

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AIR FORCE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Air Force Academy High School as a Renaissance Performance School contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Air Force Academy High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009 as an Alternative School pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and also as a Performance School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy"). A formal school name shall be assigned by the Board prior to September 1, 2009 in accordance with the procedures identified for the naming of the new schools identified in the Board's Policy on the Naming and Re-naming Schools (Board Report 03-0326-PO4).

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening on the opening of Air Force Academy High School was held on October 11, 2007 at the Carter G. Woodson Library, 952 S Halsted, Chicago, IL 60628 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 Air Force Academy High School was submitted by the CPS Military Area Office. The CPS Military Area Office will assume responsibility for establishing the school.

School Profile: Air Force Academy High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009 serving approximately 150 students in grade 9. In subsequent years the school will add a 10th, 11th, and 12th grade and serve up to 600 students. The Academy will select 30% of its students from the surrounding neighborhood, if sufficient demand exists, and 70% from the citywide CPS district. Prospective students will complete an application packet including teacher recommendations and an essay and will also participate in a candidate interview. The Department of School Planning and the Office of New Schools will work with the Air Force Academy High School and the community to develop an attendance plan for submission to the Board for approval. The Air Force Academy High School aims to employ a military structure to concentrate on academic achievement and individual responsibility. The Air Force Academy High School curriculum will be aligned with college readiness standards, incorporate the ROTC course of study, and advance a theme-based focus on aerospace science and engineering. The Air Force Academy High School seeks to prepare students to attend college by requiring four years of JROTC training, and incorporating a rigorous program of study based on EPAS college readiness standards and a robust Advanced Placement Program.

Advisory Body: Initially, the Air Force Academy High School will establish a transitional advisory body. Thereafter, a Military Academy Board of Governors shall be appointed by the Board in a timely manner in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and the Board's policy on the governance of alternative and small schools.

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of the Air Force Academy High School will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant the Renaissance Policy and approval of the Board. At a minimum, the Performance Plan will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The granting of the establishment of the school by the Board and the entering into an evaluation performance plan is contingent upon the ability of the school design team meeting benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including but not limited to, securing a facility, recruiting an Assistant Principal candidate, and formulating an infrastructure to meet the curriculum and leadership needs of the proposed school. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school design team 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 may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the performance school application. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee will file a report, approved by the General Counsel as to legal form, indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the performance school application and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The report will be filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before November 30, 2008. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the General Fund cost of 150 students in 2009-10 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, Air Force 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

Respectfully submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel