

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Entire school board to resign

Departures herald uncertain future for students, families

By Sylvan Lebrun and Ikram Mohamed  
Chicago Tribune

The mass resignation of the seven-member Chicago Board of Education may be only the first in a series of upheavals in Chicago Public Schools leadership, heralding an uncertain future for students and families in the district.

Although the board will transition to a hybrid elected and appointed makeup in January, the current seven vacancies can only be filled by mayoral appointment.

With plans not yet announced on who would replace the soon-to-be dismissed school board, many parents are concerned about the lack of transparency from the district and Mayor Brandon Johnson.

“Why is this happening when we’re so close to having part of our board be elected?”



Parent Natasha Dunn shares frustration Friday outside Chicago Public Schools headquarters following news that the entire school board is resigning. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Shake-up comes as mayor eyes ouster of embattled Martinez

By Alice Yin  
Chicago Tribune

All seven members of Mayor Brandon Johnson’s school board plan to resign, the latest turmoil gripping his administration as it struggles for control of the Chicago Public Schools system led by embattled CEO Pedro Martinez.

Chicago Board of Education President Jianan Shi, along with members Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Mariela Estrada, Mary Fahey Hughes, Rudy Lozano Jr., Michelle Morales and Tanya Woods informed the mayor’s office of their resignations, the mayor’s office announced in a statement Friday. The extraordinary shake-up clears the mayor to reappoint the entire school board.

“Mayor Brandon Johnson and members of the Chicago Board of Education are

Turn to Future, Page 4

Turn to Resign, Page 4

**WHAT’S AT STAKE?** By selecting an entirely new set of board members, Mayor Brandon Johnson could choose people who will follow through with firing embattled CEO Pedro Martinez, along with key agenda items like taking out a high-interest loan to cover budget gaps, shifting responsibility for pensions back to the district and finalizing a contract with the teachers union.



## NO HOMES, NO ANSWERS

On Northwest Side, dispute, confusion over how to address long-standing homeless encampment near Gompers Park

By Caroline Kubzansky | Chicago Tribune

A gray Honda CRV pulled out of traffic Wednesday afternoon on Pulaski Road and stopped near the homeless encampment that stretches along the fence between Gompers Park and the Salvation Army Mayfair Community Church. “Stay the (expletive) out of Gompers Park!” the driver yelled before he rolled up the window and rejoined southbound traffic. Agata Janick jumped, then sighed.

“That has never happened to me, ever,” said Janick, 43. “Just when I said people usually leave us alone.”

Janick estimated she has 15 neighbors who live part- or full-time in the roughly 20 tents scattered throughout the Northwest Side park. She would love to get out of the park, and would not be picky about housing options if they were offered to her, though she’d prefer to stay on the Northwest Side if she can.

“South Side, West Side, I’ll take anywhere,” she said.

The encampment where Janick has lived for two years is the latest flashpoint in a sometimes-heated debate over

how Chicago should approach its rising homeless population.

Earlier this week, North Mayfair and North Park residents clashed over how to address the Gompers Park encampment and the people living there. Many who packed a community meeting Monday were concerned about cleanliness and drug use and erratic behavior by encampment residents as well as their living conditions, particularly with another Chicago winter approaching.

Other residents also support offering park dwellers permanent housing but argue that

Turn to Homeless, Page 2

Agata Janick walks near her tent in Gompers Park in Chicago on Wednesday. Janick has lived at the encampment for two years. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Israeli airstrikes pummel Lebanon, key crossing into Syria

By Bassem Mroue  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Israel carried out another series of punishing airstrikes Friday, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing the

Israeli bombardment of the Hezbollah militant group.

The overnight blasts in Beirut’s southern suburbs sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings miles away in the Lebanese capital. Additional strikes sent people running for cover in streets littered with rubble in the Dahiyeh

neighborhood, where at least one building was leveled and cars were burned out.

The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah’s central intelligence headquarters around midnight. It did not say who it was aiming for or if any militants were killed in that strike, but it claimed to have killed 100 Hezbollah fighters in the previous 24 hours.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the area. Some 1,400 Lebanese, including Hezbollah fighters and civilians, have been killed and some 1.2 million driven from their homes since Israel escalated its

Turn to Lebanon, Page 6

