COAL COALITION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS

Chicago Board of Education
Candidate Questionnaire
for the
General Election - November 3, 2026

The purpose of this candidate questionnaire is to ascertain each candidate's qualifications and preparedness for, and commitment to, participating as a member of the Chicago Board of Education and for President of the Board.

The Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL) encourages an informed community towards casting an informed vote. The goal is to seat a professional, qualified, independent and engaged school board, responsible to the community, that has a laser focus on providing the best K - 12 educational experience for all of the children of Chicago, regardless of family income or zip code; the high quality educational system our children deserve.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete and return this fillable pdf candidate questionnaire for the position of Chicago Board of Education member and president, responding to all questions. There are a few yes/no questions which include space to expound on your response. Once completed, please return via email to: publicpolicy@coalchicago.com. **This questionnaire should be returned no later than end of day on September 21, 2026.**

We welcome any query regarding this questionnaire or individual question(s) which will help you provide your best response. Please contact Education Committee co-chairs:

Dr. Kimberly Dulaney at 312.287.4571 / readme4000@aol.com
or
Principal Gerald Morrow at 773.593.5428 / gjmorrow86@gmail.com

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Candidate Information

Name on Ballot: Hector Morales

School Board District: 2A

Home Address 1135 West Lunt Avenue, # 204, Chicago, IL 60626

Employer/Your Title Law Offices of Hector Morales PC / Attorney

Phone 773-230-8310 **Email** hectormoraleslaw@gmail.com

Candidate signature attesting to the truthfulness, accuracy, and authorship of this Questionnaire.

	Hector Morales	
Date	**Print**	**Signature**

[Please feel free to attach primary campaign literature, bio or vita]

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager

Phone **Email**

Website

a. Have you held or run for public office before, and if so, what office[s] with what results?

No.

b. COMMUNITY. In what community roles do you currently serve? Or in what capacity have you served the community in the past? Have you been appointed to any public committees, commissions, task forces?

Rogers Park. Member of Rogers Park Business Alliance.

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c. Please list your top three contributors who have donated $1,000 or more, and include the corresponding amounts as reported on your D-3 form (if applicable):

Contributor	Amount

d. Who has endorsed you and what are your political/stakeholder alliances (if any)?

Common Ground Collective.

Candidate's Plans and Goals for the School Board

e. Why are you running for *this position*? What expertise do you bring to the board? What makes you the best candidate for *the School Board*?

Provide a balanced budget. Utilize current resources as efficiently as possible to provide CPS students the opportunity to receive a high-quality education in collaboration with stakeholders such as students, parents, teachers, principals and community leaders. I am a solo practitioner and understand the importance of using every dollar as efficiently as possible. I also understand how to read and interpret statutes and how to read and interpret administrative rules. I would also like to make sure that the arts are made pat of the core curriculum for elementary and high school curricula.

f. Please describe your Educational agenda.

Provide a high-quality education to all CPS students regardless of their social-economic status and address.

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ACCOUNTABILITY / TRANSPARENCY

1) We believe that it will be important for you to communicate with District constituents on a monthly basis. Communications should include, but not be limited to, updates to inform and receive feedback on upcoming CPS votes and initiatives, as well as progress monitoring. Will you commit to implementing some form of monthly communications for your constituents?

YES ☑ **NO** ☐ **(Please provide an example)**

Yes. I intend on creating a website that constituents can access.

2) What measures do you want to put in place to promote transparency in the school board system?

Provide proposed resolutions at least two weeks before they are to be voted on. Provide proposed budget to all board members at least two weeks before votes are required to approve budget. Have community input on the use of school funds.

3) What methods will you put in place to understand the interests / positions of your constituents, to ensure your Board votes align with your constituents, and not political funders or special interests? **(Please be specific)**

I will speak to the stakeholders that includes principals, teachers, parents and students when making a decision on any CBOE resolution or vote.

4) What measures do you suggest the school board implement to ensure that CPS is held accountable and is responsive and transparent to school stakeholders?

Provide disclosure and information about any proposed votes as to use of school funds.

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5) Will you support a third-party independent audit of Chicago Public Schools? **YES** ☑ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

Yes. We need to know how the monies are being spent.

6) Recognizing that parents of CPS students are a critical portion of your constituency, what will you do to build and nurture a relationship with parents in the District?

Make sure that parents are participating in the different schools in subdistrict 2A by reaching out to the administrators in the clusters, principals in the schools, teachers in the schools, and the parents to encourage their participation.

BUDGET / FINANCE

7) In what ways should the school district engage Springfield for funding? In what ways will you engage external partners to assist with funding CPS initiatives?

CBOE should reach out to state legislators to seek funds in a manner that is responsible for CPS and Illinois students. CBOE must reach out to external partners to provide new revenue streams in order to reduce the structural deficit.

