CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 24 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING

(Zoom)

held on

June 20, 2023

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled matter held via Zoom, Chicago, Illinois, commencing at 6:04 p.m. and concluding at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

MS. ELIZABETH TODD-BRELAND, Chairperson

MS. JOYCE CHAPMAN

MS. SULEMA MEDRANO-NOVAK (Virtually)

MS. PAIGE PONDER

MR. MI CHAEL SCOTT, JR.

Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR



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1	APPEARANCES:
2	MS. RUCHI VERMA, General Counsel
3	MS. SUSAN NARRAJOS, Secretary to the
4	Board
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1 (Whereupon, the following 2 proceedings commenced at 18:01:58 6: 04 p.m.) 3 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: FY 24 Budget 18:01:58 4 Hearing in the Board Room at 42 West Madison 18:04:33 5 Street. I would like to note that the Board 18:04:35 6 Members and senior leadership are physically 7 18:04:37 18:04:39 present in the Board Room. Registered speakers 8 18:04:41 9 may join us in person or virtually if they opted 10 to do so. The purpose of this hearing is to 18:04:43 comply with the School Code provisions regarding 18:04:46 11 the FY 24 Budget. 18:04:48 12 Board Secretary, please state for the 18:04:50 13 record the notice procedure for this hearing. 18:04:52 14 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: 18:04:54 15 Thank you, Board Member Todd-Brel and. 18:04:56 16 Notice of this public hearing was 18:04:57 17 published in the Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper 18:04:58 18 18:05:01 19 of general circulation in the city of Chicago 18:05:03 20 and posted at Board Room, Principal Office and 21 18:05:05 42 West Madison Street Lobby on June 13th, 2023. 22 Notice was also posted on the CPSBOE. ORG and 18:05:09 18:05:13 23 CPS. EDU websites on June 13th, 2023. 18:05:17 24 I will now read into the record the



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public notice as published.

Notice: Public Hearings: FY 24 Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, Chicago Board of Education, commonly known as Chicago Public Schools.

To Whom It May Concern: Public notice is hereby given by the Chicago Board of Education that it has prepared an FY 24 Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year in tentative form, and that five copies thereof, available for public inspection, have been filed and are now on file in the Office of the Board of Education of the city of Chicago, commonly known as Chicago Public Schools, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 950, Chicago, Illinois, 60602, and available at CPS. EDU/BUDGET. And that said Board of Education will hold two public hearings upon said budget on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 and Wednesday, June 21st, 2023. Tuesday, June 20th, 2023, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 21st, 2023, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Chicago Public Schools Loop Office, 42 West Madison Street, Garden Level, Board Room, Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Registered speakers who wish to present



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during public participation may have the option to participate in person at the location of the public hearing or virtually via an electronic platform. The public will have access to the meeting via a live stream at CPSBOE.ORG.

registration to speak will begin on Tuesday,
June 13th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and will close on
Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. or until
20 slots have been filled for each hearing,
whichever occurs first. Advance registration
during this period is available by the following
methods: Online, CPSBOE.ORG, or by phone
(773) 553-1600.

Advance registration to observe will also be available beginning Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and will close on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. or until all slots are filled. Advance registration during this period is available by the following methods: Online, CPSBOE.ORG, or by phone (773) 553-1600.

The public participation segment of the public hearings will conclude after the last person who has registered to speak has spoken or



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18:07:28 1 at 7:30 p.m. on June 20th and 4:30 p.m. on June 18:07:32 2 21st, whichever occurs first. 18:07:34 Members of the public may submit 3 written comments related to the FY 24 Tentative 18:07:35 4 Budget via the Written Comments Form on the 18:07:38 5 Board's website at WWW. CPSBOE. ORG or mailed to 18:07:41 6 7 One North Dearborn, Suite 950, by 5:00 p.m., 18:07:45 18:07:49 June 22nd, 2023. 8 Dated at Chicago, Illinois. 18:07:51 9 June 13th, 10 2023. Chicago Board of Education. By: Mi guel 18:07:53 del Valle, President. And attested: Susan J. 18:07:57 11 18:08:00 12 Narrajos, Secretary. MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 18:08:01 13 Thank you. SECRETARY NARRAJOS: I would also like 18:08:07 14 18:08:08 to note for the record the Members present here 15 18:08:10 16 today. Member Chapman? 18:08:10 17 MEMBER CHAPMAN: Yes. 18:08:12 18 **SECRETARY NARRAJOS:** 18:08:13 19 Member 18:08:13 20 Medrano-Novak who is joining us virtually? 21 MEMBER MEDRANO-NOVAK: Yes. 18:08:17 Present. 22 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Member Scott? 18:08:19 18:08:19 23 MEMBER SCOTT: Present. SECRETARY NARRAJOS: 18:08:20 24 Member Ponder?



MEMBER PONDER: 18:08:21 1 Present. **SECRETARY NARRAJOS:** 18:08:22 2 Member Todd-Brel and? 18:08:24 3 4 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Present. 18:08:24 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: We also have --18:08:25 5 I'm sorry, five present, we have a quorum. 18:08:27 6 7 We also have Ruchi Verma, General 18:08:29 18:08:32 Counsel, joining us. 8 18:08:34 9 Thank you. 10 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Great. 18:08:36 So let's begin with the FY 24 18:08:37 11 18:08:40 12 Budget presentation. 18:08:45 MR. SITKOWSKI: Good evening, Board 13 My name is Mike Sitkowski, I am the 18:08:53 14 Members. 18:08:54 Deputy Chief in the Office of Budget and Grants 15 Management at CPS. My presentation tonight will 18:08:57 16 17 be about the FY 24 CPS Budget. 18:09:00 Next slide. 18:09:12 18 18:09:42 19 All right. So, first, an overview of our FY 24 Budget. Our '24 Budget totals \$9.4 18:09:44 20 21 18:09:51 billion, and this includes an increase of nearly 22 \$500 million in the District's Operating Budget. 18:09:53 8.5 billion of the 9.4 funds the District's 18:09:57 23 18:10:01 24 Operating Budget, which covers day-to-day



expenses. \$155 million funds the District's
Capital Budget, which includes investments in
school buildings and infrastructure and is
funded primarily through bonds issued by CPS.
Lastly, \$785 million funds the District's Debt
Service Budget, and this pays for principal and
interest on bonds issued to fund the Capital
Budget.

