have a plan for high-quality
5 neighborhood schools. So that we can have a
6 plan for schools to support working class
7 neighborhoods which right now in Chicago are
8 struggling. So that we can have a plan for
9 racially diverse open enrollment schools.
10 Instead, Rahm Emmanuel has a plan for us, and
11 it's not an education plan, it's a re-election
12 plan.

13 You know, we've seen CPS build charters
14 throughout the southwest side, invest in Magnet
15 and Classical schools while high-quality
16 neighborhood schools have struggled for funds.
17 And it is worth pointing out in Chicago that has
18 a racial element to it. The elements -- the
19 parts of our school system that have been
20 getting investment are the parts of our school
21 system disproportionately fund middle class
22 people and people who are disproportionately
23 white, and that's something that has to stop.

24 we call for the political leadership



1 that can change this, that is a new mayor. We
2 call for an elected school board. And we'd like
3 to see those things reflected in a capital plan
4 that's based in our community plan that will
5 fund schools that we can rally around in the
6 future. Thanks.

7 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 25 and 26
8 please.

9 MS. MORENO: My name is Maria G.
10 Moreno, and I'm a parent at the Hancock College
11 Prep. I want to thank you for proposing the new
12 school and for investing in our community.
13 We're hoping to attain the same level facility
14 as the other selected enrollment schools that
15 have -- that Jones and Lane Tech have received.
16 Again, our school also was overcrowded and has
17 been lacking in the facilities. And thank you
18 again for selecting us for a new school. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. MALDONADO: Good evening, my name
21 is Jhoanna Maldonado, I'm a proud CPS graduate
22 and I've taught for the past eight years. The
23 last two years I've served on the LSC as a
24 teacher representative at Yates Elementary, and



1 during the time I received countless complaints
2 about the conditions of our building, in no
3 particular order, warm, lead infested water
4 fountains, three water fountains on the second
5 and third floor that have been removed, holes in
6 our playground, water fountains removed in our
7 playground, vents in the gym that I don't know
8 when was the last time they were cleaned, about
9 ten years I'd say, exposed to asbestos all
10 around the hallways and in our gym, in addition
11 to exposed electrical wiring. On top of which
12 we lost a librarian this year, three special ed
13 teachers, three aides and having issues between
14 art and music.

15 So it appears, and I looked it up --
16 oh, we also lost the pre-K funding for one of
17 our rooms. And the last time was funded was
18 back in 2011, which was another election year.
19 So when I hear the members of this community
20 saying -- there's been 26 speakers, six of which
21 are for your plan, 20 against, so taking an
22 assessment of the room it appears that the
23 community does not want this. From what I'm
24 hearing teachers and community members here



1 today that they do not went a new school in the
2 west Belmont-Cragin and that is something that
3 needs to be taken into account.

4 I work a mile away from my school and
5 the students look like me. My students complain
6 about our school looking like a prison. And
7 that even though the majority of people here
8 today agree, I doubt CPS will listen to our
9 concerns unless we get together, organize and
10 fight this. what we also need is an elected
11 representative school board. It won't be
12 perfect, but I'm sure it's better than this.

13 Regardless of how much the parents get
14 paid, our students should be receiving all of
15 the same equitable resources.

16 TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

17 MS. MALDONADO: To be clear, Rahm is
18 only concerned with those that will understand
19 his plans and his racist and classic system and
20 doesn't care about children that look like me.

21 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 27 and 28
22 please.

23 MR. FOSTER-RICE: Thank you. I'm Greg
24 Foster-Rice, I'm a parent at Waters Elementary,



1 and I've served on the Local School Council for
2 six years. During that time I've been
3 advocating to keep the school safe that entire
4 time to accommodate our growing population and
5 outdated infrastructure. Thank you for
6 considering us in this plan.

7 If approved the capital improvement
8 plan would address the many needs outlined by
9 fellow parent Angel Heinz who spoke earlier. It
10 would also allow us to further share the
11 successes of our unique programs, such as,
12 ecology, multi-culturalism and arts integration
13 team, creating a space for our dedicated
14 educators to more readily collaborate and share
15 strategies of teaching and learning with other
16 educators from across the District so the
17 schools -- so the students and schools from near
18 and far can benefit from this investment.

19 Any time that a neighborhood public
20 elementary school is targeted for such an
21 investment it should be a huge win for
22 Chicagoans. But we're also sure that any school
23 speaking tonight and any school in our District
24 would make equally good use of these funds.



1 It's known that our District suffers from
2 inadequate funding and at times mismanagement
3 and corruption. With new leadership in CPS and
4 a much improved financial outlook, we need to
5 shift our focus from either/or so both/and. And
6 I won't pretend to know the details of all the
7 needs across our District, but I'm really
8 distressed by a lot of what I'm hearing tonight
9 as I am at many of these meetings that I attend.
10 And I know that many of the parents in our
11 school community have advocated strongly and for
12 many, many years for equitable and fair funding
13 both for CPS and the state and for every school
14 within CPS.

15 We've protested school funding charter
16 expansions, we've attended school board meetings
17 and town hall events, and we will continue to do
18 so. We want all CPS students to have the same
19 opportunities and resources, and we'll stand
20 with other schools to make sure the District,
21 our city and our state governments are held
22 accountable. Thank you for your time and thank
23 you for listening.

24 MR. ARROYO: Hello, good evening,



1 everybody, my name is Raul Arroyo, I'm a parent
2 from Hancock High School. And I want to say
3 thank you for the opportunity to -- we earned --
4 I think we earned the high school. Our story is
5 offering a lot of -- we don't have like music
6 room and that's the reason why we need a new
7 school. I know that people we all complaining
8 that we all need things, but I'm speaking for
9 the students that they do need a school, the new
10 school that they deserve because there is a lot
11 of things that doesn't work like air
12 conditioning don't work, band room don't work,
13 there's so many things.

14 I know people complaining, but I want
15 you guys to know the reason why we have a new --
16 being choosed for a new school. So we really
17 want and appreciate that you guys listened to us
18 because we've been complaining for so many
19 years. People might not understand that we
20 probably going to have a new building, but they
21 don't knee why. So I want to make sure
22 everybody know that and thank you the Board for
23 that. Thank you.

24 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 29 and 30



1 please.

2 MS. YE: Hi, my name is Angie, I live
3 in Bridgeport, and I have been part of the
4 Chinatown community all my life. I'm going to
5 be a rising senior in a CPS high school, and I
6 attended CPS elementary schools. Today I'm here
7 to talk about the need for a high school to
8 serve the greater Chinatown area. Chinatown has
9 been trying to get a high school for almost half
10 the time that our community has existed. Yet
11 the city continues to stifle our voices.

12 The Chinatown area has high performing
13 private and public elementary schools, but once
14 you graduate there isn't a neighborhood high
15 school to serve the population. As a student I
16 have firsthand experience on this issue. A lot
17 of Chinese students experience a language
18 barrier, whether one as an immigrant or a child
19 immigrant (inaudible). A large part of
20 Chinatown community consists of recent
21 immigrants who don't have proficient English
22 skills. They need a bilingual teacher
23 (inaudible) to get an education they deserve.

24 A story I'd like to share with all



1 today is about my cousin Jack. Jack came to
2 America when he was 12. He was just starting
3 6th grade. He came to America not knowing any
4 English. There was ESL classes which helped him
5 learn English and understanding classes.

6 Seventh grade has always been an
7 important year for upcoming high schoolers
8 because they will experience what kind of high
9 school they are going to attend. Jack being an
10 immigrant and not having anyone to go to during
11 the high school application process fell into
12 the system's cracks. He didn't know how to
13 apply to selective-enrollment schools and
14 probably didn't know they existed. He had to go
15 to a neighborhood school. His neighborhood
16 school predominantly served the Hispanic
17 community, which means that Jack did not get
18 Chinese language help or assistance. He started
19 to lose motivation for school because he didn't
20 understand half of his classes and so he dropped
21 out.

22 I wanted to share his story with you
23 all today because there are a lot of students
24 who because they don't have access to language



1 assistance, because they are recent immigrants,
2 because they have language and immigration
3 barrier they lose their chance to pursue a great
4 education.

5 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

6 MS. YE: If a Chinatown high school had
7 existed and they had the resources to allow --
8 needed them -- if they needed then Jack along
9 with many other students' outcome might have
10 been different.

11 I hear you all saying about the
12 education you received in your lifetime. Was
13 there someone there to guide you along the way?
14 Was there a time when you needed some
15 assistance? The need for a Chinatown high
16 school has long been overdue. Students need
17 more services to succeed and get the education
18 they deserve.

19 CPS is notorious for its inability in
20 providing a quality education in the
21 communities. Funding a new time for them by
22 building a new high school in the Chinatown
23 area.

24 MS. CRUTHIRD: Hello, my name is



1 Jasmine Cruthird, I'm a special ed teacher at
2 Metcalfe Community Academy in the far south side
3 district -- not district, Network 13, and I just
4 wanted to talk about my school.

5 I've taught there for about three
6 years, and our school is -- it's actually
7 beautiful. About 20 years ago it was a Magnet
8 school, so we have a very large building, a nice
9 annex and there's actually a park district right
10 behind us so we have access to tennis courts,
11 swimming pool, all kinds of different amenities.
12 And so it's a very nice school.

13 However, nearby in our community there
14 is a charter school, the Chicago Collegiate
15 Charter, that is wanting to expand in our area.
16 My school back in the day used to house 1500
17 students, now we only have about 390 students at
18 our school, so it's definitely unutilized. In
19 our community we have a handful of empty
20 schools, and all of the schools that are still
21 up and functioning are again underutilized. And
22 my question is what is the justification for
23 expanding the charter school that's starving all
24 of the public schools in the area? why can't we



1 have more funding for expanding our schools and
2 making our schools more attractive to people
3 instead of expanding charters and putting our
4 jobs in jeopardy.

5 Another thing I wanted to say to all of
6 the parents here who have all of these
7 complaints, we can't really rely on CPS, you
8 need to talk to your aldermen, you need to put
9 pressure on them, you need to encourage them to
10 give you the things that you're demanding at
11 your schools. And if they don't, they need to
12 go. Times up. Vote them out. That's all I
13 have to say.

14 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 31 and 32.

15 MS. PLUHRAT: Hi, my name is Lori, and
16 I teach at Bridge Elementary School in the
17 Dunning neighborhood. And what I don't
18 understand is why you're building a middle or
19 high school or whatever grade levels they're
20 going to be, you don't even know what grade
21 levels, why is it being built when you're going
22 to take those students from our current
23 elementary school that goes up to 8th grade and
24 put them in this new school which is being



1 funded up to a hundred million dollars and not
2 being put towards schools that are already being
3 built?

4 I was previously teaching in North
5 Lawndale where air conditioning wasn't working,
6 mice were stuck on the floor where we had to
7 scrape it off. It is unacceptable. And we
8 should be holding you to high expectations to
9 fix these problems, especially all of these
10 people here are taking time out of their day to
11 talk to you in hopes that you listen and follow
12 through. They should be thanked by you guys and
13 we should be holding you guys accountable just
14 like I hold my students accountable and with
15 high expectations, and I teach 3, 4 and 5 year
16 olds, that means that adults should be held
17 accountable as well. Thank you.

18 MS. HANSON: Hello, my name is Raina
19 Hanson, I am a homeowner in the Bridgeport
20 neighborhood, a community member on the local
21 LSC at Armour School and a mother to a
22 2-year-old who I hope to one day send there.