8) What are your ideas to address the School District's consistent $500-$700 million budget gap?

Look at the Central Office spending. Look to see which positions are not being used. Look to see how current personnel can be utilized more efficiently throughout CPS. Look to see how CPS buildings can be utilized more efficiently in consultation with community stakeholders that include principals, teachers, parents, and students.

9) How will you hold CPS accountable for ensuring equitable funding for all schools? And how should the Board / CPS prioritize to ensure funds are allocated where needed?

CBOE must abide by state law and provide equitable funding for all students regardless of their social-economic status or address. Where challenges and shortages have been identified in particular schools, resources should be allocated to meet those challenges.

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10) What are your ideas for **funding** the mental health needs of students, faculty, and staff?

There should be a funding stream to make sure that students, faculty, and staff have the necessary resources to address any mental health issues.

EDUCATION / STUDENTS

11) Achievement Gap: The data show persistent disparities in measures of educational performance among subgroups of students, especially groups defined by socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and gender. How do you plan to address/close the intransigent achievement gap for African American students?

Allocation of resources to those schools where students educational performance is lacking. There must be resources allocated to address the achievement gap of African American students.

12) Opportunity Gap: The disparities in providing access points and multiple pathways to position students for post-secondary success. How do you plan to address/close the opportunity gap for African American students?

Provide more resources and opportunities to learn and experience life in the post-secondary education. Bringing in college / masters / Phd students of color to provide mentorship / advice / guidance to African American students.

13) What are your thoughts and/or ideas on **policies** to address the mental health needs of students, faculty, and staff?

CBOE should implement a program that allows students, faculty, and staff to access mental health services when requested.

14) How will you work towards all schools providing recess and physical education equipment, healthy food offerings, and classes in the arts, shop, and technologies, as well as foreign languages?

The CBOE must ensure that all schools have the appropriate equipment for all physical education classes. The food offerings must be healthy for all students. The Arts are an important part of school education and there must be an emphasis on providing a thorough curriculum in the arts in grade schools and high schools. This would include music. There should be courses offered in technologies, especially those in programming. Students should be offered at least three languages to learn if they so choose from grade school.

15) The elected representative school board legislation includes the establishment of a board-level *Black Student Achievement Committee*, to develop actionable strategies to close the achievement gap for Black students. What actions will you take to ensure that this committee is staffed appropriately to give it its best chance of achieving measurable improvements in the education of Black students, system-wide? And, importantly, will you commit to the African American community having a strong voice / autonomy in the selection of Black Student Achievement committee members? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

Yes, I would support the establishment of a board-level Black Student Achievement Committee to develop actionable strategies to close the achievement gap for Black students. There should be a mentorship program that places students with Black mentors that have found success in secondary education and in careers. Based on the funding provided by the State legislators the committee will be appropriately staffed and there would be a special subcommittee to address the achievement gap. There must be fair and open process for selecting members of the committee or CBOE subcommittee.

GOVERNANCE

16) What are your thoughts on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Computer Science (CS), and other emerging technologies in education for students, faculty, and staff?

AI must be used responsibly. There should be more of an emphasis on CTE especially in programming. There must be guidelines established for the use of technologies in education for students, faculty, and staff. The CBOE should be the lead on developing those guidelines.

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17) Do you think the school board should have autonomy to override LSC decisions that are made at the local level? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ Please explain your answer with an example.

It would depend on the type of decision made. It would be on a case-by-case basis. In general, I think LSC's know what is happening in their schools since the principals, teachers, parents, and students know what their specific needs are and are therefore in a better position to determine what is needed.

18) LSCs are responsible for principal selection; should CPS be required to obtain LSC review to remove a principal? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

I think the CBOE should work with the LSC to determine the reason for removing a principal.

19) What are your thoughts on establishing an independent review board for terminations within CPS?

OPERATIONS / POLICY / PERFORMANCE

20) What is one challenge or area of growth you see within CPS? What are your solutions for addressing this challenge?

I would like to see more parent engagement in the schools for students. The CBOE in collaboration with the principals, teachers, and students must develop incentive programs to have parents more engaged in the education of their students.

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21) What are your thoughts on the financial and academic oversight of school choice, and do you believe guardrails should be put in place? If so, why?

The CBOE must put systems in place that provide financial oversight on schools that are under performing financially or academically, and allow schools that are providing a high-quality education to continue to succeed by allowing for appropriate term extensions.

22) What are your thoughts on school closings and consolidation?

The CBOE must put together creative ways to address the lack of enrollment in schools in collaboration with community stakeholders such as principals, parents, teachers, students, elected officials, and public and private sector agencies that can assist in increasing enrollment and providing services in programs in underutilized schools.

