CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PROPOSED FY 24 CAPITAL PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING
(Zoom)
held on
June 21, 2023

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
had in the above-entitled cause held virtually
via Zoom, commencing at 6:02 p.m.

Reported By: Karen Fatigato, CSR
License No.: 084-004072
(Whereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 6:02 p.m.)

MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Kyrah Davis from the Office of Family and Community Engagement. On behalf of my fellow panel members, welcome to the second Capital Hearing. Today is June 21st, 2023. We are holding the second Capital Hearing electronically via Zoom and also live on our CPS YouTube channel. The purpose of this second hearing is to comply with the School Code provisions regarding the FY 24 Capital Budget.

For the record, notice of this public hearing was published in the Chicago Sun-Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the city of Chicago on June 13th, 2023.

I would also like to note for the record the CPS staff members and Board Members present here today. Charles Mayfield, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Ivan Hansen, Chief Facilities Officer; Venny Dye, Executive Director of Capital Planning and Construction; Miroslava Krug, Chief Financial Officer; Heather
Wendell, Chief Budget Officer; Mike Sitkowski, Deputy Chief of Budget; Anthony Wojtal, Budget Manager; Chuck Swirsky, Senior Advisor to the CEO; and Jamel Chambers, City Council Liaison.

Let's begin with the FY 24 Capital presentation with Ivan Hansen and Venny Dye.

CHIEF HANSEN: Thank you, Kyrah. And thank you all for taking the time to join us today. The objective for today's presentation is to provide an overview of the Proposed FY 24 Capital Budget and obtain feedback from stakeholders.

CPS has continued to build on the capital planning process utilized for the FY 23 Capital Budget. The process for the FY 24 Capital Budget was officially kicked off earlier this year. In the spring various departments from CPS, including the Office of Equity, the Office of Family and Community Engagement and the Department of Capital Planning and Construction engaged with internal stakeholders. Based on the input and feedback, CPS then conducted five virtual community engagement sessions. These sessions provided an overview
of the CPS portfolio, the extensive critical
facility need, the Equity Index, the various
capital budget categories with clear examples of
the scope of work for each category and the
project prioritization process. These sessions
were live via Zoom and also on YouTube with
recorded sessions available to the public.
There were over 370 participants for these
community engagement sessions with active
engagement and Q and A.

The sessions also solicited public
feedback through an online survey. There were
almost 700 survey responses received. The
survey results reconfirmed the alignment with
the District's commitment to address critical
facility needs and site improvements. The
current plan is to present the recommendation to
the June Board for approval.

We believe that CPS has just begun --
started our journey and new heights of our
school district can achieve. It is our mission
to provide world-class educational programs for
all students across the city. And to fulfill
this mission, we made these three commitments to
our students, their families and to all Chicagoans: Academic progress, financial stability and building trust.

We respect our students and families and the diverse communities in which they live and honor them as partners in our shared mission. We will earn their trust by communicating openly and consistently and acting on community feedback. In our previous strategic plan this priority was called integrity, but we changed it to building trust in our CPS blueprint, recognizing that acting with integrity is something you do alone, while building trust is something we do together. To do this, we must respect our students, families and the various communities in which they live and include them as partners in our shared mission. We want to ensure when we're listening to your feedback and taking that into account as we continue to revise our processes in Chicago Public Schools.

The CPS facility portfolio is large, and our average facility age is 83 years old. Our oldest facility is 149. We maintain over 62
million square feet, and to put that in perspective that would be the equivalent of 14 Sears Towers. Many years of budgetary constraints have led to a large backlog of deferred needs. The total District need is over $3 billion and that is just to bring facilities to a state of good repair. The cost to repair CPS buildings has far exceeded what CPS has historically been able to afford. Because of this prioritization of capital needs is critical and CPS values your input during this process.

The next two slides will discuss our typical approach to capital planning. As noted before, in recent years the District has focused on prioritizing investments that promote equitable access to high-quality learning environments. And earlier this year the District hosted a series of five community capital meetings to gather feedback on how it should prioritize these investments. The CPS Department of Capital Planning and Construction, the Office of Equity and the Office of Family and Community Engagement collaborated to hold community engagement meetings on the Capital
Budget which highlighted the capital priorities as outlined in the Educational Facilities Master Plan and focused on explaining the capital prioritization process that utilizes the latest Facilities Condition Assessments and the Equity Index.

On average, facility needs, such as, roof, masonry replacement and mechanical system upgrades, plus site improvements, such as, playgrounds/turfs were the highest recommended budget category for allocating capital investments. And we'll take that feedback this year and in future considerations.

Chicago Public Schools Capital Planning and Construction Department recently completed the 2022 Facilities Condition Assessment in all CPS owned and operated facilities. The next run of assessments will begin this summer.

A few points to highlight on the Facilities Condition Assessment. The Condition Assessment is a visual inspection only of the building systems, it is not destructive. A sample report of what you see here includes a rank and quantity for all assessed items at each
CPS-operated facility. There's a separate assessment landing page on CPS.EDU that is now live. And the latest assessment reports were uploaded at the beginning of May.

Prioritization of critical capital needs is a process as systems are dynamic and constantly changing. The systems can change significantly from one assessment to another, and this can be driven by a number of factors, including weather, accelerated deterioration, deferred maintenance and recent investments.

This year's budget is a little different than in recent years, and this budget has been designed to be a two-phased process. The initial plan, which we are discussing today, is focused on utilizing available outside funding to its fullest potential and have the remainder of the budget in place to address unforeseen critical needs as they arise. The first phase is seeking approval in June so funds are in place and are to allow work to occur to ensure a successful school opening this coming fall.

The second phase will be a supplemental
budget that further expands on the effort in recent years to prioritize an equitable allocation of capital funds across the District. This will include a comprehensive review of the spaces and amenities available at a campus for 21st century learning environment, the age and the ability to modernize the campus and the accessibility of this campus. The second phase is targeting approval at the end of July -- at the end of 2023.

I will now turn it over to Venny to go into more details.

MS. DYE: Thank you, Ivan. And good evening, and thank you all again for taking time to be present for this session of the FY 24 Capital Plan Hearings. As Ivan stated, I'm going to take a deeper dive into the budget and explain the categories that make up the $155 million proposed budget.

As noted in the presentation previously, the FY 24 plan is designed to be a two-phased approach with this initial budget focusing on leveraging outside funding for which we have almost $55 million. These projects will
include facility needs like exterior envelope
renovations, mechanical system renovations, fire
alarm system upgrades, modular refurbishments
and building automation upgrades, as well as
programmatic investments and site improvements.

The FY 24 Budget for Chicago Public
Schools includes $155 million of investments
that will focus on priority facility needs at
neighborhood schools, as I said, mechanical
systems which control our indoor environment and
air quality of our schools, site improvements
and continued expansion in technology upgrades
and other academic priorities.

To support the schools throughout the
city, the FY 24 Capital Plan provides funding in
five main categories as noted here on the
screen: Critical Facility Needs, Interior
Improvements, Programmatic Investments, ITS
Priorities and Site Improvements.

The FY 24 Budget includes $93.2 million
to address Critical Facility Needs. This first
category includes our priority exterior envelope
and mechanical projects. Exterior envelope
projects include repairs to or replacement of
roofs, windows and exterior masonry. And mechanical projects prioritize the most urgent upgrades to core mechanical systems. These improvements directly affect our ability to provide warm, safe and dry facilities to our students, staff and community.

Other programs in the Facility Needs category include repairing and/or replacing obsolete critical systems like fire alarm replacement, critical temperature controls, such as, our BAS systems and the modular rebuilding refurbishment.

Also included is the Emergency Unanticipated Facility Repair category. This is established to address emergency situations that arise from things like fire, flood or freezing and any other unforeseen facility repairs that may arise.

The next category is Interior Improvements, and it includes $10 million for renovations at select locations for optimizing space utilization and addressing academic initiatives.

The Programmatic Investment category
includes $2 million in state funding for programmatic upgrades at Simeon High School.

The next category, ITS, includes $6.2 million to upgrade school network infrastructure to address connectivity, replace aging hardware at schools and upgrade our data warehouse and data backups.

The next category is Site Improvements, and this year's capital budget includes $23.6 million for site improvements. It includes also our continued partnership with the Department of Water Management and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Students can benefit from a well-rounded education that promotes healthy and active development and the city and MWRD benefit from additional water infrastructure.

The last category is Capital Project Support Services, and the budget includes $20 million in capital support services necessary to implement the capital program as well as support facilities projects. This includes management, planning, design, assessment, estimating and more, all needed to successfully implement this capital plan of $155 million as well as the
continued management of our ongoing projects
that are just getting underway this summer.

Full details of the FY 24 Capital
Budget are also available on our interactive
Capital Plan website located on CPS.EDU. This
site allows users to quickly select projects by
school, geographic area, type and year.

Before we go into the next section, I'd
like to address some previously received
questions.

The first one is: How are capital
plans prioritized?

CPS has historically prioritized
projects based on building needs, and these
needs are based on the facility assessments.
The facility needs prioritizes identified in the
District's Educational Facilities Master Plan
and is listed in the presentation today. CPS is
also -- we use -- with our Department of Capital
Facilities and Planning, we have recently
completed the 21-22 school year assessments for
all CPS owned and operated facilities. And this
information is now available on the CPS.EDU.

A few points and notes about those
Facility Condition Assessments is that they are visual inspections of the building systems only, not destructive. And reports can be seen on the website at CPS.EDU. And they're also posted on a separate landing page as of May of this year.

Prioritization of critical capital needs is a process as systems are dynamic and constantly changing. For example, systems can change significantly from one assessment to another, and this could be driven by a number of factors, including the weather, such as, freeze and thaw cycles that we have here in Chicago or accelerated deterioration, deferred maintenance or recent investment.

And along with the Office of Equity, we have been using for three years now the Equity Index that they created based on public feedback. So it's the Facility Condition Assessment and the Equity Index and the alignment with the District's academic initiatives and available funding that drive the project prioritization.

Another question that we received is:
What is different about this year's capital plan?

So this year for 2024 the Capital Budget will follow a different trajectory than in previous years. To ensure that all schools are ready to receive students on day one of the new school year, we are seeking to pass an initial budget of $155 million in June of this year to address immediate facility needs, including emergency repairs. The FY 24 Capital Plan provides for funding in five major areas: The Critical Facility Needs, the Interior Improvements, Programmatic Investments, Site Improvements and IT Upgrades. A supplemental FY 24 Capital Plan will be released later in the 2023-24 school year.

Another question that we received was: Is there a focus on ADA accessibility as part of the capital plan?

Accessibility remains a critical priority for CPS, and we have worked closely with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to develop a long-term ADA capital investment strategy. This is an investment
that would spend over $100 million over a five-year period of which we are to begin the fourth year. Other projects, not just specifically ADA projects, can also include elements that will help with accessibility at a campus.

The last question that we received was from a special education teacher, and she asked the question: I am not only concerned about specific funds allotted to our most vulnerable demographics but also transparency around these funds, can you please speak to that regarding the systems currently in place?

So we talked previously about the prioritization process for capital projects, and so our processes for the capital projects is based on the building needs identified in the Facilities Assessment and as well as utilizing the Equity Index developed by our Office of Equity. For the non-capital budget, the budget team hosted several budget hearings where they went into detail about the -- how the funding would be allocated for all of the different facets of CPS, including the special needs. And
those meetings are on our CPS YouTube channel, it can be viewed there. And that should provide some additional information as far as how the -- what systems are in place or what moneys are in place for that.

