

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor of Chicago
City Hall
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mayor Johnson:

You ran on a platform anchored on the principle of inclusive community engagement, professing that “democracy is the best form of governance for our public school system.”

You have championed racial equity and fought hard to undo the past harm of top-down decision-making. As a teacher, advocate, and parent, like many of us, you have deep insights into the needs of our communities, families, and schools – and a unique perspective that few of your predecessors have had.

The December 2023 resolution was crafted with no input from the communities it will impact. This resolution was published during the final week of classes before Chicago Public Schools’ extended holiday break, giving little opportunity for public comment or response. **This resolution was crafted and approved by the Board in a top-down and undemocratic manner that contradicts the values you have espoused; how** this resolution was developed and adopted disrespects CPS families by rendering them voiceless.

Only by including communities in the creation of this resolution in advance can we live up to the promise of a more racially equitable and just Chicago. Chicago families have much to gain or lose depending on the direction of CPS, and their voices must be central to any process setting that direction.

We ask that you hold your Appointed CPS Board accountable to the values of community inclusion and authentic engagement to do the following:

- 1. Postpone the strategic plan until the Elected School Board is in place.**
- 2. Use the time between now and January 2025 to authentically engage with critical stakeholders, prioritizing parents and youth.**

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge you to take these steps immediately for the sake of our city and in service to a more racially equitable and just Chicago.

Respectfully,



[Apostolic Church of God, Dr. Byron T. Brazier Sr.](#)
[Association House of Chicago](#)
[Bronzeville Classical Elementary School Local School Council](#)
[BUILD Inc.](#)
[31st Ward Alderman Felix Cardona Jr.](#)
[Chicago Urban League](#)
[Chinese American Service League](#)
[Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community](#)
[CPS Parents for Buses](#)
[Education Community Committee of Belmont-Cragin](#)
[Rev. Michael L. Pfleger, Pastor and The Faith Community of Saint Sabina](#)
[Hamdard Health Alliance](#)
[Hanul Family Alliance](#)
[Illinois Black Advocacy Initiative](#)
[Indo-American Center](#)
[Instituto de Progreso Latino](#)

[Kids First Chicago & Kids First Chicago Parent Advisory Board](#)
[Little Village Community Council](#)
[The Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance](#)
[National Parents Union](#)
[Noble Schools](#)
[Northwest Center](#)
[Phalanx Family Services](#)
[Pilsen Neighbors Community Council](#)
[Pui Tak Center](#)
[The Resurrection Project](#)
[Something Good in Englewood](#)
[Storehouse Church and Storehouse Connect](#)
[The Academy Group](#)
[Together Chicago](#)
[Dwayne Truss, Former CPS BOE Member](#)
[36th Ward Alderman Gilbert Villegas](#)
[Woodlawn Children's Promise Community](#)
[The Urban Center](#)

Honorable Brandon Johnson
Alcalde de Chicago
Edificio Municipal
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Estimado alcalde Johnson:

Usted se postuló en una plataforma basada en el principio de la participación inclusiva de la comunidad, profesando que "la democracia es la mejor forma de gobierno para nuestro sistema de escuelas públicas".

Usted ha defendido la equidad racial y ha luchado con firmeza para deshacer el daño causado en el pasado por la toma de decisiones de arriba hacia abajo. Como maestro, defensor y padre, al igual que muchos de nosotros, tiene una visión profunda de las necesidades de nuestras comunidades, familias y escuelas y una perspectiva única que pocos de sus predecesores han tenido.

La resolución de diciembre del 2023 se elaboró sin contar con la opinión de las comunidades a las que afectará. Esta resolución fue publicada durante la última semana de clases antes de las vacaciones extendidas de las Escuelas Públicas de Chicago, dando poca oportunidad para comentarios o respuestas públicas. **Esta resolución fue elaborada y aprobada por la Junta de una manera verticalista y antidemocrática que contradice los valores que usted ha adoptado.** La forma en que se elaboró y aprobó esta resolución falta al respeto a las familias de CPS al dejarlas sin voz.

Sólo incluyendo de antemano a las comunidades en la creación de esta resolución podremos estar a la altura de la promesa de un Chicago racialmente más equitativo y justo. Las familias de Chicago tienen mucho que ganar o perder dependiendo de la dirección de CPS y sus voces deben ser centrales en cualquier proceso que establezca esa dirección.

Le pedimos que haga responsable a su Junta de Educación nombrada de CPS de los valores de inclusión comunitaria y compromiso auténtico para hacer lo siguiente:

- 1. Posponer el plan estratégico hasta que la Junta de Educación Electa se establezca.**
- 2. Utilizar el tiempo entre ahora y enero del 2025 para comprometerse auténticamente con las partes interesadas, dando prioridad a los padres y los jóvenes.**

Nosotros, los abajo firmantes, le instamos respetuosamente a tomar estas medidas de inmediato por el bien de nuestra ciudad y al servicio de un Chicago racialmente más equitativo y justo.

Respetuosamente,



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尊敬的 Brandon Johnson
芝加哥市長
市政府
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

親愛的芝加哥市長 Brandon Johnson,

您基於包容性社區參與原則的平台競選, 宣稱「民主是我們公立學校系統最好的治理形式」。

您一直倡導種族公平, 並為消除過去自上而下決策的弊端而努力奮鬥。身為教師、倡議者和家長, 您和我們中的許多人一樣, 對社區、家庭和學校的需求有著深刻的洞察力 – 您的獨特視角是您的幾位前任所不具備的。

2023 年 12 月的決議在起草過程中沒有考慮到其將影響的社區的意見。該決議是在芝加哥公立學校延長假期前的最後一周的上課期間公佈的, 幾乎沒有給公眾發表意見或回應的機會。該決議是由董事會以自上而下、不民主的方式製定和批准的, 與您所倡導的價值觀相悖。該決議的製定和通過方式使芝加哥公立學校家庭失去了發言權, 這對他們來說是不尊重的。

只有提前將社區納入這項決議的過程中, 我們才能實現建設並承諾一個種族更加公平、正義的芝加哥。芝加哥家庭的得失取決於芝加哥公立學校的發展方向, 他們的聲音必須成為任何制定發展方向過程的核心。

我們請求您任命的芝加哥公立學校董事會對社區包容和真誠參與的價值觀負責, 以做到以下幾點:

1. 延遲策略計劃, 直至民選學校董事會就位。
2. 利用從現在到 2025 年 1 月的時段, 與關鍵利害關係人進行真誠的接觸, 優先考慮家長和青少年。

為了我們的城市, 為了一個種族更公平和公正的芝加哥。我們, 以下的聯署者, 恭敬地懇請您立即採取這些措施。

謹致敬意,



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