

July 10, 2013



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

To: Mayor Rahm Emanuel
Board of Education President David J. Vitale

We, the Amundsen High School Local School Council, recently approved the 2013-2014 school budget of \$11,928,201 – a budget that totals approximately \$1 million less than the 2012-2013 budget. However, our approval should in no way be perceived as an endorsement of the budget cuts. We are balancing the need to prepare for the new school year with the need to ensure proper funding for education.

Like many other LSCs, we believe more needs to be done to stabilize the budget situation for CPS to provide our children with the very best education possible. We understand that ALL schools are involved in this predicament. We will stand with Common Sense: Coalition of LSCs, but the reality of current deficits faced by CPS needs to be dealt with in a variety of ways and – as of now – these budget reductions are only an initial component.

The *Lincoln Square Patch* recently reported on a handful of Chicago aldermen discussing a proposed ordinance allowing TIF funding to be used for supporting neighborhood schools. We all understand TIF funding is typically reserved for economic development. Currently, we are only left with options such as these to get money into the classrooms for the coming school year and beyond. If families restart the flight to the suburbs, it will erode the very economic base TIF seeks to build.

As all options are explored, we expect that budget pain and gain will be shared equally among all schools across the entire city. Access to the city's corporate relationships should be shared. The availability of other resources for improvement should be shared.

In the end, schools are the key to keeping families in Chicago and securing the best prepared generation of students for our communities and for our city.

Signed,

Steve Johnson, Chairman
On Behalf of the Amundsen High School LSC