Jason C. Dones

Educator. CPS Parent. Organizer.
Jason knows what our classrooms need because he's spent his life in them. First as a student, then as a teacher, and now as a parent and advocate.

Humboldt Park Native, CPS Graduate.
Growing up right here in Humboldt Park, Jason is a proud Puerto Rican and son of a single mother, who worked hard to give him access to quality education. Jason attended Chicago Public Schools (Horace Greeley Elementary, Newberry Academy and Lane Tech) experiencing the diversity and richness of the CPS system — and the systemic challenges it faces.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, he returned to the West Side to support students, a move that solidified his lifelong commitment to educational equity.

From Classroom to Boardroom
Jason's 16-year career in education has taken him from the classroom to nonprofit leadership, always with a focus on equity and improving outcomes for Black and Brown students.

As a CPS teacher, he taught in schools all across Chicago. Jason's expertise in culturally responsive teaching led him to co-author Illinois' first culturally responsive teaching standards, creating a pathway for more inclusive classrooms across the state.
Jason serves as the Local School Council Chair and was recently reelected for a fourth LSC term at Moos Elementary, where his own sons are students.

Today, Jason serves as the Chief of People & Operations at Beyond100K, a national nonprofit tackling the STEM teacher shortage. Jason leads strategic planning and finance to create pathways for more diverse and inclusive classrooms. Through his work at Beyond100K, Jason has collaborated with educators and policymakers across the country to develop equity-driven strategies that impact hundreds of thousands of student each year.

Defending Our Communities
Jason is co-chair of the United Neighbors of the 26th Ward, an independent political organization advancing the priorities of poor and working class families in Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Belmont Cragin, Hermosa, and West Town.
Jason's has spent the last few years partnering with local organizations and progressive government officials to proactively defend the 26th Ward's neighborhoods from ICE and

increased violence against immigrant communities under the Trump administration. Using his experience as a nonprofit leader and “being in rooms where decisions get made,” Jason has advocated relentlessly for issues like affordable housing and providing CPS parents more tangible support and better-resourced schools.

Real change happens when neighbors talk to each other, which is why Jason actively works with a diverse range of community groups like Parent Mentors, youth leaders, and restorative justice practitioners to ensure that the community’s priorities directly shape the policies. Jason believes that true progress is achieved through co-governance and collective effort, where communities determine the future of their public schools — not billionaires and outside forces seeking to line their own pockets.