A few more highlights in our FY 24
Budget. This budget includes \$4.8 billion in
direct school funding. This is an increase of
\$243 million, totaling 480 million that has been
added in the last two years to school budgets.
These dollars support core instructional
priorities, including reasonable class sizes,
limited split classrooms, access to high-quality
arts education, more intervention supports and
funding for local-level priorities.

This budget also includes continued investments in nurses, social workers and case managers, which will bring FY 24 staffing levels to a new all-time high in these areas.

An additional \$128 million is included in this budget to support staffing needs to



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ensure our diverse learners have the supports and resources needed to achieve their full potential.

\$670 million from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, also known as ESSER, will fund investments in academic recovery, social and emotional supports, expanded summer before and after school programming and other student services.

The FY 24 Budget includes 45,159 full-time employees. This is an increase of 1,781 from the FY 23 Budget. Our \$155 million Capital Budget focuses on priority facility needs at schools, including major renovations and interior improvements, site improvements, building system investments, security and technology improvements.

785 million of Debt Service Funding funds our long-term debt. And 19.5 million is included in the Operating Budget to pay interest on our tax anticipation notes to fund cash flow for operating costs.

Looking at the revenue that comprises our Operating Budget of \$8.5 billion, there are



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three sources of funding. The first is local funding, which makes up 57 percent or \$4.8 billion of our total operating revenue. This revenue is primarily coming from property taxes, our personal property replacement tax and TIF surplus dollars.

The second component of our operating revenues is state funding which makes up 23 percent or \$2 billion of our total operating revenue. The largest source of funding from the state is our evidence-based funding dollars. The state also funds teacher pension normal costs, which we'll talk a bit about later, and various categorical grants for the District.

Finally, federal funding makes up 20 percent of our overall Operating Budget or \$1.7 billion. This includes recurring sources, such as, title funding and lunchroom funding that primarily supports low-income students. This also includes federal relief funding through ESSER which adds significant onetime revenues to the FY 24 Budget.

Moving to the expense side of our Operating Budget, salaries and benefits comprise



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76 percent of CPS's overall Operating Budget So this includes the 45,000-plus full-time employees I mentioned earlier, plus funding for charter school tuition, which primarily funds salaries and benefits for charter school staff. The remaining 24 percent of our budget is used to pay for non-personnel expenses, including commodities, such as, food and utilities, instructional supplies, equipment and software, student transportation and building repair and contractual services, such as, facilities management and Safe Passage. When we look at the 45,000-plus employees that are part of our FY 24 Budget, we want to note that over 96 percent of these employees directly support schools on a daily This includes teachers, school support staff and school administrators which are

percent of CPS employees, plus another 15 percent of city-wide employees that are managed centrally but serving our schools on a daily basi s. And this group includes custodians,

24 nurses, social workers and other positions of



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the like. Four positions -- 4 percent of our overall positions are Central Office positions.

Now, we want to look at our teacher pension costs in FY 24 as this is a big driver of overall costs for the District and one of our largest expenses overall. So in FY 24 CPS will be paying over \$1 billion to the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund. This is the obligation that we are forced to meet under state law. When we look at the chart here, we want to look -- start at the top and moving to the right clockwise we see that the state is contributing \$308 million in this orange section and then another \$14 million in this small sliver next to that. And so the state is contributing just over \$322 million to our total cost.

We've mentioned this before, but CPS is the only District in the state whose full teacher pension cost is not essentially covered by the State of Illinois. So what this means is with our total contribution north of \$1 billion, Chicago taxpayers have to make up the difference. First, we have a dedicated property tax levy for pensions that we expect to



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contribute \$557 million of our costs in FY 24. This leaves a gap of \$142 million of operating revenues that have to be diverted from other expenses to meet our pension obligation. So we'll continue to talk about this, but it's an important cost driver in our '24 budget. But we are spending close to \$700 million of local dollars on our teacher pension costs.

Moving on to school funding, I mentioned the \$4.8 billion that we are allocating directly to schools in this budget. And this funding prioritizes our instructional priorities and resource equity throughout the District. This budget includes an additional \$243 million in school-level funding, reflecting our investments in these crucial areas.

Highlights include \$128 million in additional funding for special education teacher and paraprofessional positions.

\$32 million in new funding for teaching positions with an emphasis on our highest needs schools as identified by our Opportunity Index.

\$15 million in increased funding for bilingual instruction, including 8 million in



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1 new additional funding for enrollment 2 adjustments at schools receiving newly arriving students. 3 Our equity grant has grown by \$5 4 million for our smaller and under-enrolled 5 schools, reaching a total of \$55 million in FY 6 7 24. And finally, we're expanding pre-K, 8 continuing to expand pre-K, I should say, by 480 9 10 seats with programs in all Chicago communities and increasing the level of direct outreach to 11 12 parents of our youngest learners. This budget also continues some of the 13 key investments that we've made in FY 23 to 14 advance our focus on our core instructional 15 16 priorities and resource equity. Some of these 17 investments include \$45 million to provide teacher professional development District-wide 18 and fund additional instructional coaches at 184 19 20 school s. 21 \$15 million to provide additional 22 District-funded counselors at 131 of the 23 District's highest needs schools. 24 \$11 million to support 80 schools with



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significant year-over-year enrollment changes to ensure resourcing for school-level programming.

We have \$8 million to support athletics administration, including full-time athletic directors at over half of our District high schools.

