1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 105 AM by Co-Chair State Rep. Soto.

   A. **Roll Call:** In attendance – State Rep. Soto; State Sen. Steans; State Sen. Martinez; Dr. Nona Burney, Grand Blvd Federation; Valencia Rias, Designs for Change; Cecile Carroll, Blocks Together; Rene Heybach, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Bill Gerstein for Robert Runcie, Chicago Public Schools; Mr. Xian Barrett, Chicago Teachers Union; Dr. Clarice Berry, Chicago Principals & Administrators Association. With 10 members in attendance, there is a quorum.

   Staff in attendance: John Keigher, Office of the Speaker; Jacqueline Leavy, pro bono advisor to the Task Force; by phone - Becky Locker, Office of the Senate President; Sarah Hartwick, House Republican staff; Mary Filardo, pro bono advisor to the Task Force; and Joe Gartner, staff to Rep. Dunkin.

   B. The resignation from the Task Force by State Sen. Hultgren was announced by the Speaker’s Staff Mr. Keigher. To date, the Senate Minority Leader has not named a replacement.

   C. **Approval of Minutes of August 23rd, 2010 Meeting:** Ms. Heybach requested that the Minutes be amended to reflect (under Agenda Item 4-C, CPS Policy Review Subcommittee report) that CPS collects data on the number of homeless students displaced by CPS school actions, and that CPS should report these data. Sen. Steans moved to approve the Minutes as amended; Sen. Martinez seconded the motion; the 8/23 Minutes were approved by voice vote.

2. **Invitation for Public Comments. Responses from Task Force Members**

   **Mr. George Schmidt:** Provided testimony on the lack of transparency on CPS capital spending decisions. He provided the Task Force with copies of CPS Board reports regarding the closed Robert Byrd Elementary School building at 363 W. Hill. Mr. Schmidt had previously testified at the Public Input Subcommittee’s Public Hearing of 9/28 that CPS had approved the construction of a $106 Million replacement High School building for Jones College Prep HS at this site. Mr. Schmidt objected to the lack of public notice about this project, the continuing priority of CPS to provide “elite” high schools for gentrifying or gentrified areas at the expense of unmet facility needs in less-wealthy communities, and the overall lack of transparency in CPS decision making. Mr. Schmidt also testified that CPS has spent tens of millions of dollars already on the current Jones College Prep. When CPS CAO Mr. Runcie spoke with Mr. Schmidt after the 9/28 hearing, Mr. Runcie said that Mr. Schmidt’s information was inaccurate, that the replacement High School building for Jones College Prep is actually going to be located in the South Loop, south of the current site. Mr. Schmidt then visited the former Byrd School site, and submitted a photograph to the Task Force of a sign at the site announcing the opening of a parochial school in the CPS building, the Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph School in Fall 2011. Mr. Schmidt urged the Task Force to obtain information from CPS as to how it disposes of or leases off its buildings and real estate holdings. Mr. Schmidt underscored his concerns by also citing the example of the former and now-vacant Near North Career Academy HS and questioned why CPS co-located the Ogden High School in Carpenter Elementary, rather than using the Near North building, which is much closer to Ogden’s original site and community.
**Response from the Task Force:** Sen. Martinez expressed deep concern about the issues raised by Mr. Schmidt and requested that CPS provide details as to how these decisions had been made, the timeline, and any agreements or financial terms with the Catholic school. Sen. Martinez requested that CPS provide all pertinent information regarding the disposition of the former Byrd Elementary property; and subsequently, provide the Task Force with information on all other dispositions of public school properties by CPS. Task Force staff will follow up with CPS on this information request.

**Mr. Virgil Crawford, Austin Community Education Network (ACEN), Westside Health Authority:** Testified to the Task Force about the ongoing efforts of community residents in the Austin neighborhood for a commitment from CPS to build a new comprehensive high school for their community’s 6,600 high-school aged youth. The phasing out of the old Austin HS forced local youth to enroll in schools outside their own community (Wells, Clemente, Marshall, Manley and Collins), resulting in major disruptions and difficulties not only for the students but for the “receiving” schools as well. One major problem resulting from the phase-out has been youth-on-youth violence. Some students have simply not continued their education or have dropped out. Mr. Crawford urged the Task Force to support ACEN’s proposal for a “feasible and high quality alternative” to the receiving schools, with construction of a high school in Austin.

**Carolina Gaete, Whittier Parents’ Committee:** Testified that the gas service and heat for the Whittier Elementary School Field House (1900 W. 23rd St) had been cut off by CPS in reaction to the ongoing peaceful sit-in by Whittier parents protesting CPS’ plan to demolish the field house. She urged the Task Force to support the parents’ efforts to meet with CPS CEO Huberman and resolve the parents’ concerns. She re-stated facts previously testified to by Whittier parents that the local Alderman and City of Chicago TIF program have promised funds that could be better used to repair the field house and create a library for Whittier students, rather than to pay for demolition and a soccer field.

**Response from Task Force Members:** Sen. Martinez called on CPS to provide the Task Force with its engineering study on the Whittier Field House, and to restore heat to the facility immediately.

Several additional members of the public wished to speak on issues relating to teacher and paraprofessional lay-offs. They were directed to CTU for follow up.

3. Presentations

**A. CPS Presentation on Facilities Spending, Funding and Needs** – CPS Chief Operating Officer Pat Taylor was accompanied by URS Corp. consultant Sean Murphy and other CPS Operations Dept. staff. Ms Taylor passed out a presentation on “CPS Capital Program Development Process”. The presentation gave a broad overview of CPS’ facility assessment practices, including a description of the “Phases” of types of repairs, as CPS prioritizes them. The presentation stated that “current prioritized needs for Phases I & II totals over $2.7 Billion. Overall need exceeds $4 billion just to bring existing portfolio to a state of good repair.”

However, the presentation lacked details that the Task Force Co-Chairs had requested at their Sept. 17th meeting with Mr. Runcie, CPS’ representative to the Task Force. Missing information: Lack of definitions of key terms; no details on annual spending or annual funding sources; no information or maps on new construction, REN2010, shared facilities, etc.

Several members of the Task Force expressed their frustration with the incomplete information. Ms. Rias stated that without having the presentation materials in advance, the Task Force members were hard-pressed to follow a verbal presentation and hand-outs that lacked page numbers. Dr. Burney asked Ms Taylor why there was no written information on the annual capital budgets or the 5-year “master plan” as Ms. Taylor had referred to in her oral remarks. Ms. Taylor
said that the 5-year capital plan would be available to the public once the Board of Education has approved it. Dr. Burney questioned how CPS could establish a 5-year plan without input of the Task Force or the public. Ms. Taylor explained that priorities have to be shifted all the time, but with respect to CPS’ 5-year plan, she stated that she would try to obtain this for the Task Force.

In the face of the broad dissatisfaction with the CPS presentation materials, there was strong consensus among the Task Force members that CPS needed to return to the next meeting with the requested information. The Task Force Co-Chairs Rep. Soto and Sen. Steans proposed a special session be held on Friday, October 15th, and that CPS provide the Task Force staff with the presentation materials 2 days in advance to distribute to all Task Force members. There was strong support for the Co-Chairs’ proposal.

Ms. Taylor stated that some of the financial information requested was not within the scope of her department. She then requested that the Task Force pro bono advisor meet with her and others at CPS in advance of the special session to ensure that the next effort was complete. The Co-Chairs concurred, and Ms. Leavy (pro bono advisor) will work with CPS to produce a satisfactory, detailed presentation. In the meantime, it was agreed by all parties that CPS will provide the Task Force’s subcommittee on Facility Needs, Spending & Funding with detailed data on facility spending, by school, at the earliest possible date, and prior to the next Task Force meeting.

B. Presentation by the City of Chicago Dept. of Community Development: Michael Jasso, Deputy Managing Commissioner for DCD, accompanied by Mr. Billy Glunz, Office of the Mayor.

The City officials did not have a written presentation or hand-outs. Mr. Jasso gave a brief verbal presentation, stressing that the City does not determine school construction priorities, but rather serves as a resource and revenue source at the request of CPS. He explained that his department’s role was to determine which TIF districts had sufficient resources to provide school construction funding to CPS, without jeopardizing the City’s other economic development and community redevelopment goals in each TIF district. Mr. Jasso further stated that ultimately the Chicago City Council approves IGAs – Intergovernmental Agreements – with CPS, and the disbursement of TIF revenues. He also mentioned that much of the TIF funding for school construction is documented through records of bonds issued by the City under the “Modern Schools Across Chicago” program.

Dr. Clarice Berry asked how CPS makes its requests for TIF funds. Mr. Jasso and MS. Taylor responded that these requests are sometimes formal, but there are also many informal channels used. Dr. Berry requested that the City provide the Task Force with CPS’ requests for TIF funds, as well as any documentation for instances in which the City has turned down CPS’ requests. She stated that she hoped there were written records of these communications. Ms Heybach pointed to the lack of transparency in both presentations, and urged CPS and the Dept. of Community Development to provide

Overall the Co-Chairs and Task Force members again expressed their deep dissatisfaction with the lack of written presentation materials and lack of detail provided by the City. There was strong consensus that the City officials should appear before the next special session of the Task Force to provide a detailed response to the Co-Chair’s Sept. 22nd, 2010 request to Commissioner Raguso regarding the City’s use of TIF funds for school construction and its approach to coordination with CPS. The Task Force pro bono advisor will meet with DCD staff to clarify the Task Force’s information request.

4. Reports of the Standing Subcommittees were tabled at the discretion of the Co-Chairs, given the lateness of the hour.
5. **Review of Final Report Time Line:** In the absence of complete reports to the Task Force from CPS and the City of Chicago, this item was also tabled.

6. **New Business**

   **A. Whittier Field House Motion:** Ms. Carroll moved that the Task Force call on CPS CEO Ron Huberman to immediately restore the heat at the Whittier Field House, and as a sign of good faith, stop any plan to demolish the structure until the Task Force finalizes its recommendations on CPS facility planning. Rep. Soto seconded the motion. Mr. Keigher called the roll: Motion passed with 8 “Ayes”, 0 “No's” and 1 abstention. The motion as approved is as follows:

   “The Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force requests that CPS, as a gesture of good faith, cease any demolition, and return the gas service to the Whittier Field House until this Task Force makes recommendations regarding facilities decisions.”

   **B. Special Session:** The Task Force Co-Chairs called for a special session of the body at which time CPS and City officials will return to respond to the pending information requests made by the Task Force. **The tentative date set is Friday, October 15th, 9:30 AM.** The Co-Chairs reiterated the request that CPS and the City Dept. of Community Development submit their presentations for the special session at least 2 days in advance and preferably by October 12th, 2010 to enable ILGA staff to distribute the materials to all task force members in advance of the next meeting.

7. **Conclusion:** At approximately 12:30 PM, Sen. Steans moved to adjourn; Mr. Barrett seconded the motion; motion approved by voice vote.