

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE GREATER LAWNSDALE/LITTLE VILLAGE SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice at the Little Village Campus.

DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools), the Chief Executive Officer recommends to the Board that, upon the timely submission of a Performance Plan within ninety days following approval of this Board Report, the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice open in the fall of 2005 at the new Little Village Campus located at 3120 South Kostner Avenue as a Performance School. If no Performance Plan is submitted, the Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice open pursuant to Board Policy 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools).

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing on the opening of the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2004 in accordance with the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree. The hearing was transcribed. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Enrollment

Students at the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice will come from both the South and North Lawndale communities. The Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice will accept 100 students in the 2005-06 school year in grade 9, and will add one grade per year thereafter until the school reaches a 9 – 12 structure. Each grade after freshman year will enroll 84 students, with no more than 352 students total in grades 9 - 12. Little Village Multiplex campus boundaries will be regularly reviewed to effectuate these enrollment requirements.

Curriculum

The Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice will be a small high school which will prepare students for college and other post-secondary and/or educational career options. The curriculum will be focused on project and problem based assignments, as well as service learning, that address real world issues through the lenses of race, gender, culture, economic equity, peace, justice, and the environment. The school has established an external partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is looking to develop relationships with Teachers for Social Justice, Rethinking Schools, DePaul University Institute for Teacher Development and Research, the Little Village Community Development Center, and the Crib Collective.

Governance

An advisory governing body will be established in a timely manner pursuant to the guidelines and procedures laid out in Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools) or Board Report 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools Policy) and pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable

FINANCIAL: No cost to the Board at this time.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: None

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



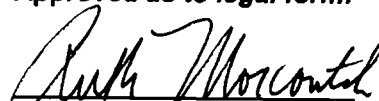
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel