

APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TARKINGTON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Tarkington School of Excellence as a Renaissance Performance School located at 3330 W. 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools), the Tarkington School of Excellence ("TSE") will open in the fall of 2005 as a Performance School.

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing on the opening of Tarkington School of Excellence as a Renaissance Performance School was held on Wednesday January 19, 2005 in accordance with Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools) and the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree. The hearing was recorded. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In September 2004, the Department of New Schools issued a request for proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 initiative, including a request for proposals to operate at 3330 West 71st Street, the site of a new Tarkington school building that is currently under construction. Proposals to operate either a charter, contract or performance school were submitted to the Board on November 22, 2004. Proposals were evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools). Proposals were reviewed by the New Schools Development Department and the Tarkington Transition Advisory Council and recommendations were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer based upon those reviews and evaluations.

School Design Team: The proposal for the establishment of Tarkington School of Excellence proposal was submitted by A Partnership to Create Schools of Excellence, a non-profit organization founded by National-Louis University and the Academy for Urban School Leadership, which will assume responsibility for forming the Tarkington School of Excellence's initial governing board and supporting the creation of the school.

School Profile: TSE will open in the fall of 2005 serving approximately 810 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 7. In the following year, the school will add an 8th grade and may serve up to 1000 students. TSE students will come from the Marquette Park and West Lawn communities. The Department of Demographics and School Planning will establish school boundaries for this attendance center, subject to Board approval. TSE will be a neighborhood school with a particular focus on recruiting excellent teachers to establish learner-centered, friendly and safe environments for students and their families. A special feature of the school will be the use of many teachers who have graduated from the Academy of Urban School Leadership's mid-career teacher preparation program. TSE has established external partnerships with the Academy of Urban School Leadership and National-Louis University.

Governance: Initially, TSE will establish a transition governing board, as described in the TSE proposal, and thereafter a Local School Council will be established in a timely manner.

Performance Plan and Duration: The operation and performance of TSE will be in accordance a Performance Plan to be established pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools) within 120 days following of the approval of this Board Report. The President and the Secretary of the Board shall be authorized to approve and execute the Performance Plan and all ancillary documents necessary to effectuate the Performance Plan. At a minimum, the Performance Plan will address student academic outcomes and financial

and management practices of the school. TSE's designation as a Performance School under a Performance Plan will expire on June 30, 2010 unless renewed or terminated earlier by the Board.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the General Fund cost of 810 students in 2005-06 will be approximately \$4,110,750. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY05 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

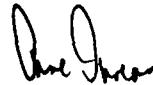
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a Performance School, TSE will employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those agreements.

Approved for Consideration:




Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:

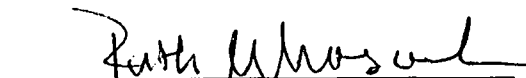


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: *MAC*


Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel *B*