

LCCS PTO Meeting Minutes

Focus: School Safety & Community Preparedness

Meeting Recorded – Minutes to be posted by EOD tomorrow

Administrative Update – School Preparedness

Dr. Hogan shared updates regarding school safety planning related to potential ICE activity.

Current Status

- Planning began in 2025, using a structured framework similar to the school's COVID response.
- The school is now moving into "Part 2" of preparedness, developing protocols for a range of possible scenarios.
- Administration emphasized flexibility as the situation evolves.

On-Campus Protocols

- A formal protocol has been created in the event ICE attempts to enter campus.
- Faculty lanyards now include written guidance.
- **Code Red procedure:** doors locked, shades drawn, students remain in classrooms, no hallway movement. Instruction continues as normal.
- ICE will not be permitted entry without a judicial warrant.
- The Board attorney will be contacted immediately if necessary.
- Faculty have guidance on how to respond if approached by ICE agents (agents must wait outside; students should not engage).

Legal & Family Support Questions

- The school does not currently maintain a list of immigration attorneys.
 - Administration will consult with the Board attorney regarding what support can be formally offered.
 - PTO may explore compiling external resources for families.
 - Questions were raised about protocols if a parent is detained and a child is not picked up. This is a complex, citywide issue requiring additional coordination.
 - The school has access to a Board attorney for consultation in the event of ICE activity.
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Guest Speaker: Sarah Shelton (Pulaski School, Chicago)

Sarah Shelton shared Pulaski School's experience responding to sudden ICE presence near their campus in October.

Key Takeaways

- Chicago schools implemented hard lockdown procedures when ICE activity was within 1.4 miles.
- A parent-school committee developed a confidential volunteer support system.
- Volunteers participated in Know Your Rights (KYR) training.
- Communication was coordinated through encrypted messaging platforms.
- Parent presence at dismissal increased safety and reassurance.
- Strong neighborhood relationships and community coalition-building were critical.
- Language barriers were a significant challenge; communication extended beyond email to WhatsApp, TikTok, and word-of-mouth networks.
- Businesses displayed signage indicating private property protections and served as "safe midpoint" locations.
- Community-building events helped maintain connection and resilience.
- Sarah Shelton's email: sarahsopha@gmail.com

Suggested Starting Point: Host a Know Your Rights training to empower families.

Community Partner: Ryan (Spirit of Liberation – Jersey City)

Ryan outlined these approaches:

1. Prevention (rapid response & patrols)
2. Know Your Rights & rapid response training
3. Coalition building with local organizations
4. Mutual aid & community care
5. Advocacy & holding elected officials accountable

Upcoming trainings and Barrio Walks were shared. A sign-up link for SOL training was distributed.

Administration: Next Steps & Considerations

Dr. Hogan shared draft planning priorities:

- Offer KYR trainings for parents, staff, and potentially students (age-appropriate).
- Address communication challenges across our diverse community.
- Consider support for students commuting via public transportation (public buses).
- Build a parent leadership team.
- Strengthen relationships with district schools (PS17 outreach ongoing).

- Develop community partnerships with local businesses and neighborhood associations.
- Explore additional support systems (e.g., food pantry access).
- Remote instruction is not currently an option in NJ.
- Continue age-appropriate classroom conversations while maintaining a supportive environment.

Administration emphasized that while ICE activity is not currently present at LCCS, preparation is a proactive measure.

Community Discussion Highlights

- Suggestion to display signage signaling school safety for immigrant families (under consideration).
 - Local businesses may serve as community partners and safe spaces.
 - Parent feedback noted appreciation for teachers balancing honest conversation with preserving students' sense of normalcy.
 - Students in some schools nationally have organized walkouts; LCCS students have not requested one at this time.
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Reminders & Announcements

- Know Your Rights training scheduled for Tuesday at 6pm ([link shared](#)).
- Barrio Walks occurring on Westside Avenue (contact shared).
- 2026–2027 School Lottery will be held via Zoom tomorrow at 9am (not recorded). 1,200 applicants — largest lottery to date.