CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY2013 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, April 17th, 2013

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

had in the above-mentioned matter held at

Malcolm X College, 1900 West Van Buren Street,

Chicago, Illinois, commencing at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Ginger Ostro

Ms. Mary De Runtz

Mr. Simon Minching

Ms. Raquel Cabrera

Reported by: Tracy Jones, CSR, RPR, CLR

Lic. No.: 084-004553

1	(Whereupon, the following
2	proceedings commenced at
3	10:01 o'clock a.m.)
4	MS. OSTRO: Welcome to everyone. My name is
5	Ginger Ostro. I'm the Budgets and Grants
6	Officer for Chicago Public Schools. We welcome
7	you this evening to our FY2013 Supplemental
8	Capital Budget Public Hearing.
9	We have for our audience members a sign
10	language interpreter. We also have a Spanish
11	interpreter if you need.
12	THE INTERPRETER: Raquel Cabrera.
13	(Spanish language.)
14	MS. OSTRO: Thank you.
15	And I will turn it over to Simon to
16	give the ground rules for the public hearing
17	this evening before I go through a short
18	presentation.
19	MR. MINCHING: The hearing will begin with a
20	brief Powerpoint presentation followed by a
21	public comment period. All those wishing to
22	speak are asked to please sign in from 5:00 p.m.
23	to 6:30 p.m. on the speaker sign-in sheet.
24	Please note that no one will be able to sign in 2

- 1 after 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Those who have registered to speak will
- 3 be given an opportunity to ask questions or make
- 4 a statement for two minutes on topics limited to
- 5 the capital budget. If any speaker has a
- 6 follow-up question, we ask that they please
- 7 speak to CPS staff members who will be on site
- 8 to help you follow -- fill out a follow-up card.
- 9 This public hearing is scheduled to
- 10 conclude at 8:00 p.m. or after the last speaker,
- 11 whichever is earlier.
- 12 MS. OSTRO: Thank you very much.
- We would like to present to you this
- 14 evening a brief description of what's included
- 15 in the supplemental capital budget. But let me
- 16 first begin by describing why we're doing a
- 17 supplemental capital budget.
- 18 This budget is on top of the funding
- 19 that was appropriated earlier this year by the
- 20 Board in its November Board meeting. These are
- 21 projects that must be completed before the start
- 22 of school next year and that were not included
- 23 in that budget because we did not know about
- 24 them at the time that budget was adopted.

- 1 We are including these now because the
- 2 FY14 capital budget won't be completed until
- 3 August, which would be too late for us to
- 4 complete the work -- the summer work that's
- 5 required.
- 6 The proposed supplemental budget is
- 7 \$363.7 million, and the projects fall into two
- 8 categories. The first is school action related
- 9 projects -- we'll go through what each of these
- 10 categories are -- and the second are
- 11 time-sensitive district priorities.
- 12 If -- The next slide takes you through
- 13 a summary of the total funding. You see that
- 14 about \$330 million are CPS-funded projects, and
- 15 an additional approximately \$34 million are
- 16 funded by TIF funds outside of CPS.
- 17 The first major category is investments
- 18 in welcoming buildings. This is \$155 million
- 19 that we will provide to buildings welcoming
- 20 students from closing or consolidating schools.
- 21 Among those investments are air conditioning in
- 22 every classroom; a library in every school;
- 23 computer labs as needed for programming; new or
- 24 upgraded technology such as expanded Internet

- 1 bandwidth; security and safety supports like
- 2 alarms and entry screening equipment.
- 3 You can see the other items that are
- 4 being provided to welcoming buildings as you
- 5 look down the list, including new iPads for
- 6 students in grades 3 through 8.
- 7 Next, we'll be providing \$51 million in
- 8 investments in schools that are co-locating. In
- 9 those buildings, students will get air
- 10 conditioning, new libraries, building
- 11 infrastructure, and IT upgrades. Plus you can
- 12 see additional science labs, computer labs, art
- 13 rooms, and lunchrooms.
- 14 The next major category is turnaround
- 15 investments for \$11 million. These students in
- 16 these schools will benefit from building
- 17 repairs, ADA accessibility, IT upgrades, and air
- 18 conditioning in all classrooms.
- 19 The next category of schools receiving
- 20 support are 18 district schools that will
- 21 receive air conditioning, IT upgrades, cosmetic
- 22 improvements, and building repairs.
- 23 In addition to the building
- 24 investments, we are focusing on expanded

- 1 programming as well and building supports for
- 2 those including \$15 million for new
- 3 international baccalaureate programs, where
- 4 we'll be providing renovations to science and
- 5 computer labs as well as ADA modifications.
- 6 Next, to implement the new full-day
- 7 kindergarten policy, we will be providing
- 8 \$15.4 million in upgrades to buildings to add
- 9 full-day kindergarten classrooms. In total,
- 10 we'll be providing full-day kindergarten for
- 11 over 30,000 students next year.
- 12 That's a brief overview of the projects
- 13 that are included in the capital budget.
- 14 I would like to talk just for a moment
- 15 about the time line and next steps.
- 16 These projects, again, because they are
- 17 time sensitive, will begin this summer, and
- 18 planning will begin immediately upon Board
- 19 approval. It is targeted for the April 24th
- 20 Board meeting. We expect work to be completed
- 21 in early August in time for next school year.
- The Public Building Commission is
- 23 carrying out these projects, which allows CPS to
- 24 focus on the education process rather than on

- 1 construction.
- We've highlighted here for you some of
- 3 the advantages of using the Public Building
- 4 Commission for the construction process, and you
- 5 can see it includes savings, 50 percent of the
- 6 work being done by city residents, and it
- 7 includes hiring requirements for CPS students as
- 8 well.
- 9 So if you would like more information
- 10 about the capital budget or to look at specific
- 11 projects, please look at our website at
- 12 www.cps.edu/capitalplan, and there you'll see an
- 13 interactive website that allows you to select
- 14 schools, look at projects, and see detail on
- 15 each of the -- each of the projects that we have
- 16 proposed.
- 17 That concludes the presentation. We're
- 18 now open for public comment.
- 19 At this time, we have no speakers
- 20 registered. We will keep the speaker list open
- 21 until 6:30 should anyone wish to make a comment.
- 22 (Whereupon, a short break was
- taken.)
- 24 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: My name is Senah

- 1 Yeboah-Sampong, and I'm a journalism student
- 2 from Columbia College, Chicago. I can spell
- 3 that for you.
- 4 I was wondering how were each of the
- 5 schools' financial needs estimated prior to this
- 6 stage of the process?
- 7 MS. OSTRO: So for each of the capital
- 8 projects, these are building projects that we're
- 9 working on. And for each of the projects, we
- 10 identified the work that needed to be done, and
- 11 we have people that do an assessment of how much
- 12 that would cost.
- 13 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: Is it okay if I record
- 14 this? I know it's an open meeting, but I felt
- 15 like I should say something first. I haven't
- 16 started recording, but I was wondering if I
- 17 could.
- 18 MS. OSTRO: I think that's okay.
- 19 Does anyone have any objections to him
- 20 recording?
- 21 (No response.)
- MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: The recorder is on, just
- 23 so you know.
- So I'm also wondering, like, what role

- 1 that the schools had -- whether or not they had
- 2 a role in helping to estimate their budgetary
- 3 needs. Because I know they all got different
- 4 portions, but some of them have the same type of
- 5 project going on.
- 6 MS. OSTRO: The projects are really estimated
- 7 by professionals in terms of what the
- 8 construction costs will be required. And so
- 9 that's how the estimates are developed.
- 10 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: At this point, have any
- 11 contractors been selected; or are they -- has
- 12 the bidding process begun? Or has anybody been
- 13 selected?
- 14 MS. OSTRO: So as I outlined in the
- 15 presentation, the work is being done by the
- 16 Public Building Commission, and so that will
- 17 allow us to focus on education -- us being
- 18 CPS -- to focus on education aspects, and the
- 19 Public Building Commission will handle the
- 20 construction projects.
- 21 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: Can you please tell me a
- 22 little bit about some of the new curriculum
- 23 materials that are going to come into use in the
- 24 fall.

- 1 MS. OSTRO: Actually, that's outside of my
- 2 expertise. So I wouldn't be able to speak to
- 3 the content of the materials. We can provide
- 4 additional information on our website on that
- 5 for you.
- 6 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: I would also like to
- 7 know, will there be anybody from CPS working
- 8 alongside the schools to ensure that this
- 9 process on all of these projects move along
- 10 smoothly, to act as some sort of intermediary?
- 11 MS. OSTRO: Yes. We will check with the PBC
- 12 on projects.
- MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: Do you know if anyone
- 14 has reached out to the PBC yet or any person is
- 15 being considered for that role to fill any of
- 16 those positions?
- 17 MS. OSTRO: I'm not sure I understand your
- 18 question.
- 19 The Public Building Commission manages
- 20 construction projects for Chicago Public
- 21 Schools, and we regularly interact with them.
- 22 So we will continue that existing relationship.
- MR. MINCHING: 30 seconds.
- 24 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: What about the school

1 co-locations? Was the number of students going 2 taken into consideration before the budget 3 estimates were made? 4 MS. OSTRO: The projects are estimated based on the construction costs that are needed in the 5 I'm not sure how the number of 6 schools. 7 students impacted those estimates. We can 8 certainly find that out for you. 9 MR. YEBOAH-SAMPONG: Okay. Can I please get 10 your name for the record and how to spell it. 11 My name is Ginger Ostro, MS. OSTRO: Sure. 12 O-S-T-R-O. I'm Budget and Grants Officer for Chicago Public Schools. 13 14 (Whereupon, a short break was 15 taken.) 16 MS. OSTRO: The time is now 7:00 o'clock. 17 have no further requests for public 18 participation. 19 We will adjourn the hearing. We thank 20 everyone for being here tonight and appreciate 21 your participation. 22 The hearing is adjourned. 23 (Whereupon, the Public Hearing 24 adjourned at 7:00 o'clock p.m.) 11

1	STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3	COUNTY OF C O O K)
4	
5	I, TRACY JONES, being first duly sworn,
6	on oath says that she is a court reporter doing
7	business in the City of Chicago; and that she
8	reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
9	Public Hearing, and that the foregoing is a true
10	and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
11	taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
12	given at said Public Hearing.
13	
14	- Tracy Jones
15	TRACY JONES, CSR, RPR, CLR
16	LIC. NO. 084-004553
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