23) What criteria should be used to identify which schools should be considered for closure/consolidation?

The CBOE must put together creative ways to address the lack of enrollment in schools in collaboration with community stakeholders such as principals, parents, teachers, students, elected officials, and public and private sector agencies that can assist in increasing enrollment and providing services in programs in underutilized schools.

24) What existing CPS policies would you like to change, or what new policies would you like implement?

Whenever there are cuts in funding it seems that the arts are the first courses and teachers to be cut. I would like to include arts programming as part of the core curriculum in elementary and high school, especially electronic music which if affordable, accessible, and provides immediate feedback to students that participate.

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CHARTER SCHOOLS

25) Funding Equity: Chicago Public Schools provides funding to both district-operated and charter public schools. Do you support funding parity between charter public schools and district-operated schools? **YES** ☑ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

There must be funding equity between district-operated and charter schools because nearly 97.8% of charter school students identify as African American or Latino, while in district run it is 87.1%, and 98.7% identify as a student of color,while in district-fun schools it is 86.3% which affects students mostly in the South and West sides of the city. There must be parity.

26) Equitable Access to Resources: Do you believe funding for student support services should be allocated equitably to all students, regardless of whether they attend a district operated or charter school? Yes or No If a school accepts public funding for a student should it also be responsible for continuing to serve that student the entirety of the year? **YES** ☑ **NO** ☐ **(Please explain in detail.)**

There must be equity in funding between charter and district operated schools. CPS should attempt to provide services to its students on a year round basis in collaboration with stakeholder that includes students, parents, teachers, principals, community leaders, elected officials, and agencies that already have contracts with CPS to provide programs and services to students.

27) Parent Choice and Educational Options: Well-to-do families have the resources to afford the type of education they want for their children. Many Black and Brown families who may be unable to afford private or parochial schools, choose charter schools because they believe those schools best meet the educational, social, emotional, or cultural needs of their children. What role do you believe charter schools should play within the Chicago Public Schools system, and how would you ensure families continue to have meaningful educational choices?

Parents should continue to have choice in the education of their children, especially those families that do not have the resoured to pay for a private school education. This is especially true for African American and Latino students and their families. Charter schools should continue to be an option for parents, especially for those charter schools that are providing a high quality education.

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28) Charter Renewal Stability: School board meetings can involve lengthy discussions on charter renewals. What are your thoughts on charter school renewals, including multi-year renewals?

High performing charter schools should be granted multi-year renewals. It would be up to the CBOE to determine an appropriate metric to determine the amount of years in renewal.

29) Accountability and Student Outcomes: Should charter schools and district-operated schools be evaluated using the same academic, financial, operational, and student-outcome standards?
YES ☐ **NO** ☐ Where might they differ?

I think any metric that attempts to measure success must do so in an culturally appropriate manner. This would be the case for charter and district-operated schools.

30) Long-Term Vision: What is your vision for the relationship between Chicago Public Schools and public charter schools over the next five years, and how would your policies support improved outcomes for all Chicago public school students?

I think that CPS should provide the resources and funding for charter schools so that parents can have choices in their neighborhoods, especially for high performing charter schools. I think that there must be parity in funding and I think that any measure of success must be based on culturally sensitive evaluation and analysis to determine success in academic achievement.

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Thank You

for your response

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OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS

About COAL
COAL is an umbrella organization founded by 13 of Chicago's historic African American mens clubs. COAL's overarching mission is to identify, examine, illuminate and find resolution to issues impacting the greater community. We strive to use our collective experience, expertise and resources to improve the quality of opportunity, quality of preparedness and the quality of outcomes (expressed as 'quality of life') for our community.

What We Believe
The Coalition of African American Leaders believes that it is important to examine the critical issues confronting the African American community where injustice, inequality and the absence of access and opportunity continue to prevail, thereby negatively impacting us as a people. COAL is an assemblage that advocates and organizes for appropriate and responsible public policy change, system behavior change and equality of opportunity. We aim to achieve for all of our people the fullness of the life experience without any form of racism or exclusion as a deterrent. We believe we must prepare ourselves for the opportunity of this full participation, thereby achieving the necessary education and training to participate.

Founding Member Organizations
100 Black Men Of Chicago ■ Chicago Assembly ■ Chicago Connection ■ Druids Club ■ Frogs Club ■ Lunch Bunch ■ New Committee ■ Original 40 Club Of Chicago ■ Rat Pack ■ Royal Coterie Of Snakes ■ Saints ■ Sigma Pi Phi Beta-Boule ■ UIC Male Forum / Chicago Good Health Group

WWW.COALCHICAGO.COM publicpolicy@coalchicago.com
COAL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Illinois, USA.
Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by U.S. law.