



PILSEN WELLNESS CENTER, INC.

2319 South Damen Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60608 • Phone 773.579.0832 • Fax 773.579.0762

Francisco Cisneros, Ph.D.
President & CEO

www.PilsenWellnessCenter.org

April 29, 2019

ADMINISTRATION

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LATINO YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

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Fax: 773.648.2098

YOUTH WELLNESS CENTER

2259 South Damen Avenue
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SUBURBAN LOCATIONS

CICERO

1407 South 49th Court
Cicero, Illinois 60804
Phone: 708.683.5500
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BERWYN

2600 South Ridgeland Avenue
Berwyn, Illinois 60402
Phone: 708.683.5500
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STONE PARK

1546 North Mannheim Road
Stone Park, Illinois 60165
Phone: 708.410.0856
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MELROSE PARK

1633 North 37th Avenue
Melrose Park, Illinois 60160
Phone: 708.343.7860
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An Open Letter to Families and Friends of Latino Youth High School,

Following recent news reports many of you have reached out regarding the possibility of a strike at Latino Youth High School (LYHS). Unfortunately, while the risk is very real we want to ensure you that the administration of Pilsen Wellness Center and Latino Youth High School is doing everything possible to keep the doors open - we will not be walking away from the table.

Since 1974 Latino Youth has existed to provide a second chance for a high school diploma to the children of the Pilsen / Little Village community. We take this comment very seriously. As a small school we value the relationships we build with our students. For this reason, we are committed to creating an environment where all students can grow and thrive. From mental health services, to only hiring 100% certified teachers, to mentors that provide career services and job exploration Latino Youth High School is dedicated to providing whatever resources our students need to thrive.

Unfortunately, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), which represents the teachers of LYHS, have proposed changes to our current contract that we feel would be detrimental to our students and the educational service we provide, namely:

- Shorten the work day to just 7.25 hours per day
- Limiting teacher contact time with students to an average of just 3.7 hours per day

Our students deserve more time with their teachers, not less! Additionally, the CTU has proposed increasing teacher salaries by over 30% from their current level. While other charter schools like Acero or CICS were able to meet CTU's demands because they are funded directly by Chicago Public Schools (CPS) we receive the majority of our funding from Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS), a small charter network with limited financial resources. While we are committed to the bargaining process, we've easily agreed to CTU proposals regarding Sanctuary School status or restorative justice practices, we can only agree to proposals that are fair to our students and financially feasible.

Regardless, as we move forward in the bargaining process we remain focused on our one goal - to challenge our students with rigorous academics and relentless support so that they can recast themselves as resilient, empowered adults who will succeed in high school, college, and beyond. We will continue to do this by balancing the needs of our students, teachers, and staff in service to your family and the needs of Latino Youth High School.

A CARF-Accredited Organization



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29 de abril de 2019

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Estimados padres, familiares y amigos de Latino Youth High School,

Después de informes de noticias recientes, muchos de ustedes han preguntado sobre la posibilidad de una huelga en Latino Youth High School (LYHS). Desafortunadamente, el riesgo de una huelga es muy real es por eso que queremos asegurarnos de que la administración de Pilsen Wellness Center y Latino Youth High School esté haciendo todo lo posible para mantener las puertas abiertas. No nos quedaremos con las manos cruzadas.

Desde 1974, LYHS ha brindado una segunda oportunidad para obtener un diploma de escuela secundaria para los niños de la comunidad de Pilsen / Little Village. ¡Nos tomamos muy en serio este comentario! Como escuela pequeña, valoramos las relaciones que construimos con nuestros estudiantes. Por esta razón, estamos comprometidos a crear un entorno donde todos los estudiantes puedan crecer y prosperar. Desde servicios de salud mental, hasta la contratación de maestros certificados al 100%, y mentores que brindan servicios de carrera y exploración de empleos, Latino Youth High School se dedica a proporcionar los recursos que nuestros estudiantes necesitan para prosperar.

Desafortunadamente, el Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), que representa a los maestros de LYHS, ha propuesto cambios en nuestro contrato actual que creemos que serían perjudiciales para nuestros estudiantes y el servicio educativo que brindamos, a saber:

- Acortar las horas laborales a solo 7.25 horas por día.
- Limitar el tiempo de contacto del maestro con los estudiantes a un promedio de solo 3.7 horas por día

¡Nuestros estudiantes merecen más tiempo con sus maestros, no menos! Además, la CTU ha propuesto aumentar los salarios de los maestros en más del 30% de su nivel actual. Mientras que otras escuelas charter como Acero o CICS pudieron cumplir con las demandas de CTU porque son financiadas directamente por las Chicago Public Schools (CPS), nosotros recibimos la mayoría de nuestros fondos de Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS), una pequeña red charter con recursos financieros limitados. Si bien estamos comprometidos con el proceso de negociación, hemos aceptado fácilmente las propuestas de CTU con respecto al estado de Sanctuary School o las prácticas de justicia restaurativa, ¡solo podemos aceptar propuestas que sean justas para nuestros estudiantes y que sean financieramente factibles.

En cualquier caso, a medida que avanzamos en el proceso de negociación, nos mantenemos enfocados en nuestro único objetivo: Inspirar a nuestros estudiantes con un reto académico riguroso y apoyo incansable para que puedan reformularse como adultos resistentes y empoderados que tendrán éxito en la escuela secundaria, universidad, y más allá. Continuaremos haciendo esto equilibrando las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes, maestros y personal en servicio a su familia y las necesidades de Latino Youth High School.

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