23 I am here because Armour has two school
24 buildings. Our main building serves our 3rd



1 through 8th graders and our ranch serves our
2 preschool through 2nd. The last time either one
3 of our playgrounds got an update was
4 approximately 20 years ago. In that time both
5 playgrounds had fell into a state of disrepair
6 to the point of this past year having to close
7 the playground at the school for the younger
8 children due to its condition. There are no
9 working pieces of equipment. Due to the fact
10 that it was a wooden playground primarily there
11 are many safety concerns, including jagged
12 edges, splinters, missing piece of cork, meaning
13 that it's unstable, places where our children
14 get pinched. And so we are here to advocate for
15 our school to get funding.

16 we did miraculously this week get a
17 ground breaking date of July 23rd, which is just
18 next week, but having been in this place before
19 I'm holding my breath or I'm not holding my
20 breath knowing that it's been pushed back
21 before. We desperately need this new playground
22 at our ranch. Being located in the heart of
23 Bridgeport in an area that's not particularly
24 well-funded not only will this serve our 2nd --



1 our pre-K through 2nd grade students but also
2 neighbors like me who actually get into their
3 car to go drive to a safe playground where their
4 children can play, as well as just the
5 surrounding neighborhood.

6 We're hoping to advocate for continued
7 support. As I said, we do have a second
8 playground at our main building that is also
9 needing repairs with no indoor gym space for
10 neither of our buildings for our children to
11 have a safe place to move about and exercise.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 33 and 34
14 please.

15 MR. ROSARIO-MOORE: Good evening,
16 everyone, my name is Alexios Rosario-Moore
17 policy and programs manager for Generation All.
18 Before I start my comments I just wanted to
19 thank everyone for coming out. I'm disheartened
20 by how medieval this process is. People come
21 and thank the Board for being given air
22 conditioning, being provided heat, being
23 provided the basic necessities to protect
24 children, and then people come and ask for those



1 things. I think it's very troubling. The mayor
2 of the city, it's a 21st century city, and yet
3 our public engagement processes are minor in
4 medieval politics.

5 I'm going to start by talking about,
6 well, I already started, transparency. So we
7 don't know what this school in Dunning is, where
8 it's going to be. We don't know why we need it,
9 but perhaps some powerful constituents asked for
10 it. The high school in West Loop, we know we
11 don't need it. Wells High School isn't far
12 away. I've been in that school many times, it's
13 a wonderful school with a strong culture and it
14 just got a new field. Why is there no robust
15 and authentic public engagement process as there
16 are in almost every country and city across the
17 world? Why is Chicago advertising a capital plan
18 and a budget plan for one of the largest
19 districts in the city and then getting responses
20 and then reacting politically to those
21 responses? The process should be research the
22 need, survey the people --

23 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

24 MS. ROSARIO-MOORE: -- engage in an



1 authentic process, generate the plan, show the
2 plan back to the people and then implement it.
3 when people are part of the process they're more
4 likely to implement the process, they're more
5 likely to be happy with what they have and that
6 requires negotiation, it requires bravery and it
7 requires authentic equity, transparency and
8 public engagement. Thank you very much.

9 MS. GREEN: Good evening, my name is
10 Earlean Green, I'm here on behalf of Marshall
11 High School. Everyone is complaining about
12 this, that and the other, but Marshall is one of
13 the oldest schools in this city and we do not
14 have an elevator. It is not in ADA compliance.
15 we've been asking for an elevator, we filled out
16 petitions for an elevator. People don't realize
17 that we have students that get hurt and they
18 have to go up and down these stairs. We have a
19 staff member that was shot in a drive-by
20 protecting his kids, now he's paralyzed from the
21 waist down, but he can't come back and teach at
22 the school because we don't have an elevator.
23 They removed a diverse class from our school to
24 another school because we don't have an



1 elevator. It's not our fault that we don't have
2 an elevator, we've been asking and asking and
3 asking for an elevator.

