

AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-1116-EX10
AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-0727-EX10
AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-0126-EX13
AMEND BOARD REPORT 02-0925-EX02
APPROVE CHARTER SCHOOL PROPOSAL
(ASPIRA 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 ASPIRA Charter School governing board within 120 days of the date of this amended Report. The amended agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

This amendment is necessary to authorize changing the name of the charter school from Mirta Ramirez Computer Science Charter School to ASPIRA Charter School, and to authorize the relocation of the original campus.

This November 2005 amendment is necessary to authorize ASPIRA Charter School to (a) establish a new campus in the fall of 2007 located at 3121 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60641 and (b) increase the enrollment cap by 400 students to 1500.

This November 2006 amendment is necessary to authorize ASPIRA Charter School to (a) establish two additional campuses to open in the fall of 2008 located at 1856 North LeClaire, Chicago, Illinois 60639 and 4101 West Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, Illinois 60632, (b) increase its enrollment cap by 1,200 students to 2,700 and (c) reflect the corporate address for the school operator, ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois, as 2415 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60647. The establishment of these additional campuses and the corresponding change to enrollment is contingent upon the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois. 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 within 120 days of the date of this amended Report. The amended agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

CHARTER SCHOOL: ASPIRA Charter School
 c/o ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois
~~2435 N. Western Avenue~~ 2415 North Milwaukee Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60647
 Phone: (773) 252-0970
 Contact Person: Jose Rodriguez

OVERSIGHT: ~~Charter Schools Office~~ Office of New Schools
 125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
 Chicago, IL 60603
 773-553-15350
 Contact Person: ~~Genita C. Robinson, Director~~, Beatriz Rendon, Executive Director

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law, (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq.), provides that up to 30 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 4131 W. Cortland Ave., Chicago, IL 60639. 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 and an additional public hearing was held at the Haugan Middle School on January 20, 2005. ASPIRA submitted a material modification proposal to change the name of its charter to the ASPIRA Charter School. It will operate two campuses, the Mirta Ramirez campus, which will move to 4131 W. Cortland, and the Haugan Middle School campus.

ASPIRA of Illinois Charter School submitted a Renaissance 2010 proposal on August 19 to request an additional campus to open in the fall of 2007 with 200 students in grades 9-12. In November, ASPIRA also submitted a material modification application for the new campus. In successive years, the new ASPIRA - Antonio Pantoja campus will add 200 additional students and, at full capacity, will serve 400 students. A public hearing, as required by statute, was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2005. An additional public hearing was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at Hermosa Community Organization, 1833 N. Kedvale. The cost of 400 students in 2006-07 will be approximately \$2,790,000. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on August 31, 2005. Upon approval, ASPIRA will have the authority to operate three campuses and to further increase the enrollment cap by 400 students to 1500 students.

On September 5, 2006, ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois submitted a Renaissance 2010 proposal to add two new campuses anticipated to open in the fall of 2008 and to increase its enrollment cap by 1,200 students to 2,700. The two new campuses will be located at 1856 North LeClaire, Chicago, Illinois 60639 and 4101 W. Ann Lurie, Chicago, Illinois 60632 and referred to respectively as ASPIRA Charter School – Rosa Parks Communications and Technology High School Campus and ASPIRA Charter School - ASPIRA Trade Technical High School Campus. Each campus is expected to open with approximately 300 students in grade 9 and 10 and at full capacity to serve approximately 600 students in grades 9 - 12. The cost of 600 additional students in 2008-09 will be approximately \$5,400,000. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on October 12, 2006. ASPIRA will operate a total of five campuses in 2008-09 and their enrollment cap for all five campuses will be 2,700 students. Public hearings on Renaissance 2010 charter school submissions submitted in 2006, as required by statute, were held on July 21, 2006 and October 18, 2006. Additional public hearings were held on November 6 and 7, 2006. The addition of these two campuses and corresponding increase in enrollment are contingent upon the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois upon the expiration of this renewal term ending June 30, 2008.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The proposed addition of campuses to open in 2008 described in this November 2006 amendment is contingent upon i) the renewal of the Charter School Agreement and ii) the ability of ASPIRA Charter School – Rosa Parks Communications and Technology High School Campus and ASPIRA Charter School – ASPIRA Trade Technical High School Campus to each meet benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools. These benchmarks were communicated to the ASPIRA Charter School team on November 13, 2006 with deadlines to meet by November 30, 2007. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines will be a consideration in the Board's review of the Charter's School's proposal to renew the

Charter Agreement to include these two additional campuses.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement and any amendments thereto, which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the ~~Director of Charter Schools~~ Executive Director of the Office of New Schools to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement and material modifications thereto to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to conduct a final review of this November 2006 amendment to add additional campuses and make a final determination on the granting of this amendment based on the terms referred to above.

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. The financial implications of ~~this~~ these material modifications will be addressed during the development of the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 fiscal year budgets.

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 ~~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)~~ June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), 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)~~ June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), 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:

Respectfully submitted:

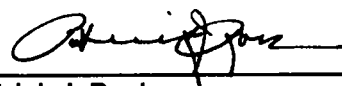

Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

Approved as to Legal Form 


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel