



April 17, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Andrea Ortiz, and I am the Director of Organizing for the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council. I proudly graduated from CPS. As an alumna of CPS, I saw the good, the bad and the ugly. The good was witnessing and experiencing the love families, students, and teachers had for their community schools. It was the very same I had for Gunsaulus Academy and Curie High School.

The ugly was attending CPS under an appointed board of education. I saw my teachers strike. I experienced what it was like not having adequate bilingual education services. The worst of all was not having representation and someone on the board of education to advocate for my needs and those of my peers.

BPNC was part of the coalition who have been fighting for an Elected REPRESENTATIVE school board. We are committed to and stand IN FAVOR of board being made up of 21 seats. We spent years engaging Chicagoans through referendums, community meetings, surveys, canvassing, and popular education. We did our work to engage Chicagoans because we know that they deserve to be given. Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, and our families deserve the respect of representative districts. That would only be possible with 21 ELECTED positions. Anything less would be upholding the ugly we have seen negatively impact Black and Latine communities.

“We should fear structures that resist Democracy”

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

*Andrea Ortiz*

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