And then continuing to expand support for summer programs and Out of School Time programs to keep students safe and engaged outside of normal school hours.

Continuing to centrally fund student devices and curricular supports which were previously funded by schools through their own budgets.

Continuing funding for Tutor Corps, which has provided high dosage tutoring in reading and math to over 10,000 students to date.

And continuing to fund school nurses, social workers, SEL resources and advocates for students in temporary living situations, which we have 50 in our FY 24 Budget at 45 schools with high STLS enrollment.

I want to highlight a few additional



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things around school funding, and here we have an example of two schools we're calling School A and School B to show how our investments in need-based funding have different effects on schools at different levels of need.

So School A is a school that scores low on our Opportunity Index, meaning they have fewer indicators of overall need. And they have a lower than average low-income population across the District at 29 percent. And they're serving 7 percent English Learners and 18 percent special education students.

This compares to School B, who has an Opportunity Index score of 50, indicating higher need throughout the indicators included in that index. And is serving a population of 79 percent low-income students, 69 percent English learners and 21 percent special education students.

What this chart shows is how the different funding streams that we as a District allocate make up the school's total budget.

What we see for School A, which is a low needs school, is that this first blue box on



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the bottom that's highlighted in red is their SBB funding per pupil, it makes up close to half of their overall budget with additional funding streams layered on top.

We compare that to School B where SBB, which is delivered through the same formula that School A receives it, this makes up only 23 percent of their total budget because School B is receiving additional funding through our equity grant, through our bilingual resources and through our additional on top of resources that are allocated based on school need. So SBB is less than a quarter of School B's budget.

When we look at what this means on a total basis, looking at total per pupil funding per student at School A and School B, what this chart shows is that those sources that we talked about on the previous slide aggregate to a total of just over \$10,000 per student at School A. When we compare that to School B, those funding sources that School B receives add up to a total of over \$20,000 per student. So nearly double the per pupil spending at School B versus School A based on the different funding streams and



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methodologies we use that are based on school level need.

My next section we'll talk about federal relief funding. I mentioned that ESSER, the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund dollars that we've received, and this table shows how we have allocated and spent those dollars since we've begun receiving them in FY 20. CPS as a whole has received \$2.8 billion of Federal ESSER relief funding through ESSERs I, II and III, and by the end of FY 23 we will have spent over 1.8 billion of that \$2.8 billion. This funding is eligible through September of 2024 and will continue to cover important investments in academic recovery and social and emotional supports, pandemic-related operational expenses and additional school level funding for teachers and school programming. The FY 24 budget includes \$670 million of ESSER funding, and we are planning to use 300 million of ESSER funding in FY 25 to exhaust the remaining funds.

These next two slides show an overview of how that \$670 million is allocated in the FY 24 Budget.



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1	This first section is \$228 million of	18:23:19
2	ESSER funding to provide resources for academic	18:23:21
3	recovery and social and emotional learning,	18:23:24
4	including \$45 million for instructional coaching	18:23:26
5	and school-based professional learning.	18:23:28
6	\$30 million for summer school	18:23:30
7	programmi ng.	18:23:32
8	\$25 million for Skyline curriculum	18:23:33
9	materials and supports.	18:23:37
10	\$25 million for Out of School Time	18:23:38
11	programming for all schools.	18:23:40
12	\$19 million for school assistance and	18:23:42
13	other part-time operational support.	18:23:45
14	\$15 million for instructional support	18:23:47
15	leaders and content leads to support the	18:23:49
16	investment we've made in teacher professional	18:23:52
17	development.	18:23:54
18	\$15 million in mental health supports	18:23:55
19	and trauma-informed interventions.	18:23:58
20	\$15 million for additional	18:24:00
21	centrally-funded second counselor positions for	18:24:03
22	our high needs schools.	18:24:05
23	\$15 million for reengagement home	18:24:08
24	visits and truancy prevention programs.	18:24:10



\$10 million for Tutor Corps. 18:24:13 1 18:24:16 \$7 million for athletic directors. 2 \$3 million for our universal social and 18:24:18 3 4 emotional learning curriculum. 18:24:21 \$3 million in early literacy support. 18:24:23 5 And \$1 million for Chicago Roadmap 18:24:25 6 7 fundi ng. 18:24:28 We've also allocated \$409 million of 18:24:34 8 ESSER funding to support school resourcing and 18:24:37 9 10 continued investments in District priorities. 18:24:40 First is our \$104 million investment in 18:24:43 11 18:24:46 12 centrally-funded teacher positions at every school on top of core funding allocations. 18:24:49 13 These allocations are based on both school 18:24:52 14 18:24:55 enrollment and our District Opportunity Index 15 18:24:57 16 allocating additional resources to our highest needs schools. 17 18:25:00 \$101 million to fund early childhood 18:25:01 18 18:25:04 19 programming above what is funded by state grant 18:25:07 20 fundi ng. So while we do receive the majority of 21 our funding for early childhood education from 18:25:09 22 the state, we are subsidizing that with over 18:25:11 18:25:14 23 \$100 million annually. 18:25:17 24 \$70 million to avoid any fall cuts



1 based on drops in enrollment in fall FY 23, 2 believe this is five years now. 3 4 5 6 7 pri ori ti es. 8 9 10 Academy. 11 12 13 14 previous slide. 15 16 17 fundi ng. 18 19 20 21 conversation of late. 22 23 24 inequities between CPS and other school

18:25:26 continuing the practice that we've had for I 18:25:29 \$23 million to fund lost cap and 18:25:32 18:25:35 program support for schools to address outlier situations and make sure that every school has 18:25:38 the resources they need to meet instructional 18:25:40 18:25:42 \$6 million to support our CPS Virtual 18:25:43 18:25:46 And then \$50 million to ensure that 18:25:46 18:25:48 charter schools have a proportionate share of these investments outlined on this slide and the 18:25:51 18:25:53 18:25:55 I just want to note before moving on that these are investments that we would not be 18:25:56 able to make but for the access to ESSER 18:25:58 18:26:01 18:26:03 Now, transitioning into our long-term 18:26:05 fiscal health, which I know has been a topic of We as a District face 18:26:08 long-term financial challenges due in part to, 18:26:12 although improved, inadequate state funding and 18:26:14 18:26:18



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districts in the state. We applaud the state for evidence-based funding formula and the introduction of that some years back, and it's introduced more certainty in advanced equity in state funding, but the formula remains significantly underfunded. CPS receives only 75 percent of what the formula says the District needs to be adequately funded, and this leaves CPS nearly \$1.4 billion short of resources that could support schools and students.

