



HOUSE OF DELEGATES

REMOTE-WORK-ONLY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

1 **WHEREAS** the Chicago Board of Education (“Board”) is currently engaged in several serious,
2 ongoing unfair labor practices including, without limitation, those described below;

3 **WHEREAS** the Board has unilaterally discontinued numerous health and safety protocols
4 required under its February 2021 Memorandum of Agreement for the Resumption of In-Person
5 Instruction (“MOA”) with Chicago Teachers Union (“Union or CTU”) and has refused to
6 bargain in good faith toward a successor MOA;

7 **WHEREAS** the Board has illegally withheld critical data concerning instances of school-based
8 Covid-19 exposure and infection, contact tracing, Covid-19 deaths of Chicago Public Schools
9 community members, and school-by-school vaccination rates;

10 **WHEREAS** The City of Chicago is currently meeting the public health metric from our
11 February 2021 MOA requiring a district-wide 14-day operational pause, included for reference
12 below:

13 “Following the resumption of in-person learning under this agreement, CPS shall
14 pause in-person learning for 14 days and transition fully to remote instruction
15 citywide if the Covid-19 test positivity rate (7-day rolling average) in the City of
16 Chicago meets the following criteria:

- 17
- 18 1) Rate increases for 7 consecutive days:
 - 19 2) Rate for each of the 7 consecutive days is at least 15% higher than the rate
20 one week prior; and
 - 21 3) Rate on the 7th day is 10% or greater.

22 CPS shall resume in-person learning when the 14-day pause expires, or when the
23 criteria for pausing in-person learning are no longer met, whichever is later.”

24 **WHEREAS** as of January 3, 2022, the City of Chicago is reporting 4,591 new Covid-19 cases
25 per day, with approximately 600 children testing positive every day. The citywide positivity rate
26 is 23.6% -- 74% higher than the rate the week prior. 88% of intensive care unit beds in Chicago
27 hospitals are occupied and the City is reporting 110 new Covid-19 hospitalizations per day;

28 **WHEREAS** the current surge in Covid-19 cases is being driven by the Omicron variant, which
29 is highly contagious and believed to multiply 70 times faster than the Delta variant. While
30 vaccination still provides strong protection against severe illness and death from Omicron, even
31 fully vaccinated people are much more prone to contract and transmit Omicron than they were
32 with previous strains of the virus;

33 **WHEREAS** only 51% of 12-17 year-olds in CPS are fully-vaccinated, only 12% of 5-11 year-
34 olds are fully-vaccinated. CPS Pre-K students under 5-years-old are not yet eligible to be
35 vaccinated;

36 **WHEREAS** the Union has proposed that the Board require all staff, students, vendors, and
37 volunteers provide a negative result from a PCR Covid-19 test taken within 48 hours before
38 returning to in-person learning, or otherwise abide by the public health metric above from the
39 February 2021 MOA. The Board has rejected this proposal and has refused to take either
40 measure;

41 **WHEREAS** the Board itself is reporting that out of the 150,000 Covid-19 take home test kits it
42 provided to CPS families at the end of December, only 35,223 (less than 25 percent) had been
43 completed by January 2, 2022, with 24,836 found to be invalid, and 18% testing positive for
44 Covid-19;

45 **WHEREAS** in a survey of CTU members with 1,000 respondents during the week of December
46 27, 2021, nearly 28% indicated they had tested positive for Covid-19 within the past week;

47 **WHEREAS** the House of Delegates recognizes and endorses the sentiment of the CTU
48 membership that a job action over the Board's illegal refusal to bargain over the decision when
49 and how to safely resume in-person learning and to protect the health and safety of our
50 membership, be called;

51 **WHEREAS** the Union is committed to democracy, and views the current situation as one that
52 impacts all members; therefore, be it

53 **RESOLVED** that the CTU shall conduct a Remote Work Action Authorization Vote remotely
54 on Tuesday, January 4, 2022; and be it finally

55 **RESOLVED** that the HOD endorse and ask the CPS, non-retiree membership to vote the
56 following:

57 In response to serious unfair labor practices and the Board's refusal implement adequate Covid-
58 19 health and safety protocols,

- 59 • Do you authorize the CTU members at CPS district schools to conduct remote work only,
60 starting on January 5, 2022?
- 61 • This remote work action will last until the sooner of January 18, 2022, or when the City
62 of Chicago is no longer meeting the public health metrics from the February 2021 MOA
63 that require a district-wide pause of in-person learning.
- 64 • The House of Delegates may convene to vote to suspend the remote work action prior to
65 January 18 in the event that CPS makes an acceptable proposal on a safety agreement.

Adopted *Adopted as Amended* *Defeated* *Tabled* *Other*