

November 15, 2006

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL ACADEMY****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Austin Polytechnical Academy as a Renaissance Performance School located at 231 North Pine, Chicago, IL 60644.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Austin Polytechnical Academy will open in the fall of 2007 as a Small School pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and also as a Performance School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 05-1026-PO2, as amended ("Renaissance Policy").

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of Austin Polytechnical Academy was held on November 6, 2006 at Austin High School, 231 North Pine, in accordance with the Renaissance Policy. The hearing was recorded. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In May 2006, the Office of New Schools issued a Request for Proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 Initiative. Proposals to operate either a charter, contract or performance school were submitted by interested parties on July 6, 2006, and supplemental application materials were submitted on September 5, 2006. Proposals were evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in the Renaissance Policy. Proposals were reviewed by the Office of New Schools and a Comprehensive Evaluation Team and recommendations were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer based upon those reviews and evaluations.

School Design Team: The proposal for the establishment for Austin Polytechnical Academy was submitted by the Austin Polytechnical Academy Design Team, comprised of CPS educators and individuals from the Center for Labor and Community Research. CPS will work with the design team in establishing the school.

School Profile: Austin Polytechnical Academy will open in the fall of 2007 serving approximately 145 students in grade 9. In subsequent years the school will add a 10th, 11th and 12th grade and will serve up to 560 students. Austin Polytechnical Academy shall be a neighborhood school with the majority of students expected to come from the Austin community. The Department of School Planning and the New Schools Development Department will work with Austin Polytechnical Academy and the Austin community to develop an attendance boundary plan for submission to the Board for approval. Austin Polytechnical Academy will provide a college and career prep curriculum focused on high-tech manufacturing, including production, engineering, sales, quality assurance, management and ownership. The school will utilize the *Project Lead the Way* sequence of courses combined with math & science courses with pre-engineering emphasis. Students will be eligible to receive industry certification credentials in metalworking, electronics, logistics and information processing. All students will be expected to earn at least two credentials. The program will emphasize experiential and inquiry-based learning that include direct methods in lab settings to experimental and long-term projects driven by individual student interest.

Governance: Initially, Austin Polytechnical Academy will establish a transitional governing body. Thereafter, a school governing body shall be appointed by the Board in a timely manner in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and the Board's guidelines on the establishment of appointed local school governing bodies.

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of Austin Polytechnical Academy will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant to the Renaissance Policy 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.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the General Fund cost of 145 students in 2007-08 will be approximately \$1,094,750. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY07 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.


PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a Performance School, Austin Polytechnical Academy 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:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:

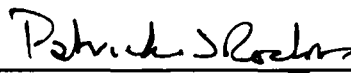


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel