

AMEND BOARD REPORT 02-0925-EX02
APPROVE CHARTER SCHOOL PROPOSAL
(MIRTA RAMIREZ COMPUTER SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL)

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School, with the approval being contingent upon the execution of a Charter School Agreement. The Agreement shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board of Education and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, funding, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations, and years of operation. Authorize the General Counsel to negotiate the Agreement and the President and Secretary to execute the Agreement. Authorize the Charter Schools Office to report the approval and denials to the Illinois State Board of Education. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and amend the Agreement in accordance with Illinois State Board of Education requirements.

This Board Report is necessary to amend the Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School Agreement to a) increase the enrollment cap and b) permit the school to add an additional campus. A written amendment to the Charter School Agreement is required. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written amendment is not executed by the Board and the Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School governing board within 120 days of the date of this Report. The amended agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School
2435 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647
Phone: (773) 252- 6662
Contact Person: MariBeth Welch 773-252-6662x35

OVERSIGHT: Charter Schools Office
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1535
Contact Person: Genita C. Robinson, Director

DESCRIPTION:

The Charter Schools Law, Public Act 89-450 (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq.), provides that up to 15 charter schools may be operated in the City of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are to be submitted to the Board of Education for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board of Education is to convene a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter School law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

The Board of Education received the Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School proposal in May, held a public meeting thereon on May 13, 2002, and takes the following action to approve the proposal, subject to the execution of a Charter School Agreement as set forth above. The President and Secretary of the board are authorized to execute a Charter School Agreement with the governing board of the proposed charter school, and the Board's approval of any proposal is contingent upon execution of such Agreements by the Board and the charter school's governing board.

The Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School proposal was submitted by Aspira of Illinois and is planned to open in the fall of 2003, serving 150 students in grade 9. In successive years, the school will add one grade level until it serves 450 students in grades 9 – 12. The school will be located at 2435 N. Western Ave. The Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School submitted a Renaissance 2010 proposal on November 22, 2004, to request an additional elementary school campus at 3729 W. Leland Avenue (Haugan Middle School) and increase their enrollment cap by 650 students for a maximum enrollment of 1100 students. The additional campus will open in the fall of 2005 with 600 students in grades 6-8. In successive years, this new campus will add additional students and grades not to exceed 650 students in grades 6-8. This proposal was reviewed for appropriateness specific to the community by the Haugan Transition Advisory Council (TAC). A public hearing, as required by statute, was held on January 6th, 2005. An additional public hearing was held at the Haugan Middle School on January 20, 2005.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Councils is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL:
The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2003-04 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY03 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of 600 students in 2005-06 will be approximately \$3,045,000. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on November 10, 2004.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Trustees has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflict – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board’s Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board’s Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

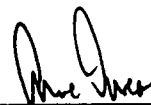
Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed to be contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved:



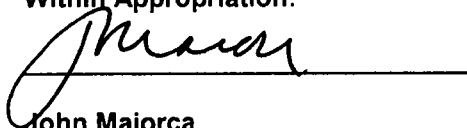
Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



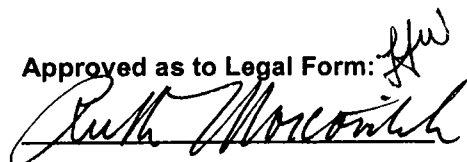
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Fiscal Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel