

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND
ENTERING INTO A SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH CHICAGO
HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the establishment of the Chicago High School for the Arts, at a location to be determined, and approve entering into a School Management and Performance Agreement with the Chicago High School for the Arts, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, for the operation of the Chicago High School for the Arts. This approval is contingent upon the school operator meeting certain benchmarks established by the Office of New Schools as detailed below, any required public hearings and Board approval of the location of the school. A written School Management and Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written School Management and Performance Agreement is not executed by the Board and school operator within the time specified in an amended Board Report approving the site of the proposed school. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Chicago High School for the Arts
111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: (847) 441 - 6272
Contact Person: Lisa Moultire

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1530
Contact Person: Josh Edelman, Executive Officer

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Pursuant to the Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy"), Chicago High School for the Arts will open in the fall of 2009 as a Contract School as described in the Renaissance Policy. The Board hereby designates the Chicago High School for the Arts as an alternative school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of the Chicago High School for the Arts as a Renaissance Contract School was held on October 13, 2007 at the Teachers Academy for Math and Science, 501 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616 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. Proposals to operate either a charter, contract or performance school were submitted by interested parties to the Board 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.

Enrollment: The Chicago High School for the Arts will be a citywide school that will enroll students through a talent audition process to be approved by the Board. The Chicago High School for the Arts will enroll approximately 150 students in grade 9 for the 2009-10 school year. In subsequent years the school may serve up to 600 students in grades 9 through 12.

Attendance Boundaries: The Department of School Planning is directed to work with the Office of New Schools, the Chicago High School for the Arts and the community to develop an attendance boundary plan for submission to the Board for approval.

Curriculum: The Chicago High School for the Arts aims to provide Chicago high school students with an intensive pre-professional training program in the arts, combined with a comprehensive college preparatory academic curriculum. The pre-professional arts curriculum will offer students four majors: dance, theater, music, and visual arts, and the Chicago High School for the Arts will partner with Chicago's educational, art, cultural, and civic institutions to deliver unique and relevant opportunities for its students. The Chicago High School for the Arts will unify the arts and academic programs into a coherent educational model with a strong focus on post-secondary planning to prepare students for one of three post secondary pathways: 1) post-secondary arts education, 2) a professional career in the arts, and/or 3) college or university.

Advisory Body: A school advisory body will be established in a timely manner pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and the Board's Renaissance School Policy in the following manner: the CEO or his designee, in consultation with the Chicago High School of the Arts shall develop the composition and duties of the advisory body for approval by the Board. Such requirements shall be included in the agreement with the Chicago High School of the Arts. The members of the advisory body will be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the CEO or his designee.

School Management Description: At a minimum, the School Management and Performance Agreement will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school and shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the school operator including, but not limited to, site location, enrollment, funding, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. In accordance with the Board's Renaissance Policy, contract schools may request exemptions from Board Rules and Policies or alternative policies subject to and upon Board approval.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The granting of a contract by the Board and the entering into a School Management and Performance agreement is contingent upon any required subsequent public hearings, principal selection and Board approval of a site for the school. Approval of the contract school application is also contingent upon Board approval of a talent audition process and the school operator meeting benchmarks established by the Office of New Schools, including, but not limited to, those related to school leadership, curriculum development, attendance and audition policies, and site acquisition. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school operator with all deadlines to be met by October 30, 2008. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines, at the option of the Board, may result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the contract school application. A final review of the contract school application will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer on or before November 30, 2008. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above. The CEO's recommendation to approve the contract school application will be subject to Board approval as indicated by a subsequent amendment to this Board Report.

TERM: Upon final review of this contract school application and approval of the proposed site for the school, the term of the School Management and Performance Agreement shall commence July 1, 2009 and end June 30, 2014. Chicago High School for the Arts and Chicago High School for the Arts' designation as a Renaissance Contract School will expire on June 30, 2014 unless renewed or terminated earlier by the Board.

COMPENSATION: Chicago High School for the Arts will be paid on a per-pupil basis for the operation of the Chicago High School for the Arts.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the school operator, in the written School Management and Performance Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the School Management and Performance Agreement.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the general fund cost of 150 students in 2009-10 will be approximately \$1,179,150.00. 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 contract school, Chicago High School for the Arts will employ its own principal, teachers and staff.

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 Education 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.

Conflicts – 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 June 26, 2006 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

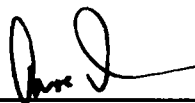
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



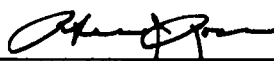
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form. 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel