The Caucus of Rank and File Educators (C.O.R.E.) proudly announces our officers slate for the May 2022 CTU elections:

- **Stacy Davis Gates** for President
- **Jackson Potter** for Vice President
- **Maria Moreno** for Financial Secretary
- **Christel Williams Hayes** for Recording Secretary

**Stacy, Maria, and Christel** have guided our union over the past three years with outgoing president Jesse Sharkey. In that time, our officers led the charge for massive progress in our rights and our working conditions:

- An elected school board for Chicago Public Schools
- Restoration of our full bargaining rights
- A historic 2019 contract with precedent-setting gains

As Vice President, **Stacy Davis Gates** played a central role as our chief strategist in advancing the victories in our current contract: guaranteeing a nurse and social worker in every school by 2024, enforceable class size language for the first time in our union’s history, and significantly increasing pay for our paraprofessional members. Stacy also developed our strategy at the city and state levels to increase our pension funding after 10 years of nonpayment by CPS, enacting a new funding formula that has led to record levels of state investment in our schools.

Jackson Potter joins this officer team after teaching at Back of the Yards High School the past four years, serving as the chief of staff for Karen Lewis before that. Three of our officer candidates are graduates of Chicago Public Schools, and together they share over 80 years of experience as paraprofessionals, elementary and high school educators and city-wide clinicians. These four leaders bring a diversity of background, experience, viewpoints, and approaches that will continue to serve our members.

Just over a decade ago, CORE started a movement to democratize our union, empower our members, and show Chicago and the nation that teaching conditions are learning conditions – and we need to fight for both. We’ve made huge strides toward that end, but there is still work to do. We need the strong team on this CORE ticket to address issues impacting our most vulnerable families and communities, resulting in plummeting student enrollment in our schools. We must continue to fight for **adequate staffing ratios** of counselors, librarians, social workers, nurses and special educators. We must reaffirm the joy and love of learning and teaching by ensuring **adequate prep time** for elementary schools, the **removal of high stakes testing** and an **end to student-based budgeting**. We must continue the fight for what we know is just and demand the schools our students deserve.

**Our caucus knows Stacy, Jackson, Maria and Christel are the best team of officers to continue this work. We hope they have your vote in May!**
In the week before winter break, 11 students and 5 staff members at Park Manor Elementary had tested positive for COVID and roughly 70% of the school was under quarantine. After CPS’s botched attempt to get students tested over the break, the parents and CTU members of Park Manor announced they were keeping their students home and demanded an option for remote learning in a press conference on January 3rd.

This brave act came shortly before CTU voted to work remotely across the district. Keyonna Lowe-Payton, a member of CTU and now CORE at Park Manor, said the support CTU leadership provided was crucial.

Our Vision

We, the Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators are a group of CTU members. We are united by the principles of member-driven unionism, transparency & accountability, equitable high quality education for all students, defense of publicly funded public education, a strong contract, and anti-racism.

In the spirit of Karen Jennings Lewis, we believe that building broad coalitions of the entire school community - including students, families, and community partners - strengthens us in the fight for improved working conditions for staff and learning conditions for students.