CPS ignores teachers, parents

Wednesday was a bitter-sweet day for me and my 10 fellow teachers who volunteered our own time on the VIVA Project to develop 49 recommendations for using time in school to better serve our students.

In one moment, we were being honored for our work and applauded for sharing our voice with the Chicago Public Schools. In the next, the board was ignoring the pleas of parents who have specific plans for school improvement and were begging for the chance to determine their own children's futures. I teared up as they voted to close all those schools.

How can the CPS extol the virtues of listening to teachers and then ignore the pleas of parents? The board is right in saying that the kids can't wait any longer in the status quo. The status quo is one of ignoring students, teacher and parent voices. The solution is to listen to the people who know how to fix things — teachers, parents and students.

Xian Barrett, Near West Side

Differing with Huntley

I'm fascinated by the fact that I never agree with columnist Steve Huntley's opinions. Even how is that even possible?

Tony Galati, Lemont

Legal immigrants welcome

I would like to know who columnist Alejandro Escalona is that he is telling our elected and appointed officials what to do about illegals in the city of Chicago.

I don't think many people in Chicago have a big problem with immigrants who decide to make Chicago their home — legal immigrants who abide by our laws, that is.

The problem lies with illegal immigrants. Chicago is a sanctuary city in violation of federal law.

Donald J. Lazo, Gage Park

Get ready for a grilling, Beavers

Cook County Commissioner William Beavers seems to have forgotten something about Chicago when he dubbed himself "the hog with the big nuts."

Chicago is "Hog Butcher to the World," and U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald might as well be nicknamed "King of Chicago-Way Bar-B-Que" for the number of political hogs and sows he has smoked, grilled and sent as takeout to the Big House.

Bill Savage, Rogers Park

Pig in the pokey?

For his hoggish feedings at the public trough, Cook County Commissioner William Beavers may end up as just another pig in the pokey.

Lee J. Regner, Park Ridge

New getaway: fast train

High-speed rail service will make getaway cars for bank robbers obsolete. Make reservations ahead of time, and away they go!

Raymond F. Stoiber, Joliet