



PRESS STATEMENT

P R E S S S T A T E M E N T

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Statement by William Iacullo, President of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 143, in Response to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Warning of Ending the School Year Early

Chicago—International Union of Operating Engineers Local 143 President William Iacullo released the following statement today in response to Chicago Public Schools warning to parents and district employees of possibly ending the school year three weeks early.

“As an employee of the board for over 43 years, I have never seen an administration led by the Mayor and CEO that put our city’s children at risk in a purely political battle. The idea of cutting short the school year will have irreparable harm on the students the district is responsible for educating.

The money’s there to be saved and to fund a full school year and other vital educational programs by simply ending the failed Integrated Facilities Management Program and saving \$220 million plus annually. Last month the Chicago Board of Education voted to spend a half a billion dollars to privatize CPS’ operating engineers and custodians in public schools under its failed IFM program. Once fully implemented, several controversial for profit corporations, including Aramark and SodexoMagic, are scheduled to privatize traditional public functions at an additional annual cost to taxpayers of \$220 million and another \$140 million in lost pension contributions and early payouts.

What parents should be adding their voices to is the fight for transparency and cost savings for the district not fighting political fights between the powers that be in Illinois.”

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