4 This comes close to my heart, I'm an
5 alumni of Marshall since 1960. All my kids, I
6 have eight sons and a daughter went to Marshall,
7 and grandkids went to Marshall, I have great
8 grandkids that's going to Marshall. This is
9 close to my heart, and it sickens me that this
10 Board do not come out and look and see for
11 themselves what these schools need. You write
12 down, you sit at the desk, get out and go look.

13 When Paul Vallas was in office he came
14 out and seen for himself what the school needs
15 when the people came to him. That's how we got
16 new schools on the west side, that's how we got
17 additions to the schools on the west side. You
18 need to get out and come look for yourself and
19 then you'll know what we need.

20 I recommend -- I really compliment the
21 young people from Cragin Belmont stating we
22 don't need a school, give it to the schools that
23 need it.

24 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.



1 MS. GREEN: You need to listen. I want
2 to leave this with you so you can come to our
3 school, take a look around, meet with the Alumni
4 Association, meet with the LSC and meet with the
5 PAC and then you'll see what we need and what
6 you really need to do. Thank you.

7 MR. JOSSERAND: Speakers 35 and 36.

8 MR. LOPEZ: Good evening, my name is
9 Fabi Lopez, I am from Hurley Elementary School.
10 We are on the southwest side, 69th Place and
11 Pulaski. And we first and foremost want to
12 thank you for giving us an expanded pre-K
13 program this school year, we're really looking
14 forward to working with those students.

15 Some facts about Hurley, we're a dual
16 language, fine and performing arts Magnet
17 cluster school. We are a Level 1 school. We
18 have a 97.7 percent Hispanic student population
19 with 88.6 percent low income, 10.4 percent
20 diverse learners. We offer many, many programs
21 in the fine and performing arts, including
22 mariachi. I am the mariachi music teacher at
23 the school. We have a band program, a choir
24 program, a modern band program. We have a drama



1 and art program. We offer three world
2 languages, Korean, Spanish and Mandarin. We
3 also have an international program where we send
4 students every school year to Korea and Chile.
5 I am also the international coordinator at the
6 school.

7 However, while we have a wonderful and
8 supportive community, we have some basic needs.
9 For example, we have a broken boiler that
10 recently was broken this year. Our school is
11 outdated with our boiler system. Many times we
12 have to have students go to other classrooms in
13 order for them to be accommodated and have heat
14 during the winter.

15 Also, our building is not ADA
16 accessible. We do not have any kind of ramps or
17 any elevator access for students to be able to
18 come to our Magnet cluster school. If students
19 are injured or if students have disabilities
20 they're unable to come to our school, we simply
21 cannot accommodate them.

22 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

23 MR. LOPEZ: Also, we have 20-year-old
24 modular units. There are six classrooms that



1 need to be replaced, and I am in one of those
2 classrooms. We are ready to move forward by
3 moving up and going into a new space. We need
4 additional classroom space. And our playground
5 area finally is in disrepair where we have many
6 safety concerns. We have the community's
7 support, we have the Alderman's support, we
8 would like to have your support as the Board of
9 Education. We thank you and we hope that we
10 will see you at Hurley School. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, the following
12 speaker was in Spanish and was
13 interpreted by an interpreter.)

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good evening, my name
15 is Ilda Hernandez, and I am part of the Little
16 Village community, and tonight I come to say
17 thank you, thank you because of the many years
18 of waiting my school is finally being repaired.
19 I am very grateful because we're finally getting
20 a new roof, and we also have in safety and we
21 definitely are very happy that we are getting a
22 new infrastructure.