I mentioned pensions before, we are also the only District in the state that is required to fund its own teacher pensions. The state provides 32 percent of our total costs with Chicago taxpayers funding the remaining 68 percent or \$700 million.

Federal relief funding through ESSER dollars have helped us manage the shortfall and to continue to make needed investments such as those I've outlined on previous slides. By the end of FY 24, CPS will have spent \$2.5 billion to address pandemic-related needs and to fund District instructional priorities. We are planning to use the remaining \$300 million in



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1 ESSER funding in FY 25 to support continuation 2 of essential services, supports and investments made possible by these dollars. 3 As we go forward, the District and its 4 partners will continue to advocate for more 5 state and federal funding to combat these 6 7 long-term financial challenges. Moving on to our FY 24 Capital Budget. 8 So as I mentioned previously, the District's 9 10 Capital Plan funds investments in infrastructure, and this year's plan includes 11 \$155 million of projects, 100 million of which 12 are funded by bond offerings and other CPS 13 The remaining \$55 million 14 capital funds. leverages external funding and is funded by 15 local, state and federal dollars that are 16 17 external to CPS. The sources of this funding include, I 18 19 mentioned the \$100 million in anticipated bond 20 offerings and other capital funds. 21 \$42 million in tax increment financing 22 fundi ng. 23 \$10.6 million in external funding for 24 space to grow projects.



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And then \$2.2 million in other 18:28:31 1 18:28:33 2 potential external sources. 18:28:35 3 As far as the uses of this funding, \$103 million will go towards facility needs and 18:28:37 4 interior improvements in our schools. 18:28:41 5 \$2 million will fund educational 18:28:43 6 18:28:46 7 programming improvements. \$6.2 million will fund IT, security and 18:28:47 8 building system investments. 18:28:50 9 10 And \$23.6 million will fund site 18:28:52 improvements. 18:28:56 11 And \$20 million will fund the support 18:28:56 12 services for our capital project program. 18:28:59 13 18:29:07 Lastly, our Debt Service Budget. 14 So I mentioned before our Debt Service Budget 18:29:09 15 provides funding for principal and interest 18:29:11 16 17 payments on our long-term debt service payments 18:29:14 for bonds that fund our capital program. 18:29:17 18 Thi s year's budget includes \$785 million of long-term 18:29:21 19 18:29:25 20 debt service payments. This budget also 21 includes \$19.5 million of operating 18:29:27 22 appropriations for interest on our short-term 18:29:30 23 debt to fund cash flows for operation -- for 18:29:34 18:29:35 24 operational needs.



1 As we look at the chart below, this 2 includes our long-term debt obligations by funding source. And one thing I want to point 3 4 out here, we talked about our long-term fiscal challenges, the green bars on this chart 5 represents the portion of our long-term debt 6 7 that we use evidence-based funding dollars to fund. We do not have a dedicated revenue source 8 9 to pay for our long-term debt, so this leads us 10 to divert close to \$500 million annually from our Operating Budget to make sure we can meet 11 12 these obligations for needed investments in our 13 schools in our capital program. 14 And with that, that wraps my presentation on the FY 24 CPS Budget. Thank 15 16 you. MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thank you very 17 much, Mike. 18 19 Board Members, any questions or 20 comments? 21 MEMBER CHAPMAN: Yes. I try not to, 22 but I'm always curious, and this is a question 23 you should have been ready for, how do we 24 determine the most needed schools? Out of the



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32 million, how do you measure the real need from those schools or have you already -- has CPS already identified them?

MR. SITKOWSKI: Yeah, that's a great question, and thank you for bringing it up.

So we have identified those schools, we have provided this funding as part of the budgets that schools received back in April. We use a number of different metrics to identify need at our school and student level, but the most important in the investment that you mentioned is our Opportunity Index, which takes into account a number of both school and student level factors to provide sort of a comprehensive nuance assessment of need at the school level. So it includes everything from our traditional need-based metric like free and reduced lunch eligibility, students in temporary living si tuati ons. It also incorporates additional community-based metrics that give us a more holistic view of what we believe the need is at that school.

MEMBER CHAPMAN: Okay. And my other one is, it was a big outcry, a big outcry about



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counselors and social workers coming into the schools, have we met that threshold, and the services to our students is it being met?

MR. SITKOWSKI: Yeah, so on the counselors I mentioned that -- this goes back to last year, we made a \$50 million investment to provide a second centrally-funded counselor to 131 of our highest needs schools, again, utilizing the Opportunity Index and other metrics of need that help us assess where those resources are most needed. So we've made -- continued that investment in this budget.

Around social workers we've continued to add, this budget includes an additional 56 social workers, continuing our investment, that's both included in our Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teachers Union and making good on those metrics in that sense.

MEMBER CHAPMAN: And do you see some of the services going to be to the higher needs schools since they've already been identified, can these more counselors -- that's not right English -- have the more per capital resources go to these schools. Because, you know, we're



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good at throwing these numbers out, but I just really hope that we identify these schools that truly need the services, not by a checkbox and it's a one and done thing.

