

Transcript of the Testimony of

Date: January 16, 2019

Case: THE PROPOSED REASSIGNED BOUNDARY CHANGE OF
OROZCO COMMUNITY ACADEMY AND COOPER DUAL
LANGUAGE ACADEMY

TOOMEY REPORTING

312-853-0648

January 16, 2019

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

COOPER DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

HELD AT 1624 WEST 19TH STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

RE: THE PROPOSED REASSIGNED BOUNDARY CHANGE OF OROZCO
COMMUNITY ACADEMY AND COOPER DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

The Report of Proceedings had in the

meeting of the above-entitled cause, taken before

January 16, 2019

ROBBIN M. OCHENKOWSKI, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in
and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at
1624 West 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois, Wednesday,
January 16th, 2019, at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

CPS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

CHERYL NEVINS (Timekeeper), Director of
Demographic Analysis &
Planning

CRISTINA CARRETO (Presenter), Family and Community
Engagement Manager for
Network 7

MINERVA GARCIA-SANCHEZ (Facilitator), Chief of
Schools for Network 7

ANNA DIAZ - NOTE-TAKER

SPANISH INTERPRETER

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1 MS. CARRETO: Hello, Everybody. Good evening,
2 Everybody. We're going to get the meeting started.
3 It's 6:00 o'clock on the dot. So we run these meetings
4 from 6:00 to 7:30. If I start on time, I'll end it on
5 time. If not, I won't have you go past 7:30, and I'm
6 sure nobody wants to do that. So I just want to welcome
7 everybody.

8 And my name is Cristina Carreto. I'm the FACE
9 manager, the second community meeting manager for
10 schools in Pilsen and Little Village.

11 And I just want to welcome you to the meeting
12 regarding the Proposed Reassigned Boundary Change of
13 Orozco Community Academy and Cooper Dual Language
14 Academy.

15 The meeting for the most part will be bilingual
16 except when we have two public comments. If the
17 comments are in Spanish, we do have for time purposes
18 headsets so that you can hear the comments into English.
19 If your comment is in English up here, we have someone
20 who will come and translate it into Spanish. Okay? So
21 we're just trying to maximize our time for this
22 community meeting.

23 I also wanted to note that we have joining us
24 today the Chief of Schools for Network 7

1 Minerva Garcia-Sanchez. She will be here presenting
2 today --

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

5 MS. CARRETO: I also want to note that we have a
6 stenographer here who is taking notes and the note-taker
7 from the District as well, okay?

8 Okay. So this is just the agenda for today.
9 We're going to have an introduction and meeting
10 logistics. The presentation will be given by the
11 School Chief on the Action Plan, and then we'll open up
12 to public comments.

13 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

14 MS. CARRETO: This meeting will be --

15 Sorry. The English-Spanish mind.

16 This meeting will be mainly consisting of a
17 short presentation of the school action by the Chief and
18 then time for public feedback and comments.

19 And I also mentioned that we have a
20 stenographer and note-taker.

21 For those of you who have questions or
22 comments, we ask that you please sign up in the front
23 entrance. There's things -- papers. If want to be a
24 speaker, it's important that you sign up so that we have

1 that on record.

2 Each participant will have two minutes to speak
3 and provide any questions or comments regarding the
4 school action. You will receive notice. We have a
5 timekeeper up front who will tell you when you're a
6 minute, 30 seconds and your time is up. We do that just
7 to try and make sure that we get as many comments as we
8 can in the time that we're here.

9 If you do not have a chance to comment or wish
10 to provide your comments on the mic, I know it could be
11 a little nerve-racking to come up to the microphone and,
12 you know, give the comments, we ask that you please send
13 any questions, comments or concerns to the e-mail
14 provided over there at transitions@cps.edu, okay?

15 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

16 MS. CARRETO: Okay. So just an overview of the
17 legal process of these meetings and why we have to hold
18 these meetings:

19 On October 1st, 2018, CPS published draft
20 guidelines for school actions;

21 Prior to December 1st, 2018, CPS proposed
22 school actions and sent notice letters and draft
23 transition plans to parents and communities and staff;

24 January 2019 we have to hold two community

1 meetings. This is the second meeting. The first one
2 was held last Wednesday at Orozco School Academy;

3 And then we have one more public hearing
4 downtown. That information is coming in a future slide
5 so you'll have that information for that hearing;

6 And then by February 2019 or later, CPS will
7 make recommendations to the Board after community
8 meetings and hearings or the Board will then vote on any
9 recommendations for school actions;

10 That vote can occur at the February board
11 meeting or later.

12 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

13 MS. CARRETO: Okay. Now the Chief of Schools will
14 present on the school action.

15 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

16 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: Thank you.

17 And good evening to everyone.

18 So I'm going to read to you the slides.

19 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

20 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: So the overview of proposed
21 school action:

22 We are proposing to adjust the Cooper
23 attendance area grades served to include sixth grade in
24 the 2019-2020 school year;

1 Then we will adjust the Cooper attendance area
2 grades served to include seventh grade in the 2021
3 school year;

4 In the following year, adjust the Cooper
5 attendance area grades served to include eighth
6 graduated in the 2021-'22 school year;

7 We are also going to -- well, Orozco will then
8 also expand its bilingual gifted program to serve more
9 bilingual students.

10 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

11 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: Engagement and feedback to
12 date:

13 School communities, elected officials and both
14 LSC's have advocated for this reassigned boundary change
15 including:

16 Elected officials:

17 The Illinois State Representative;

18 The Cook County Commissioner/U.S. Congressman;

19 The Alderman of the 25th Ward;

20 Community Support/Educational Partners:

21 Cooper/Orozco Parent Collaboration;

22 The Chicago Commons Association;

23 The Chicago Mariachi Project/Pilsen Arts &
24 Culture Committee;

1 Frida Kahlo Community Organization;
2 The Pilsen Education Task Force - School
3 Specialization Initiative;
4 Pilsen Neighborhoods Community Council;
5 And the Resurrection Project - Quality of Life
6 Plan - Education Component.

7 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

8 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: Okay. So key facts and
9 figures:

10 Cooper is an attendance area school located at
11 1624 West 19th Street that serves K-5 and with a Pre-K
12 program;

13 Cooper currently serves 418 students. Cooper
14 currently has 73 students in Grade 5 that would be
15 eligible to stay at Cooper for Grade 6 in school year
16 2019-2020;

17 Orozco is located at 1940 West 18th Street and
18 serves kindergarten through eighth grade in its,
19 bilingual gifted program or pre-k program and sixth
20 through eighth grade in its neighborhood program;

21 Orozco currently serves a total of 542
22 students, with 116 students in Grade 6, 110 students in
23 Grade 7 and 110 in eighth grade.

24 MS. GARCIA-SANCHEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

1 MS. CARRETO: Okay. Thank you for that.

2 So just as I mentioned before, the community,
3 we had to have two community dates out in the community
4 of the schools. The first one was at Orozco School.
5 This is the second community meeting.

6 Then we will have a public hearing that
7 will be Thursday, January 31st, at Central Office,
8 45 West Madison 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

9 So if everybody is interested to make
10 additional comments, your are more than welcome to go to
11 the public hearing as well.

12 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

13 MS. CARRETO: I'll come back to the slide and keep
14 it up so you can write that down.

15 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

16 MS. CARRETO: We're going to start public comments.

17 I just want to remind everybody to please be
18 respectful of each other and be mindful that there's
19 kids in this building.

20 So when we're making public comments, each
21 person will have two minutes. We have our timekeeper
22 ready to go here, and then we have the court reporter
23 and our note-taker as well.

24 I will also be reminding you when your time is

1 up. We use two minutes as a chart to get everybody out
2 of this as soon as possible and hear as many public
3 comments as we can.

4 If we are done with public comment, I will make
5 an announcement because we do close public comment
6 sign-up at 6:30, so if we still have time, I'll ask more
7 people if they -- or if anybody else wants to do another
8 round of public comments, we could open it up until 6:30
9 and then we're done with that, okay?

10 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

11 MS. CARRETO: Kevin and Alyssa?

12 STUDENT ALYSSA: Hello, my name is Alyssa.

13 STUDENT ALYSSA: (Speaking Spanish.)

14 STUDENT ALYSSA: Kevin and are in the Cooper Student
15 Voice Committee.

16 It is important to us that Cooper gets expanded
17 to eighth grade.

18 Here at Cooper we are getting a great
19 education. As students, we feel welcome, safe and we
20 have fun. We also have interesting afterschool
21 programs. We have the best teachers, and we have
22 healthy food.

23 As a Cooper Student Voice Committee, our voice
24 is to make Cooper even better by working with our peers

1 and those at Cooper.

2 Thank you for your time, and have a great
3 night.

4 STUDENT KEVIN: (Speaking Spanish.)

5 STUDENT KEVIN: (Through the Interpreter) It's
6 important for Cooper to be extended to eighth grade
7 because they want an excellent education together.

8 And we feel very grateful that we're here. We
9 feel safe, we feel welcome, and then we also have a lot
10 of very interesting programs in our school, and we have
11 the best teachers, and we have very healthy food here at
12 the school.

13 The goal of Cooper here is for the voice of the
14 students to be heard, for the students to work together
15 so that our group can build a better school.

16 Thank you so much for your time, and thank you,
17 have a good night.

18 MS. CARRETO: Mr. Alfredo Calderon.

19 MR. CALDERON: Good evening. My name is
20 Alfredo Calderon. I am the teacher representative for
21 Cooper's LSC. I am here to state our support for the
22 proposal to allow Cooper to phase in Grades 6 through
23 eighth.

24 First and foremost, Cooper staff,

1 administration, students and parents have worked hard to
2 offer a high quality education to make Cooper a
3 successful school. With this, parents for several years
4 now have asked the reoccurring question; why doesn't
5 Cooper have sixth, seventh and eighth grade?

6 Parents have said that they are content and
7 grateful for the achievements in which the staff at
8 Cooper have accomplished. We have established a great
9 relationship with our parents.

10 But it is our obligation to provide high
11 quality education and a rigorous instruction but also to
12 listen to our parents' concerns. We need to offer what
13 parents feel is important to them in our schools'
14 community. And that is the extension of a continued
15 relationship with our families, challenging our students
16 and having the parent to be part of the educational
17 process that Cooper offers.

18 Parents want continuity.

19 In addition, Cooper offers a Dual Language
20 Program which has started in pre-kinder did kinder.
21 With continuity, we will able to see students' growth
22 throughout pre-k and see them graduate to continue the
23 their goal to obtain the seal of biliteracy.

24 Once again, I stand here representing the

1 Cooper staff, LSC and students in hopes that you will
2 support our efforts to fulfill our proposal. I am
3 confident that our staff at Cooper will work diligently
4 with various stakeholders to make this initiative a
5 success.

6 Thank you. Have a great evening.

7 MS. CARRETO: Mr. Calderon is now doing a
8 translation in Spanish.

9 MR. CALDERON: (Speaking Spanish.)

10 MS. ALQUISINO: (through the Interpreter)

11 My name is Maribel Alquisino, and I have five
12 children.

13 THE INTERPRETER: She has five children.

14 MS. ALQUISINO: (Through the Interpreter) And they
15 all have been here, and I'm really happy that this
16 project is coming to be that the school is going to have
17 an eighth grade. And I have a son that's in second
18 grade.

19 And I feel that we have the best teachers here,
20 and I have seen the progress in the school, and I love
21 the school. And I don't say that the other school is
22 bad because it's not bad, I love it, but I don't want to
23 have to be traveling back and forth with my children.

24 So this way I like the project is happening

1 now, and I wish that you guys support this project to
2 have this here.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. CARRETO: Marissa Santiago and
5 Guadalupe Cameron.

6 MS. SANTIAGO: Hello, good evening. My name is
7 Marissa Santiago. I am the parent and member of the LSC
8 at Orozco.

9 I just want to mention that I was also made
10 aware that this year we had over 120 applicants at
11 Orozco and 80 -- over 80 children had to be turned away.

12 Having the proposed reassignment will allow
13 children from the southwest side of the city in schools
14 like Orozco such as my children.

15 I'm from McKinley Park, and the opportunities
16 that we had were very limited in the area for gifted
17 programs. I had to go either far north or either
18 further south.

19 But being in Pilsen, in that area, I think it's
20 a great idea.

21 So that's it. Thank you.

22 MS. CARRETO: Can you do it in Spanish?

23 MS. SANTIAGO: (Speaking Spanish.)

24 I can't even speak because I'm a little

1 nervous. I can't do it. I'm so sorry.

2 MS. CARRETO: That's okay.

3 MS. CARRETO: (Interpretation in Spanish.)

4 MS. CAMERON: (through the Interpreter) My children
5 started their education in Catholic schools, then they
6 went to Charter, and then they went to Magnet schools,
7 and they really liked them, and now they like it at CPS.

8 So I stayed with CPS, and then I moved to
9 Orozco. When I started at Orozco Elementary, I saw the
10 change in my children in how they entered and finished
11 school because they -- it's the school, so it's the
12 principal and having a school and the parents with our
13 children.

14 And right now I see that all of my kids are --
15 are doing well and they have the fundamentals to do that
16 at their elementary school. So that's why I love CPS.

17 And right now Orozco Elementary, the principal
18 has a psychologist as full time for the school. We also
19 have had a lot of different activities and afterschool
20 programs, and the kids also have socioemotional
21 behaviors with all the kids in the school.

22 And for the final, I just want to say thank you
23 to all the people that have prepared us in the process
24 of doing this. It's not easy thinking this is the best

1 for our students. We want to make sure that all the
2 students have the opportunity for the Spanish students
3 inside in the city to have an opportunity.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. CARRETO: Nomisol De Paz.

6 MS. DE PAZ: (Speakling Spanish.)

7 MS. CARRETO: Sorry. I just want to make a note.

8 Do you mind repeating the names of the parents
9 when they are called?

10 She's going to repeat the names now.

11 MS. CARRETO: Nomisol De Paz.

12 MS. DE PAZ: (through the Interpreter) Good evening.
13 My name is Monisol De Paz, and I'm here today because
14 I'm supporting the project and special need I also have
15 at public schools; that this is a very important program
16 for our students.

17 The majority of our schools in this district,
18 Chicago Public Schools, they have an eighth grade, but
19 in our school here, I didn't know that they only had
20 until fifth grade.

21 I felt really mad about it because I had to
22 leave from the school with my student crying because I
23 came to the school and they said they didn't have the
24 grade that they had, and my child said that he wasn't

1 accepted, he wasn't wanted here. So my child before was
2 in Catholic school and the same option for him.

3 So they told me I could go back and pay for
4 Catholic school, but then after that I felt, with the
5 school, I found what I was looking for, the education
6 was of high quality in this school.

7 I feel that in this school my children should
8 graduate from eighth grade, and instead of me returning
9 to the school that I was with, I want my students to be
10 here at this school in eighth grade because here I feel
11 good with my children and I feel that we're a family and
12 this is an opportunity for my kids. There's love and
13 community here.

14 So I direct myself right now with
15 Chicago Public Schools to hear my petition. This is
16 right for children to have a school for them to
17 graduate. There's all the schools have an eighth grade
18 from all the districts across the country.

19 So thank you so much for everybody, and have a
20 good night, Everybody. Thank you. Thanks.

21 MS. FRAGA: Good evening. My name is Teresa Fraga.
22 I am member of the Board of Pilsen Neighbors Committee
23 Council. I am also the Co-Chair of the Pilsen Planning
24 Committee.

1 And I'm here to support Cooper, Cooper School
2 in its new change. I'm here to support the expansion of
3 up to eighth grade.

4 I think this is a -- a great opportunity. I
5 really commend the parents for having worked together
6 with their principal and teachers to embrace this
7 change.

8 I believe that this is a big win and it's a
9 win-win for Orozco and Cooper because Orozco also gets
10 to expand its bilingual gifted program.

11 Let me say that I am -- I'm a little bit -- I
12 am not nervous, but I'm a little bit moved because this
13 school means a lot to me. This is the school where my
14 six children attended, this is the school where I got my
15 GED, and this is the school where I began my first year
16 of teaching career from which I have retired in the last
17 six months.

18 So I'm glad to see that, under the leadership
19 and the Local School Council that this school is still
20 moving and finding ways to serve the parents and the
21 community.

22 MS. HAWKIN: (Interpretation in Spanish.)

23 MS. CARRETO: (Inaudible) -- Hernandez.

24 I can't read. I can't explain.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

2 MS. CARRETO: Hold on. I'm sorry.

3 It's now 6:35. Our speaker assignment is
4 closed, but I'm going to leave it open for five more
5 minutes.

6 So if you want to make a comment, you have five
7 minutes to sign up. So we're doing the second round
8 right now because everybody has gone through.

9 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

11 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'll do English now, okay?

12 Hello. My name is Montsserrat Hernandez, and
13 I'm here presenting as a parent, and I'm here to address
14 my support for the additional middle school grades to
15 Cooper School.

16 And I want to first talk to something that
17 Mr. Alfredo Calderon said, which was that there's always
18 been discussion with parents about why is there not a
19 sixth, seventh an eighth grade already.

20 I've had the fortunate of working with Cooper
21 through the parent component for about ten years before
22 becoming a parent here, and it's something that I've
23 been hearing for ten years now; I wish my kids could
24 stay, I wish my kids didn't have to go to another

1 school.

2 And then, as an art teacher, I heard it from
3 the students, you know; I don't want to leave, I wish I
4 could stay.

5 So I think that this -- it's time, it's time,
6 it's due for an upgrade in the grade continuity.

7 I also think that it's really important that we
8 can offer those students some sort of support through
9 what's already a very hard traditional time. They're
10 going through their pre-teens, they're really going
11 through a lot of socioemotional changes. So if we can
12 offer them a little bit of support by letting them stay
13 in a space where they really feel safe and loved and
14 happy, I think that would do great -- be good for them.

15 Also, the teachers at Cooper I believe are some
16 of the most amazing teachers that I've ever had the
17 grace of seeing and working with. The teachers here at
18 the school go above and beyond, and I think that you can
19 see that through the Board working with the students and
20 the love that they have for them.

21 So if we can give the kids the opportunity to
22 stay with that, with those teachers, that would benefit
23 them greatly as well, and, last but not least, of
24 course, the principal, that's always accessible to the

1 parent, who's alway open to the needs of them and
2 supporting them however that she can them.

3 So I support this proposal.

4 Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. CARRETO: Okay. Sorry. I'm getting a workout
6 today.

7 Maria Ramirez and Claudia Moline.

8 MS. RAMIREZ: (Speaking Spanish.)

9 MS. CARRETO: Maria Ramirez.

10 MS. RAMIREZ: (through the Interpreter) Good
11 evening. My name is Maria Ramirez, and I want to speak
12 as part of the community because I have three children,
13 and the three of them already left Cooper Elementary,
14 but I'm still part of the Local School Council as a
15 community member, and I wanted to tell you that I am
16 supporting this process and the site of Cooper because
17 it's like my house even though my children are not here
18 anymore.

19 This is the first place where they opened the
20 doors for me, they took me in their arms, and I was here
21 about -- like a volunteer for about 13 years, and I
22 wanted to tell you that I know this school very well,
23 the teachers and that I know that they deserve this
24 opportunity because they have worked really hard.

1 And I also want to tell you that I believe that
2 I understand very well because I've been inside the
3 classrooms and helping with the parents, and this is
4 where they gave me the first opportunity to work.

5 And thank you to the school, thank you to
6 Ms. Alba. This is how I got in contact with to help me
7 after ten years that I've been here.

8 This school is not only for the kids. It's
9 also for us as parents because they have always been
10 supporting our students and teach them, right, but they
11 also help us as parents, and they give us options on how
12 to help our students with their identification.

13 And this is why this is always going to be my
14 school even though my children are no longer here, but I
15 also support Orozco Elementary because two of my
16 children, the one graduated from Orozco, they were there
17 in middle school with Orozco Elementary, and they had
18 really good grades, and I give them changes because in
19 Cooper they have the fundamentals and they win with the
20 fundamentals.

21 My younger son has just started at Orozco, and
22 I'm really proud to be part of these two schools in
23 Pilsen because this is the best.

24 Thank you.

1 MS. MOLINA: (through the interpreter) Good evening.
2 My name is Claudia Molina, and I come here as a parent.

3 My child started here at pre-k, and you feel
4 very happy and emotional when you start your child in a
5 school from little and you see the development that that
6 student has little by little.

7 And thank you to the teachers here that they
8 motivate him to do their better -- their best every day,
9 and thank you so much to the principal for always
10 supporting the children in that way.

11 And my petition is that the school extends to
12 eighth grade for the students because the students, it's
13 really hard for them to do that transition from one
14 school to another, and it's also hard for them.

15 It's hard for them because, when they're here,
16 they feel like they're at home, they see their teachers
17 and they just motivate the students, the way that they
18 teach the students, they motivate the students to learn
19 more and to just be better at everything that they do to
20 have the best grades possible and they motivate them in
21 a way that I feel happy that my students are here.

22 Thank you so much.

23 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking in Spanish.)

24 MS. CARRETO: We will have comments right now from

1 Principal Efrain Martinez and Martha Alba, the
2 principals from Cooper and Orozco Schools.

3 PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ: (through the Interpreter) Good
4 evening. My name is Efrain Martinez. I am the
5 principal of Orozco, and I've got actually who is a
6 service dog.

7 So I'm here today, and as I mentioned in the
8 last meeting, the pride that I have in all the families
9 of Orozco and Cooper all together coming to these
10 meetings and supporting this proposal and how beautiful
11 it is today that every person that has come here said
12 that their school accepts them, gives them love,
13 cherished them and that the children are learning.

14 What a great thing that the students are doing.

15 We want to applause the students and the
16 parents for Cooper and Orozco.

17 PRINCIPAL ALBA: (through the Interpreter) Good
18 evening. I'm the principal from here of Cooper, and I'm
19 very proud of both the work of the parents and the
20 students are doing here at the school.

21 And, really, I do not have much to say because
22 our parents and students have spoken here tonight and
23 they have shared with you why they wanted, why they want
24 sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

1 I do want to share with you guys because this
2 is a process that we're going to be adding each grade
3 one time each year to make sure that everything works,
4 and this is going to be a process, and I know that the
5 teachers, as the parents have said, are fantastic, and
6 they're going to work very hard to make sure that change
7 is good and that teachers, representative of all the
8 teachers, he said that the teachers are going to be
9 supporting that and working hard to do that.

10 The parents also came up here and said that
11 they're going to be supporting their kids, and, of
12 course, I will be here to continue supporting on every
13 step in the way.

14 So really thank you for coming here tonight,
15 and I really thank you with all the support of this, and
16 I also thank that Orozco is going to be very successful
17 and giving more opportunities to our students that they
18 want to have and education at that school.

19 So this is great for both schools, and I hope
20 that both schools do great with a great future.

21 Thank you so much.

22 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

23 STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAH: (Speaking Spanish.)

24 STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAH: Good evening, Everybody.

1 My name is State Representative Theresa Mah.

2 And I'm really happy to support this proposal.

3 I was very happy to attend the CPS board meeting where I
4 spoke on behalf of the parents who were there to testify
5 about the proposal.

6 And I really want to say that, you know, one of
7 the main reasons why this is such a good idea is because
8 the ideas came from the parents and the community out of
9 several years of discussion where LSC members and the
10 parents came together to talk about what they really
11 wanted, and they became engaged and involved in this
12 process and let it be known that this is what they would
13 like to see as a vision for their community, and so it's
14 something that's really worth supporting.

15 I applaud the principals and the families and
16 community members of both schools for being involved in
17 this process and speeding it up and having your voices
18 heard, and I support you all the way.

19 Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Interpretation in
21 Spanish.)

22 MS. CARRETO: Okay. So that concludes our public
23 comments for tonight. I opened it for five more
24 minutes, and no one else went up to sign up so we are

1 done for today.

2 But before you leave, I just want to remind you
3 of the next meeting we have regarding this action.

4 It is Thursday, January 31st, at our central
5 office location, 42 West Madison, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

6 And if you don't feel comfortable coming up
7 here our e-mail is transitions@cps.edu.

8 MS. CARRETO: (Speaking Spanish.)

9 STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAH: I wanted to make a
10 shameless plug for another opportunity to become
11 involved in the community.

12 So tomorrow at Pilsen Academy, I have a --
13 sorry -- and event, coffee with the legislature, me. So
14 you have an opportunity to come by and hear about the
15 bills that I worked on in the last two years and then
16 what I plan in the future and, you know, just to get to
17 know me.

18 It's a very casual event, and everybody is
19 welcome. It's an opportunity just to sit and talk for a
20 little while.

21 So please come 5:30 to 7:30 to Pilsen Academy.

22
23 MS. CARRETO: I'm going to translate that one for
24 you.

1 MS. CARRETO: (Interpretation in Spanish.)

2 MS. CARRETO: It's now 6:52, and with that we
3 conclude our meeting today.

4 Thank you very much.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)
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6

7 ROBBIN M. OCHENKOWSKI, being first duly sworn,
8 deposes and says that she is a Certified Shorthand
9 Reporter in Cook County, Illinois;

10 That she reported in shorthand and thereafter
11 transcribed the foregoing;

12 That the within and foregoing transcript is
13 true, accurate and complete and contains all the
14 evidence which was received and the proceedings had upon
15 the within cause.
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23 
24 ROBBIN M. OCHENKOWSKI, C.S.R.
License No. 084-002522



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