23 MR. JOSSERAND: Speaker 37.

24 MS. DON: I'm 36.



1 MR. JOSSERAND: I'm so sorry, I got
2 looped up in line, it's 36, I apologize.

3 MS. DON: Hi, everybody, my name is
4 Raquel Don, I am a parent at James Ward
5 Elementary from the Bridgeport neighborhood.
6 Our elementary school is 100 percent minorities.
7 We have Asian immigrants and English learners,
8 black students and Hispanic immigrants and
9 English learners. About 90 percent of our
10 school -- 90 percent of our children live in
11 poverty. And all of our basic needs coincide
12 with your critical building needs. Our heater
13 is antique and requires someone to stick a
14 broomstick into a tiny hole somewhere for it to
15 be turned on, but we don't even have an engineer
16 to come and do that every day so our children
17 are wearing jackets. We need air conditioners.
18 Our special ed students and diverse learners do
19 not have air conditioners in the classrooms.
20 All of our common areas, the lunchroom, the gym,
21 auditorium do not have air conditioners.

22 And we also have many safety needs. We
23 have doors that do not close unless they are
24 forced closed manually. We have many windows



1 that do not close properly. And the cages on
2 the windows that should lock for security almost
3 all of them are broken. We have stairs
4 throughout the building of the entire school
5 that are broken or the grip on them so that the
6 children do not have to slip on them every day.

7 TIME KEEPER: 20 seconds.

8 MS. DON: We also need a new roof, but
9 we are getting one of the several holes that we
10 have patched. Plumbing system throughout. And
11 just a note our school is the oldest open school
12 in the city. Thank you.

13 MR. JOSSERAND: I apologize again,
14 speaker 36, for my error.

15 Speaker 37.

16 MR. LU: Hi, my name is Robert, and I'm
17 from the Chinatown community. My high school
18 class would be having their reunion next
19 weekend, and while it's great to see some old
20 friends, there are a great number from my
21 elementary school who won't be there because our
22 designated neighborhood school at the time, I
23 believe it was Tilden, was not ideal for various
24 reasons. We were scattered all over the city



1 from Bogan to Kenwood to Lane Tech to Kelly to
2 various private schools. I saw this process
3 repeated between my siblings where at one point
4 my parents were in the position where I was at
5 Whitney Young, my sister was at Lincoln Park and
6 my brother was at Bogan. And this was over 20
7 years ago. The problem still exists today
8 speaking with the people from the community.

9 So, yes, there is a short-term solution
10 with NTA's conversion which we all no is nowhere
11 near the capacity to support the current
12 population in its boundary of Bronzeville, South
13 Loop, Chinatown and Bridgeport, let alone the
14 growing population in the future. We need a
15 long-term solution sooner rather than later. I
16 don't want my children to run into the same
17 problem in another 20 years. Thank you for your
18 time.

19 MR. JOSSERAND: So that concludes the
20 speakers who signed up to speak this evening?

21 Do we have any written statements that
22 people want to have read in?

23 MS. BENNETT: So my name is Jennie
24 Bennett, I'm the CFO for CPS. I want to take a



1 moment to thank everyone for their time tonight.
2 I know it's not easy to come out in the evening
3 on a weekday, and the fact that you're spending
4 time tonight to advocate for your school and for
5 your communities is really important to us and
6 the process.

7 Tonight we heard a lot about process
8 and transparency. It's something that is a goal
9 that we strive for in terms of being
10 transparent, and these community hearings are
11 our first step towards that. Clearly it's a
12 process that can be frustrating at times, but
13 community participation is about getting
14 feedback from a number of places. We do engage
15 in a great deal of effort to reach out to
16 communities, do site visits. Our facilities
17 teams are in schools all the time talking to
18 principals, parents, talking to aldermen and
19 other community members who are interested in
20 sharing their feedback.

21 And so what you see here in the Capital
22 Plan is really an amalgamation of that process.
23 In addition to these community hearings we also
24 have budget hearings that occurred earlier this



1 week. We'll also have a Board meeting next week
2 where the community is welcome to come. I know
3 that can be frustrating for some, but I have in
4 my time at CPS seen change come from the
5 suggestions that come out of these hearings. So
6 you should be aware that you are heard and
7 listened to and, you know, and sometimes it
8 takes some time.