MR. SITKOWSKI: Yeah, I think what we've seen and what ESSER has really made possible these last few years is our ability to make the investments that you mentioned. We talked about the examples of School A and School B that have essentially, you know, \$10,000 per pupil and \$20,000 per pupil overall, and that's a reflection of those investments that are driven by the needs of the students, the needs of the school and making sure that, you know, regardless of how many students are in the building or, you know, what -- we're identifying schools based on need and make sure the resource gets there to serve the students that are there.

MEMBER CHAPMAN: Thank you.

MEMBER SCOTT: So just to piggyback off of -- first, Mike, thank you for the presentation, greatly appreciate it. To piggyback off of what Joyce was asking, I know that there is oftentimes a void as it relates to



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the number of nurses, number of social workers, librarians and recruiting, so what are we doing to make sure in those areas where it's tough to hire those and we put them in a Collective Bargaining Agreement, what are we doing to make sure that we're meeting those needs?

MR. SITKOWSKI: Do you want to -- I'll hand it over to our Chief Talent Officer to answer this question.

CHIEF FELTON: Good evening. Excel I ent question. So, you know, there's opening the positions in budgeting for them but there's actually finding the human beings to do this I would say just broadly speaking our experience over the last several years is that it has been much -- it's been much easier to fill counselor positions than it has been social worker or nursing positions. And that's just like -- part of that it's just simple for supply and demand, about how many, you know, both like barriers to entry into the profession but then just like how many of these people exist. So we've made really considerable progress over the last two or three years in recruiting nurses,



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social workers and counselors. We've got hundreds more of each. And so we're really proud of that.

I think in the last year we're up about 80 additional counselors in our schools. And these numbers give or take, you know, based on the week you're pulling them. We typically pull them on the quarter, which would be ten days from now, but we're about 80 or so counselors and up about 40 or 45 social workers or nurses from a year ago.

As far as the efforts go, so for the first time as far as I can tell in CPS history, we've got a devoted school social worker recruitment team that's in our office, and we just launched that team a couple weeks ago. So really our strategy for school social workers is to train them within CPS and sort of never let them hit the market, so to speak. So we're, you know, we're having success on that front.

Same with nurses, we are expanding our opportunities for nurses to train within the District. And then we're also -- I don't want to get too far ahead of our public plans, but



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we're talking with CTU right now about like the opportunity to upscale both our own students but then also our like -- our entry level nurses to become RNs as part of a pathway program like we've done in many respects for teachers. So we're really excited about some of those plans.

Long story short, like we've made really significant progress around recruitment of all of these groups over the last couple of years and, you know, we're excited to have another summer to like get a crack at these guys. But, you know, we have a nurse recruitment team, we have a school social worker team because those have been -- historically been the toughest for us to recruit. So we're proud of those investments that we make, and we think we'll continue to make good progress.

MEMBER SCOTT: That's encouraging. One thing that I appreciate is the farm system, if you will, in terms of investing in younger interested participants in each one of those so that we can keep them in the District as long as possible so that is greatly appreciated.

CHIEF FELTON: And, you know, the



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long -- the right long-term answer here is investing in our own students to become the next generation of these professionals in our schools. Like CEO Martinez is thinking a lot about, you know, a programmatic strategy to that end, especially for high school programming, so we're very much involved in that and eager to continue to flesh that out, yeah.

MEMBER SCOTT: Thank you.

MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Okay. I have some questions about the sort of larger -- the long-term projections here. So I know that in the budget in the outlook on how we're going to be using these ESSER funds next year all of the ESSER funds have to be used by September 2024 so it gives us just a little bit of our FY 25 to be a part of that. In the image that you show or the graph it was saying that, you know, currently we're using ESSER dollars for a number of academic and SEL supports, operational supports, there was a whole long list. particularly in those SEL supports and operational supports as of next year we may potentially not have dollars to cover that, is



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MR. SITKOWSKI: Yeah, so as we're looking forward there's a few things we're trying to do. One, we're trying to stretch those dollars into FY 25 to help us bridge the gap and be able to balance our FY 25 Budget.

We're also looking at alternative funding sources that we have that are able to, you know, cover some of those investments with ESSER going away.

We're also continuing to advocate for more funding, which we've seen through the investments that we've made in ESSER that have really been transformative in a lot of ways, that these are important, necessary investments that we're making in our schools and we need the funding to continue to do that FY 25 and beyond. You know, we have a little bit of a gap in FY 25, but we're looking, you know, we're looking at strategies to bridge that. But as we have discussed publicly, FY 26 is when the ESSER funding is -- we no longer have access to, and we'll need to have a more comprehensive solution at that point.



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18:39:51 1 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 0kay. But we 18:39:53 2 need to start thinking now even for next year, 18:39:55 correct? 3 MR. SITKOWSKI: Correct. 18:39:55 4 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 0kav. And then 18:39:56 5 with the -- I guess just thinking again about 18:39:57 6 this broader landscape of inequities in the way 7 18:40:00 18:40:03 that CPS is treated relative to other districts 8 18:40:07 9 in the state, on the issue of teacher pensions 10 you said this year that total amount will go up 18:40:09 above or close to \$1 billion, and of that 700 18:40:12 11 18:40:16 12 million is what CPS will pay, a combination of the levy but also there's a pretty significant 18:40:23 13 gap that will then have to be taken out of 18:40:26 14 18:40:28 classrooms or other potential spending out of 15 the operational budget, is that right? 18:40:31 16 MR. SITKOWSKI: Correct. Yeah. 18:40:32 17 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Sorry, I was just 18:40:34 18 18:40:36 19 going to say, and again this is something that 18:40:38 20 only CPS has to pay, no other district in the 21 state? 18:40:40 22 MR. SITKOWSKI: Correct. 18:40:41 18:40:42 23 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Okay. And then 18:40:43 24 with that, is this -- this seems to be an



increase over last year, and can you talk a bit about if that is the case and why?

MR. SITKOWSKI: Yeah, so last year our total obligation to the Teachers Pension Fund was just north of \$860 million.

MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Okay.

MR. SITKOWSKI: In FY 20 -- last year, I mean FY 23. In FY 24 our contribution is going to be \$1,022,000, so that's an increase north of \$160 million, and that's based on some of the assumptions and investment returns and different factors that the fund considers in developing our -- assessing what our obligation is to meet our statutory ramp to meet 90 percent of our teacher pension funding by 2059.

So in our FY 23 budget between the state's contribution for our property tax levy for pensions, we have the full contribution covered. Because it went up so drastically that's much more than the levy was increasing and that the state contribution was increasing. In this year's budget -- in FY 24's budget we'll have to divert \$142 million from operating revenues, property taxes, evidence-based



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1 funding, all of our unrestricted sources that 2 could otherwise be spent on teachers, classrooms, et cetera. 3 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 0kay. So I guess 4 the short story is we continue to have to pay 5 quite a bit of our EBF for some combination of 6 various forms for debt service and pension 7 8 payments. MR. SITKOWSKI: That's correct. 9 10 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Even when we -even as it remains the minimum contribution 11 that's being made, it's still adding up on our 12 side even above and beyond that. 13 MR. SITKOWSKI: That's correct. 14 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 15 Okay. guess I just feel like it's another opportunity 16 17 as you were saying to talk about our broader financial outlook, and I appreciate the efforts 18 19 that you're making to plan towards how we might 20 close these gaps. But if we think even about 21 EBF, it's something like, and I want to make 22 sure I get this number right, 22 percent of 23 total EBF funding comes to CPS? 24 MR. SITKOWSKI: That's correct.



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18:42:43 1 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: In the whole 18:42:43 2 But we are serving 27 percent of English 18:42:47 learners, 38 percent of black students and 29 3 percent of Latinx students in the entire state. 18:42:51 4 MR. SITKOWSKI: 18:42:54 That's correct. 5 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: So a lot of 18:42:56 6 18:42:57 7 opportunity to decrease inequities here, and 18:43:00 hopefully we can have ongoing, as you were 8 18:43:02 9 saying, conversations with our state and other 10 partners about how we can move forward in a way 18:43:03 that is equitable because I think that is the 18:43:05 11 18:43:07 12 intent of EBF, right, but thinking about how to actually do that is going to take some effort on 18:43:11 13 18:43:14 all of our part. 14 18:43:16 Anyone el se? 15 Okay. If there are no further 18:43:20 16 All right. 17 questions, let's now proceed with today's public 18:43:21 Board Secretary, please share 18:43:24 18 comment segment. 18:43:27 19 the rules for public comment. 18:43:29 20 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you, Board 21 Member Todd-Brel and. 18:43:29 18:43:30 22 Members of the public who registered to 18:43:32 23 speak were given the option to attend in person 18:43:34 24 or via on electronic format. For those who



preferred to attend via an electronic format, they were given information to access this meeting by dialing a number and using their phone. We did this so that speakers with limited or no access to the Internet or who may have weak Internet connection could still participate using their phones.

Also, members of the public may submit written comments for the FY 24 tentative budget via the Written Comments Form on the Board's website at CPSBOE. ORG or mailed to One North Dearborn, Suite 950. Written comments received between the day the public agenda was posted through 5:00 p.m. the day after the second Budget Hearing will be submitted to the Board and published within five business days on our website at CPSBOE. ORG.

Speakers, please listen while I provide directions for public participation. I will call your name and number when it is your turn to speak. As a reminder, to unmute, please press star 6. Once you hear your name, please state your name for the record, I will then start the 2-minute timer. When there are 30



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seconds remaining, I will inform you so that you can proceed to conclude your remarks to allow for the next speaker to begin. This hearing will conclude after the last speaker who has registered to speak has spoken or at 7:30 p.m., whichever occurs first. When called, please state your name for the record. I will proceed by calling the first speaker.

We will begin with Dr. Angel Alvarez, speaker number 1, who is here in person.

DR. ALVAREZ: Thank you. I'm Dr. Angel Alvarez. Significant reforms are needed to address CPS's unsustainable budget. I want to focus on just three areas, although there's many more we can focus on.

The first, school-level funding is obfuscated by a counting method CPS chooses to use and the limited time made available for schools to actually review their budget and determine how so best allocate these funds.

Two, school-based budgeting and recent emphasis on equity-based budgeting are grossly misleading. And schools are not able to adequately direct investment to where they're



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needed most, nor are they given the opportunity to make long-term decisions about their schools and the communities that they serve.

And three, there's really no accountability for how schools support our most underserved students. There's no system in place to establish best practices and no system to hold those schools and District accountable when they fail to meet the needs of these most vulnerable students. This harms all students.

We have a moral obligation to make sure that CPS has a robust educational system to provide not just opportunities for those in the city but as an example for what's possible for those students across the country.

Thank you so much.

MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thank you.

SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you for your comments.

Our next speaker is Natasha Carlson, speaker number 3, please press star 6 to unmute. Natasha Carlson, speaker number 3, please press star 6 to unmute. It seems like we're having technical issues.



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1 We'll move on to the next speaker, 2 Natasha Erskine, speaker number 4, please hit -press star 6 to unmute. 3 MS. ERSKINE: Hi. Good evening. Can 4 you hear me? 5 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Yes. PI ease 6 7 proceed. MS. ERSKINE: Yes. Good afternoon, my 8 9 name is Natasha Erskine, I am on staff at Raise 10 Your Hand as the LSC Director. One of the things that, you know, really was concerning was 11 12 the -- really the lack of time and notification that Local School Councils had for the budget. 13 14 And so, Board Members, you all, you know, received a copy of our request that was signed 15 by almost 200 independent LSC members requesting 16 more time to consider their budgets. 17 That letter states that many schools hadn't had the 18 19 required meetings that would be a budget refute 20 meeting, a CIWP review meeting, many schools 21 hadn't had that just due to the, you know, 22 pandemic and, you know, for whatever reasons I'm 23 not sure at each school. 24 But overwhelmingly when Local School



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Council members reached out, they were concerned about approving a budget while there was so many things left to be considered, so listening to everything, the buckets of money that's being poured into, I think that really meets the north star when we make sure -- and whatever support that the Board can help make in going forward to make sure that Local School Councils have more than two weeks or around nine days to schedule and hold special meetings that really just became a rubber stamp to this budget approval process.

So going forward and in our letter --SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Speaker number 4, you have 30 seconds, please conclude.

MS. ERSKINE: What I would hope that the Board can really lean in on is making sure that the budget next year gives adequate time to Local School Councils and that way we can make sure that all of these gaps that we're talking about in real-time get the adequate support and accountability that it deserves.

Thank you so much for your time today.

MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thank you.



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SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you for your 1 2 comments. 3 Our next speaker is Michael Brunson, speaker number 7. Please enter -- or please 4 press star 6 to unmute. Michael Brunson, 5 speaker number 7, please enter star 6 to unmute. 6 7 It seems that Michael Brunson is also having a technical issue. 8 We'll go on to the next speaker, Dulse 9 10 Arroyo, speaker number 9, please enter star 6 to unmute. 11 12 MS. ARROYO: Good evening, my name is Suse Arroyo, and I work at Palengue LSNA. 13 I'm a 14 community organizer, here a mentor coordinator, former CPS teacher and a new mom. It's 15 appalling to find out that out of the 39 schools 16 that would be cut, 24 of those schools are 17 predominantly black and eight are majority 18 19 Latinx while three are predominantly white. 20 ask the question that has been asked for years, 21 why are schools in black and brown communities 22 always having the most cuts? 23 Losing nearly 37,000 students in 24 enrollment from 2019 to 2022, a time in which



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1 physical and mental health crises skyrocketed 2 for families, should have been a clear sign for the District to see their must be profound 3 changes to fully fund schools. Black and brown 4 schools are indeed seeing enrollment drops 5 exponentially, but look at the growing issues 6 7 surrounding these students' homes, gentrification, rent increase and displacement, 8 9 no new mental health clinics, no new youth 10 centers and constant disdain and violence towards black and brown youth. The youth have 11 12 been demanding everything they need to feel 13 safe, heard and valued as human beings, not as 14 dollars signs. Instead of keeping schools fully 15 staffed and funded and making them safe spaces 16 for these communities, the Board continues to 17 take away funds and resources. It makes zero 18 19 sense that the District wants stellar enrollment 20 rates while it also takes more funds and 21 resources away every year. 22 At Palenque LSNA we say (Spanish), I am 23 because we are. It's time for CPS --24 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Speaker number 9,



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you have 30 seconds, please conclude. 18:51:44 1 18:51:45 2 MS. ARROYO: -- to see that they're 18:51:47 part of something much greater than themselves. 3 It's time for CPS to factor that in and to give 18:51:50 4 each school what it needs in order to take care 18:51:53 5 of the students they took an oath to foster in 18:51:56 6 18:51:59 7 excel I ence. 18:51:59 Thank you. 8 18:52:01 9 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thank you. 10 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you for your 18:52:02 18:52:03 11 comments. And we'll go back to Michael Brunson, 18:52:03 12 speaker number 7, who is joining us. 18:52:06 13 PI ease enter star 6 to unmute. It seems like we're 18:52:09 14 18:52:31 having technical issues with this speaker. I'd 15 18:52:34 16 like to let Mr. Brunson know that you are able 17 to submit your comments via the Written Comments 18:52:36 I i nk. 18:52:40 18 18:52:40 19 We'll go on to the next speaker, 18:52:43 20 Jocelyn Floyd, speaker number 10, who is here in 21 18:52:45 person. 18:52:46 22 MS. FLOYD: Thank you. Good evening. 18:52:52 23 Good evening, all. My name is Jocelyn Floyd, 18:52:57 24 and I am the President of Chicagoland Mediation



Services, I'm a professional mediator. I'm also a resident of Chicago and a former CPS parent.

I have participated on Local School Councils,

PACs and other community engagement initiatives,
and I'm also a parent of a special needs child.

I am extremely concerned for the future of CPS students and how the Fiscal Year 24 budget will aid in conflict resolution and de-escalates violence. We have children in this District that are groomed for violence, traumatized and lacking basic necessities. As a parent of a child that required a 504 behavioral plan, an IEP cost and support, your narratives have been habitually under serving our most underserved communities and students.

Unfortunately, program after program have failed.

So what's the new plan? Will it include licensed clinical social workers that are trained to deal with these types of issues? Mental health professionals that understand that children cry when their friends are shot? Will the plan be charged with helping children learn peace strategies that can be mirrored by both in



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home and out of school programming time?

Summer programming is underway and there is no talk of in-class conflict resolution, critical thinking or de-escalation, and this District plays a critical role in reducing violence in our communities. Our children are not academically available to learn when their basic social/emotional needs are neglected.

Additionally, the migrant children -SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Speaker number 10,
you have 30 seconds remaining, can you please
conclude?

MS. FLOYD: -- what will be the plan to acclimate them? It seems as though it's easier for our children to access weapons and commit crimes versus accessing learning materials or having someone to talk to when they need help.

Mayor Johnson even acknowledges these claims.

