

APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MID-SOUTH SCHOLASTIC SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Mid-South Scholastic School as a Renaissance Performance School located at 3200 South Calumet Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616.

DESCRIPTION:

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

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing on the opening of Mid-South Scholastic School as a Renaissance Performance School was held on Wednesday January 20, 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 3200 South Calumet, the site of the former Douglas school. 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 Douglas 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 Mid-South Scholastic School was submitted by a group of educators from the current Pershing school. The leader of the proposal is Ms. Cheryl Watkins, currently the Assistant Principal at Pershing, who was designated in the proposal as the principal candidate for the Mid-South Scholastic School. Ms. Watkins and other members of the design team will assume responsibility for establishing the school.

School Profile: The Mid-South Scholastic School will open in the fall of 2005 serving approximately 150 to 180 students in grades 4 through 8. A majority of students are expected to come from the immediately surrounding community, although students from outside of the community will be able to attend if space is available. The Department of Demographics and School Planning and the New Schools Development Department will work with the Mid-South Scholastic School, the Douglas Transition Advisory Council and the community to develop an attendance plan for the school and, if necessary, submit that plan to the Board for approval. The Mid-South Scholastic Academy will be a community and student-centered elementary school with a curriculum based in the humanities, literature and writing.

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

Performance Plan and Duration: The operation and performance of the Mid-South Scholastic School will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools) within 120 days following 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. The Mid-South Scholastic

School'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 180 students in 2005-06 will be approximately \$913,000. 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.

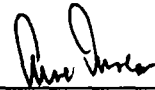
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a Performance School, the Mid-South Scholastic School will employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those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

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:


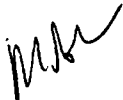


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:


Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel