



Civic Committee
COMMERCIAL CLUB OF CHICAGO



CHICAGOLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATEMENT OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB OF CHICAGO
AND THE CHICAGOLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON LEADERSHIP CHANGES
AT THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Two weeks ago, we raised serious concerns about Mayor Brandon Johnson's plans to fire CPS CEO Pedro Martinez and his request for CPS to borrow over \$300M through a short-term, high-interest loan. With the unprecedented mass resignation of the Mayor's handpicked school board and the announcement of seven new school board members just weeks before the first school board election in Chicago's history, our concerns have only escalated. The management stability, educational quality, and financial state of the Chicago Public Schools are critical to both the short and long-term prospects of the children and families of Chicago as well as the success of Chicago businesses of every size and the long-term economic future of our city. We strongly urge the board to keep CEO Martinez in place, reject the misguided proposal to borrow more money, and work with all parties to bring transparency and long-term fiscal stability and quality education to the school system.

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