9 We also heard a lot today about equity
10 and how is it that the allocation of the
11 projects are allocated to different schools in
12 the District. As you saw on the chart and the
13 presentation that Cameron presented, there are a
14 number of schools across the city and the dots
15 kind of stand across the entire City of Chicago
16 in terms of where the projects from the \$989
17 million Capital Plan is allocated. Somebody
18 made the point that, you know, not all projects
19 are equal, which is true, but again going back
20 to the process, you know, the allocation of
21 these projects were really in large part due to
22 what we heard in terms of feedback about need.
23 In some places the need is for a new roof, in
24 other places the need may be for some



1 overcrowding relief, it may be for some ADA
2 project, et cetera. But it is based on a fairly
3 extensive process that we do across a number of
4 years.

5 One in four schools will receive an
6 improvement, a capital improvement from this
7 Capital Plan, but obviously as you heard today
8 there needs to be more done. And part of the
9 issue that we face at CPS as I'm sure everyone
10 is aware is the fact that, you know, we have
11 more needs than we have money for. This year
12 was the first year where we saw some financial
13 stability and our finances certainly have
14 improved as evidenced by the size of the Capital
15 Plan this year versus previous years. But it's
16 something that, you know, we continue to
17 advocate for in terms of more funding, and we
18 would encourage you to advocate for as well.

19 Over the last number of years your
20 advocacy time in Springfield talking to
21 aldermen, talking to State legislators is
22 extraordinarily helpful in helping to tell the
23 story of how CPS needs fair and equitable
24 funding.



1 I heard today a number of specific
2 projects which we'll take back with us. We're
3 taking copious notes here about the specific
4 schools you're coming from and the needs at
5 those schools. I heard about ADA accessibility
6 needs, air conditioning needs, HVAC needs, play
7 fields, chairs, overcrowding, one-on-one
8 technology needs. And certainly, you know,
9 those are all being noted and things that we
10 have in this Capital Plan invested in.

11 Cameron mentioned that there's \$335
12 million of facility needs, a lot of that that I
13 mentioned just now is being funded from -- a lot
14 of that \$335 million will go to fund projects
15 like that, in particular the boiler HVAC
16 concerns that we heard, it's a portion of that.
17 And then also, you know, a number of these other
18 projects as it relates to programmatic
19 investments will help fund some of the other
20 things like the play fields and the one-on-one
21 investments.

22 So, you know, I guess in short what I
23 would wrap up by saying is I think, you know, as
24 you go through this process you heard there was



1 some people who are happy with where they ended
2 up, there are some people who aren't and would
3 like to see more as we would as well. You know,
4 in a perfect world we'd love to fund all of
5 these projects as needed because they're very
6 important and all of them are very important.
7 But it's, you know, a function of funding that
8 we have, and as we continue to develop the
9 Capital Plan over the next number of years we'll
10 continue to try to address as many of the needs
11 that we can.

12 Cameron, I don't know if you had
13 anything else you wanted to add.

14 MR. MOCK: I'd just likes to reiterate
15 on the process. Demonstrating this is not
16 hopefully the first time that folks have had a
17 chance to say their grievances or supports,
18 et cetera. To echo Jennie's comments, we really
19 would welcome even an e-mail. Like when the COO
20 and I first came in at beginning of the calendar
21 year, I think to date we visited probably close
22 to a hundred schools, maybe more, within a
23 couple months.

24 And to the comments about our CEO being



1 at schools, I would like to say that Dr. Jackson
2 perhaps more than any other CEO at CPS has been
3 out to the schools and knows and listens to the
4 school communities more than anyone. So if
5 there is concern, if you do want us to come out,
6 there's an area unaddressed, please reach out.
7 It can be any form, it can be e-mail, phone
8 call, Board, even if you want to go in front of
9 the Board, we've had some visits as a result of
10 that. In fact, you know, a lot of the talk of
11 Belmont-Cragin and that development, a lot of
12 that we have heard from the community and
13 various community groups that this is a desire
14 of their's and so we're attempting to work with
15 the community to shape a project that hopefully
16 reflects their desires. So that's a function of
17 that process. And so I just want to echo that.

18 I do want to say thank you for coming
19 out and doing this, taking time out of your day.
20 I know many of you probably this has been a long
21 day for you as well so I do appreciate it. I
22 would also recommend that you check out our
23 Capital Plan website, I think there were a few
24 schools and projects mentioned asking for



1 support that I believe are currently on the
2 capital list, so I'd welcome you to check that
3 out online. There's some areas that are kind of
4 bucketed into broad categories, big ticket items
5 that we're still working through how much and
6 for which particular schools, but it's the
7 desire hopefully in the coming days to begin to
8 roll out our intent for those funds. And so
9 included in that you'll see some of the IT
10 investments and things of that nature where
11 hopefully you start to get a better picture
12 where perhaps you're on the list for cameras for
13 the school that didn't have any cameras and so
14 forth. And so I'd recommend you referencing
15 that. And if you're not on the list or are
16 inquiring about further capital needs, please we
17 are here to listen and appreciate your time and
18 attention.

19 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Can I ask a
20 question? I promise I won't take too long.
21 Basically I am concerned about how the fine
22 solution to this money was acquired, and it was
23 all mentioned under the aldermen. I'm very
24 concerned about that because, for example, in



1 Pilsen somebody gave a positive explanation, but
2 nonetheless 90 percent of Pilsen we have poverty
3 in Pilsen, but also our area -- our budget only
4 went to 1 million. We have schools that are in
5 dire need of books, dire need of fixing the
6 buildings. We have umpteen needs. And so we're
7 wondering what happened there? Why -- you know,
8 we stepped over Pilsen, and we said, oh, I guess
9 gentrification will take care of that, but
10 that's not the issue. So I really want to see
11 whether our comments, you know, our emotions,
12 our protests, how have they reached all of you
13 who work on this. How are you -- are you going
14 to take back this information? Are you going to
15 try to make changes? Or are we just saying
16 these things and they're just being ignored?
17 This is really, really crucial.

18 When I come here I'm not trying to
19 cause attention to me. Believe me, I don't like
20 this kind of attention. I have been an activist
21 for 45 years, and I've seen the problems that we
22 have in our community and that's why. Sometimes
23 it doesn't fall on you because you're doing the
24 best that you can with what you know. But it



1 falls on us, parents, grandparents, aunts,
2 uncles, our communities. This is our future.
3 So I am asking that you truly look at what went
4 on and why our some communities less than
5 others. And I'm not against other communities
6 getting what they need for their communities or
7 their schools, I'm not. What I'm saying is that
8 we need you not on our side because you have a
9 job, you need to make money, we're not getting
10 paid money, we're here for the future of our
11 children, please take a look at what's going on
12 and we really want a report when you have this
13 whole meeting how much of what was put on paper
14 is going to be changed. Is there going to be a
15 change? And if you're going to ask me again
16 when you do something you have to come to the
17 communities and the organizations to ask. Thank
18 you very much. Thank you for allowing me to
19 speak.

20 MS. BENNETT: Thank you so much for
21 your advocacy. I really do want to emphasize
22 you are being listened to. We do really
23 appreciate the fact that you take the time to
24 come and talk to us and your input is very



1 valuable, so thank you.

2 MR. JOSSERAND: So we want to thank
3 everyone for coming out tonight. Just as a
4 final reminder I would ask everybody to remember
5 that you should go to the CPS website for the
6 complete Capital Plan, it's available on the
7 website. You can also leave questions and
8 comments, and I would encourage you to do so.
9 Thank you all for your attendance this evening.

10 (whereupon, these were all the
11 proceedings had at this time.)

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