In closing, it is my hope that this
Board prioritize as being a committed community
partner while attempting to educate our
children. Please use our tax dollars to invest
in a climate and culture that resembles peace



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18:55:00 1 and not violence. 18:55:01 2 Thank you. 18:55:02 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you for your 3 comments. 18:55:02 4 Our next speaker is Robert Renteria, 18:55:03 5 speaker number 12, who is here in person. 18:55:07 6 18:55:09 7 MR. RENTERIA: Good evening. 18:55:11 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Good evening. 8 MR. RENTERIA: You know, we have 18:55:12 9 10 children walking around lost in the culture of 18:55:13 darkness, and I decided to do something about 18:55:15 11 18:55:19 12 it. So in 2008 I became an author, and I came up with a book called -- you may have heard of 18:55:21 13 this book called From the Barrio to the Board 18:55:21 14 I was called in by Arne Duncan in 2008 18:55:23 15 and they were going to create a curriculum for 18:55:26 16 17 the book that addresses social/emotional 18:55:28 learning, critical thinking, conflict 18:55:30 18 18:55:32 19 resolution. Unfortunately, in 2009 he was taken to 18:55:32 20 21 18:55:36 D. C., but the curriculum was put together. 22 had it crafted. It addresses social/emotional 18:55:38 18:55:38 23 I earni ng. The framework is within the 18:55:42 24 curriculum how it aligns with the Illinois State



learning standards. I had it copyrighted, and I donate this curriculum to middle schools and high schools across the country. This book is currently being taught in over 25 other countries around the world.

Furthermore, I wanted to put a dent in the gang recruitment so I released a graphic novel called Mi Barrio. This was voted the best graphic novel of Latin America, Spain and United States of America addressing youth issues, okay. I wanted to run off the entire program and back to the drawing board and released an activity coloring book called Little Barrio for pre-K, K, So these books are addressing the now 1 and 2. issues of bullying, gangs, violence, drugs, school drop-out and suicides. It's my ask 15 1/2 years later that these books be put into the system in CPS and to help inspire and motivate our kids to make better life choices. They teach our kids that gang banging and violence is not a lifestyle but a death style, that the ultimate weapon is not a loaded gun but an educated mind.

Respectfully I'm asking you if you can



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1 get this to Pedro Martinez and to his curriculum 2 team, and if we can have a discussion about using this as formal implementation to the 3 school districts. 4 Thank you. 5 SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Thank you. Thank 6 7 you for your comments. Our next speaker is Pavlov Jenkov, 8 9 speaker number 13, who is here in person. 10 MR. JENKOV: Good afternoon, Board Members. Good afternoon, sitting Chair 11 Elizabeth Todd-Breland. I'm Pavlov Jenkov with 12 the Chicago Teachers Union, Research Director 13 14 there. And, you know, I want to start by talking a little bit about, you know, the 15 coverage of the ten-year anniversary of the 16 17 school closings. I think, you know, many of us have seen them, many of us were there or paying 18 19 attention to when that happened. And, you know, 20 the coverage covered the impact on the 21 communities, the broken promises, you know, 22 specifically focusing on how the little 23 resources that were given to those welcoming 24 schools was, you know, subsequently stripped



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away by District-wide budgetary policy, right.

So it is important that what we're seeing with this budget where the shift from, you know, SBB to the overall school budgets being provided through, you know, foundational supports, the increase in SPeD funding, the other kinds of social/emotional supports we're seeing, that's important, that's the right direction so I want to note that. You know, and it appears that there are still some school cuts on the table here. I think, you know, the intention what we've heard from the District has been to minimize that more than any years in the But, you know, there are a couple For example, some neighborhood high schools were cut, Douglas High School losing 6 percent of funding.

And so I think we want to be really clear about, you know, if the intention from the District is to support neighborhood high schools, neighborhood schools and to minimize cuts that, you know, whatever is happening with the budget that it's not reflecting on actual programmatic cuts that are going to stifle



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programs that are going to be attracting students to those schools.

SECRETARY NARRAJOS: Speaker number 13, can you please conclude?

MR. JENKOV: Yeah.

I did want to talk a little bit about the important points about capital and debt. We talked about the need for our schools for facility upgrades. There's a whole lot more our schools need and it's going to require revenue. You just heard about the impact of EBF funding being siphoned off for debt. We need to talk about revenue and we need to signal to the state that we're going to do our part as well if we're going to go to them for support.

So lastly, I do want to say, you know, we do support the District's efforts to use resources it does have access to, you know, namely property taxes and make that move. It's a clear signal to the state that you're doing your part and that we're going to have to do a lot more to get the kinds of supports we need on the pension debt as well as filling obligations of EBF that the state is committed to.



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18:59:29 1 So thank you. 18:59:31 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: 2 Thank you. SECRETARY NARRAJOS: 18:59:31 Thank you for your 3 comments. 18:59:32 4 And Michael Brunson, speaker number 7, 18:59:32 5 is still on the line so we're going to try 18:59:35 6 7 calling him one more time to speak. Mi chael 18:59:38 Brunson, speaker number 7, please enter star 6 18:59:40 8 All right. It looks like he 18:59:44 9 to unmute. 10 di sconnected. 18:59:59 This concludes public participation. 19:00:00 11 19:00:02 12 MEMBER TODD-BRELAND: Thank you. 19:00:02 13 Board Members, any comments or questions regarding either public comment or the 19:00:04 14 Budget Hearing more generally? 19:00:07 15 Thank you. If you could give 19:00:16 16 Okay. 17 them to staff. Thank you. 19:00:18 Anything else? 19:00:22 18 19:00:23 19 Thank you. This concludes the Okay. 19:00:24 20 first FY 24 Budget Hearing. We will be back 21 19:00:27 here tomorrow. So everyone have a good evening, 22 19:00:30 get home safely. 23 (Whereupon, these were all the 24 proceedings had at this time.)



STATE OF ILLINOIS 1 SS:) 2 COUNTY OF C O O K 3) 4 Karen Fatigato, being first duly sworn, 5 on oath says that she is a court reporter doing 6 7 business in the City of Chicago; and that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of said 8 9 hearing, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so 10 taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings 11 given at said hearing. 12 13 Karen Fati 14 Karen Fatigato, CSR 15 LIC. NO. 084-004072 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24



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