

Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

June 29, 2010

Dear CPS Employee:

The past year, as you know, has been a trying and tumultuous time for CPS and other school districts across the state. Like you, I have watched with anxiety as Illinois deals with the ongoing budget crisis and am greatly concerned about the impact that this crisis will have on our schools. Thank you for your continued patience.

Working together with students, parents, teachers, principals and legislators, we've managed to chip away at the initial CPS budget deficit projection of \$1 billion to a current scenario of \$370 million (see attached sheet for a full breakdown). Because of this development, we were able to announce yesterday that CPS will be able to save enough teaching positions to restore board-funded full-day kindergarten and avoid class size increases in our kindergarten through 8th grade classes. We will also be able to limit average class sizes in our high schools to no more than 33 students. We made this announcement this week because, as you know, some of our schools will open as early as next week and teachers and principals across the district need to plan for the coming school year (my remarks from yesterday are attached).

Unfortunately, the deficit CPS faces is still staggering. Moreover, not included in this figure is the \$352 million still owed to CPS by the state in late payments from the current fiscal year.

We are doing our part at CPS' Central and citywide offices to limit the impact that these cuts will have on our students, teachers and communities. However, given that CPS' Central Office accounts for less than 4 percent of our overall budget, we will still have to make deep cuts to balance our budget, including approximately 1200 layoffs due to high school class size increases and programmatic cuts.

We are also actively reaching out to the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and our other collective bargaining partners, vendors and consultants to seek concessions which could significantly improve our current budget situation and reduce the need for layoffs and programmatic cuts.

For the last year, CPS has continued to ask you to do more with less. You have risen to the challenge, and I thank you for all that you do for all of our students. Cutting programs and being forced to lay off additional teachers and staff is the absolute last thing that we want to do because it negatively impacts our students and our schools. Teachers are the heart and soul of our schools. But, our current financial situation is forcing us to make very difficult and painful decisions. Furthermore, if the state does not make good on its past and future commitments, then the district will be forced to revisit some of the decisions we have made regarding class size and programs – something that we all hope to avoid at all costs.

We are hopeful that the governor will complete and sign into law a final budget in the coming days. Once he has acted, we will move quickly to provide you with updated budget information to plan for the upcoming school year. I know that this has not been an ideal or easy situation for you, as it has also been exceptionally challenging for everyone in the district. I appreciate your flexibility,

patience and continued commitment to our students and will be in touch soon with continued updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Huberman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Huberman