

## Meeting Minutes

### North River Colocation Proposal Community Meeting #2

**Date:** January 13, 2022

**Notetaker:** Sara Martinez

**Start of meeting:** 6:03 p.m.

**Virtual Attendees:** Yesenia Zacatenco, Vanessa Morges, Trinidad Diaz, Starnisha, Sara Popowich, Robbin Ochenkowski, Reyna Reyes, Rep Jaime Andrade- IL 40th District, Principal Jaime Sanchez, Paty Reyes, Micaela Gonzalez, Maggie Garcia, Lorenza, Ken Barrios, Katty Enriquez Mayo, Karina Gonzalez, Kamila Safinski, John Atchison, Jennifer Madden, Janet, Jamel D. Chambers, Jaime Vega, Glynn Kelly, Fres Oquendo, Fernando Grillo, Elvira Malagon, Edgar Lopez, Dziolo, Critina Pacione-Zayas Carlos Bosques, Bob Markin, Ariagna, April Curtis, Anthony Chalmers, Antelina Maya, Alma M., 31st Ward Alderman Feliz Cardona Jr. James Speth, Amanda Wilkie, 1773-870-0785,

**Speakers:**

Senator District 20 Christina Paciona-Zayas, Representative Jaime Andrade 48th district, Alderman Felix Cardona Jr. 31st Ward, CEO Fernando Grillo, Principal Anthony Chalmers, Principal Jaime Sanchez, Ken Barrios, Ricardo Vasquez (absent), Patricia Reyes, Reina Reyes, Veronica Solis (absent), Katie Enrique Mayo, Mayra Pinal (absent), Jim Spat, John Atchison, Beritze, Janet Salas, Daisy Ziolo, Elijah Green, Irma Rivera (absent), Matt Swider (absent), Glynn Kelly, Fres Oquendo, Amaya,

Slide #	Meeting Minutes <i>( Summary of what was shared and who shared it for each slide/section)</i>
<b>Opening Statement (before presentation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chief Swinney: Went over housekeeping expectations. Introduced co-host Chief McGlade.</li> <li>● Chief McGlade: Welcomed elected officials and community representatives.</li> <li>● Paused for translator to join meeting</li> <li>● Deputy chief of N1 introduced himself.</li> <li>● CEO of Aspira and Principal Chalmers and Sanchez</li> <li>● Information about where to find the presentation information</li> </ul>
<b>2-6 (Agenda/ Meeting logistics/SB630 Timeline &amp; Information)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Information about where to find the presentation information</li> <li>● Overview of legal process was discussed</li> <li>● Proposed school ation and key facts were presented</li> <li>● Co-location was explained</li> </ul>

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<p><b>7-9</b> <b>(Defining Equity/Shifts in Practice/ Inclusive partnership)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Chief Swinney explained how CPS defines equity</li><li>● The “right approach” Set high goals and do what it takes to get people to those goals</li><li>● Paused for interpretation</li><li>● Liberatory thinking (mindsets) who has a seat at the table, resources, and policy.</li><li>● Explained protocol for public feedback (house rules)</li><li>●</li></ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b> <b>(Capture speaker’s name and key takeaways from their comments)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Senator District 20 Christina Paciona-Zayas: thanked everyone present. Reiterated what was in the letter in support of the co-location. Talked about the gym having concrete floors, columns, no accessibility, and the conditions are not optimal for learning. It makes sense to support the effort for all kids to be in a safe and adequate environment.</li><li>● Representative Jaime Andrade 48th district: Co-location is necessary to give kids space to grow and thrive and provide them with a secure and healthy environment. Co-location has full support</li><li>● Alderman Felix Cardona Jr. 31st Ward: THanked the community for being there. Aspira doesn't want their programs to be hurt. Aspiras families need to be heard and respected. They want Aspira to continue to serve their community for years to come.This Co-location should not affect their programs</li><li>● CEO Fernando Grillo- Aspira supports the ongoing conversations about the co-location of north river and aspira. Aspira requests that there is a respectful dialogue and that the MOU is equitable where both campuses can flourish.</li><li>● Principal Anthony Chalmers- Aspira: Thanked CPS leadership and political leaders. They believe in equitable opportunities and resources. They hope that it is done with student, parent and staff safety. They are willing to share the building with River North and they look forward to the continued opportunity</li><li>● Principal Jaime Sanchez- North River: Thanked all representatives and CPS leadership. Feeling a sense of optimism that is being presented to both communities. Challenges but there are possibilities to develop in the way that we grow. As a child of an immigrant family, the American dream comes to mind. This is an opportunity to emphasize that we can create that dream for the children in the community.</li></ul>

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- Ken Barrios: North River needs space. No child should be told to be quiet because there is a funeral. He really supports the idea. He hopes that CPS makes this transition in a safe manner with the Pandemic
- Ricardo Vasquez: absent
- Patricia Reyes: Mother of a north river student. She supports the co-location between the schools. She has seen the need that the students have. They don't have the same opportunities as other schools. They need a gym. They don't have an auditorium.
- Reina Reyes: LSC north river in 2010. They fought to have a bigger space. Today she continues to fight for that space. She supports the co-location of the schools. Her children, because they were limited in activities, were not motivated. They do not need to keep fighting for another 12 years
- Veronica Solis: absent
- Katie Enriquez Mayo: mother of kids at Aspira. She wants to reiterate her worry in reference to COVID. She wants to know how they are going to share a space that is meant for 800 children in a normal situation. But now with social distancing, how can we solve this issue? Because Aspira has been great with protocols, aspira has not had a covid case. When merging, how will we prevent covid cases from arising
- Mayra Pinal: Absent
- Jim Spat: 7th and 8th grade teacher at north river. North River is lacking a lot. There are safety issues lacking in school. It centers around the gym space which is a basement of a church. There is no safe space. Children fall and slip. He is concerned around classroom size. He has 32 bodies in the classroom and it can become tight.
- John Atchison: PE teacher at North River, prior to this role, he was at another school that merged with another one and the transition was smooth. It takes a lot of communication. He has to tell kindergarteners to be quiet because there is a funeral upstairs. He is thrilled to be a part of this move.
- Beritze: student who supports the co-location because she believes that they deserve the resources like other kids. She likes sports.
- Janet Salas: Teacher of 17 years and mom of North River student. She advocates for the students who are English language learners. Please allow for other Albany Park students to have these opportunities that are being offered in other CPS buildings

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Daisy Ziolo: 1st grade teacher at North River and LSC member. Some kids are able to go outside for recess but it is between the dumpsters. 1st grade students cannot go outside because it is unsafe to be in that back area. There are benefits to having an exercise space.</li><li>● Elijah Green: Student at Aspira 8th grade. HE felt comfortable and welcomed. He thinks it will be a good opportunity for North River Students to come into Aspira.</li><li>● Irma Rivera: Not present</li><li>● Matt Shwider: absent</li><li>● Glynn Kelly: Aspira teacher who has been there since 2005. There is a strong culture in the aspira community. Enrollment has gone down. However, listening to stories from North River, if the space is available, he looks forward to welcoming them into the school. At the end of the day it's for the children.</li><li>● Fres Oquendo: President of FOBA foundation. He has been with Aspira for half a decade with his programs. Will welcome North River with open arms and would love to expand the programs to them as well</li><li>● Amaya: 8 years old at North River. North river needs a bigger space and would like to share the space with Aspira. She wants a playground and they have a softer floor. Her dream school has a playground. She is frustrated about using the basement of the church.</li></ul>
<b>Closing remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Chief Swinney thanked everyone who came out tonight. Appreciated the voice of students. Next step is next Thursday which will be a public hearing.</li></ul>

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:08 p.m.**