



Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Families,

Last week we wrote to you as a tentative agreement with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) was heading for a vote with their Big Bargaining Team, who are the first step in CTU's membership authorizing a final contract.

As you may have seen on Monday, the Big Bargaining Team rejected the tentative agreement. This was a disappointing step.

The agreement would have raised teachers' pay, prevented teacher layoffs for economic reasons, and provided more autonomy for teachers in their classrooms. It was an agreement that was worked out with CTU leadership and that was good for teachers, good for parents, and most importantly, good for students.

While we had hoped for a different outcome yesterday, our work is not finished. We owe it to you and our students to remain at the negotiating table. And you have our commitment that we will do just that.

However, while we still feel that a final agreement can be reached and while our conversations continue with the CTU, we must do what is necessary to keep our students in the classroom - including what we'd hoped to prevent all along – making cuts to school budgets.

Additionally, if no agreement is reached with CTU, we will end the practice known as "pension pick up," where CPS pays both the employee and employer pension payments.

These cuts will help ensure our school doors stay open, and our students continue to make progress. They are necessary to close our immediate budget gap and make progress towards eliminating our structural deficit, and will be put in place unless a deal is reached.

They are also a last choice.

Over the course of the coming days, your principal will receive more information about what this means for your school, and will share that information with you.

We know that these changes may be unsettling for families. We also know that your principal will be working hard to make any changes quickly so that disruptions are minimized, and we thank you for showing them your continued patience.





Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Thanks to your commitment to your child's education, and the work our teachers do every day in the classroom, CPS students are doing better than ever before. We've said from the beginning of this school year that we would do everything possible to avoid midyear layoffs that disrupt the classroom, and as we implement these cuts, the entire district will remain focused on doing just that. Together, we can keep our kids on the right path to success, and reach a deal that supports our teachers and protects our classrooms.

We'll continue to keep you updated as additional details become clear, and as always, thank you for all you do for our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forrest Claypool".

Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice K. Jackson".

Dr. Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer

