HOUSE OF DELEGATES

REMOTE-WORK-ONLY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Adopted  ☐ Adopted as Amended  ☐ Defeated  ☐ Tabled  ☐ Other

THG:otec/743/gpc