

Dear CEO Dr. King,

Yesterday your Board of Education passed a balanced budget with input from many stakeholders in the CPS community. You stressed the urgency and we delivered. Now, we must move forward together in collaboration, communication, and compromise.

As Board members, we have a fiduciary responsibility to act in good faith, exercise sound stewardship, and serve the interests of CPS students and families. That requires us to address financial risks honestly while also making every possible effort to secure the funding Chicago's schools are owed.

Parents deserve timely, accurate, and plain-language information that explains what the approved budget means for their schools, what uncertainties remain, what actions CPS is taking, and when they can expect additional updates. Financial risks must be communicated responsibly, but always alongside the District's plan and the opportunity to build on recent momentum with Springfield leaders.

In external communications, respectfully, we ask CPS leadership to do the following:

1. Align the framing around the balanced budget, the path forward, and the need for sustainable state funding.
2. Develop a coordinated Springfield strategy with clear priorities, responsibilities, timelines, and opportunities for Board engagement.
3. Maintain regular communication with the Board so that concerns, differences, and opportunities for collaboration can be addressed quickly.
4. Engage families, educators, labor partners, elected officials, and community leaders in support of sustainable funding for Chicago's public schools.

Yesterday, we passed a balanced budget. Today, the work begins to secure the resources necessary to support it.

As Board members, we will continue to advocate for the funding owed to Chicago's students. We look forward to doing so in partnership with CPS leadership and with a shared commitment to responsible governance, stability, and student success.

We are requesting a meeting between you and a small group of board members next week. We believe this meeting is integral to hearing your thoughts on these matters.

Thank you for your partnership and attention to this work.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Chicago Board of Education

Dr. Angel L. Velez

Ed Bannon

Ebony DeBerry

Debby Pope

Norma Rios-Sierra

Karen Zaccor

Jitu Brown

Michilla Blaise

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