And so with that, I'd like to turn it over to Kyrah for the public comment segment.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Ivan and Venny. We will now proceed with today's public comment segment. And before doing so, I would like to share the directions for public comment.

For the record, I would like to note that registration for the public hearing began on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and closed on Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. or until all 20 slots were filled for each of the hearings, whichever occurred first.

Individuals who registered to speak will have 2 minutes to comment. Participants will be alerted when 30 seconds remain. After 2 minutes, the facilitator will end the speaking time and promptly proceed to the next participant.

I will be calling speakers in
Members of the public may submit written comments related to the FY 24 Proposed Capital Budget via the Capital Budget Hearing Public Comment Form posted on our website at CPS.EDU/CAPITALPLAN2024.

This hearing will conclude after the last person 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, Alderman Lopez, please press star 6 to unmute. Alderman Lopez.

ALDERMAN LOPEZ: Yeah. Can you hear me now? I'm so sorry.

MS. DAVIS: Yes, we can hear you.

ALDERMAN LOPEZ: Yeah. Thank you very much. And I appreciate the opportunity to discuss about the importance of the capital plan, especially for our young people. Of course, the concern around is the lack of youth facilities, you know, that we have across the
city, especially in the poorest areas of the city of Chicago, we don't have adequate facilities. In fact, at Benito Juarez, we are supporting the repairs for the pool and other basic infrastructure, we even, you know, need for more recreational facilities in general fields and infrastructure really that helps our young people to find alternatives and activities.

So my ask of, you know, in this meeting is for us to maybe discuss and assess, you know, especially in areas of the city where we really have seen very little investment in our schools. The 50 schools that the city closed were devastating for our young people. And if you look at the correlation between the school closures and violence, it's almost direct correlation.

So what we want to do is prioritize, of course, not only in our ward, Benito Juarez and other schools, infrastructure for activities, investment for after school programs that matches the needs, you know, of our young people. So hopefully there is conversation and
discussion not only with the administration but also with Local School Councils, local Alderpersons so that we can put at the forefront those infrastructure needs because young people really need that investment and hopefully it's connected with after school programming and more support for our social/emotional learning. But the capital improvements must be in line with the needs for youth empowerment and activities in coordination with our students, families and especially in communities that haven't seen investment.

So I'm not only here for, of course, Benito Juarez and other schools in our ward, we've been prioritizing TIF funding and other requests. But, of course, with this capital funding we ask in the 25th Ward and beyond, you know, that the Board really and CPS takes this urgent call to invest in our young people.

So thank you again for the opportunity. Look forward to, you know, collaborating and coordinating because our young people do need investment and we got to be very strategic and
intentional, especially in the poorest areas of
the city where really there is real, real big
need. Thank you so much.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Felicia Tate.

Please press star 6 to unmute.

MS. TATE: Good evening, everyone. My
name is Felicia Tate, and I would like to
first start off by saying a heartfelt thank
you to everyone involved in the improvements
that I can visually see in the schools on the
south and east side, which is also where I
reside.

I'm here today to speak on behalf of
Vanderpoel Elementary School, which my child
attends. And I spoke before about the need of
an upgraded bathroom. The kids have called the
bathrooms creepy, and my child personally
doesn't like to use the facility. So I'm
wondering if anyone can give me an update, if
there -- if it made it to something that they
will improve?

And also the side -- not the sidewalk,
but the stairs leading to the school, they're
crumbling, and I see that as a safety hazard. So I just wanted to know if there is any updates on this information?

MS. DAVIS: Thank you for that.

This concludes the public comment segment. If you have additional comments, please submit them at CPS.EDU/CAPITALPLAN2024. Thank you again for your participation. This concludes the second FY 24 Capital Hearing.

(Whereupon, these were all the proceedings had at this time.)
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COUNTY OF COOK  

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

Karen Fatigato, CSR

LIC. NO. 084-004072