

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE A SCHOOL  
ENVIRONMENT (VOISE) ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Virtual Opportunities Inside a School Environment ("VOISE") Academy High School as a Renaissance Performance High School located at 231 North Pine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60623.

**DESCRIPTION:**

School Designation: VOISE Academy High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008 as a Small School pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and also as a Performance High School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy").

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening on the opening of VOISE Academy High School was held on October 11, 2007 at Austin High School, 231 N. 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 April 2007, the Office of New Schools issued a Request for Proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 Initiative. Design Frameworks to operate either a charter, contract or performance school were submitted by interested parties on June 4, 2007. Supplemental proposal materials for approved design frameworks were submitted on August 6, 2007. 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 VOISE Academy High School was submitted by the VOISE Academy High School Design Team, comprised of senior CPS educators and administrators, as well as personnel from the CPS Office of Distance Learning. CPS will establish the school with the assistance of the VOISE Design Team.

School Profile: VOISE Academy High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008 serving approximately 150 students in grade 9. In subsequent years the school will add a 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and serve up to 600 students. The Department of School Planning and the Office of New Schools will work with VOISE Academy High School and the Austin community to develop an attendance boundary plan for submission to the Board for approval, if appropriate. VOISE Academy High School will be a hybrid model, featuring an online curriculum with full-time teachers in a traditional classroom setting. Students will be attending school and working in the classroom under the direct supervision of the teacher who is prescribing the courses, units, and assignments based upon their individual needs and paces, and thus student time online will vary depending on the student's ability. Teachers will know how students are progressing online at any point and can add remediation activities, enrichment, or accelerated work. VOISE will be based on best practices of student-centered online and traditional education paradigms, combined with a strong system of community support for its learning organization's stakeholders: instructors, administrators, students, parents, and community. The staff will meet all CPS educational and experience requirements as well as have distance learning expertise.

Advisory Body: Initially, VOISE Academy High School will establish a transitional advisory body. Thereafter, a school advisory body shall be appointed by the Board in a timely manner in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and the Board's Renaissance School Policy in the following manner: an appointed local school council will be established in accordance with the Board's policy on the governance of alternative and small schools, except when the Board expressly authorizes another method for involving parents, community members and school staff in activities of the school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4(b).

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of VOISE Academy High School will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant the Renaissance Policy and approval by the Board. 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 150 students in 2007-08 will be approximately \$942,600.00. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY08 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** As a Performance School, VOISE Academy High 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:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez  
Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully submitted:



Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 



Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel