

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISNEY II ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Disney II Elementary School as a Renaissance Performance School contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

School Designation: Disney II Elementary School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008 as a Magnet School and a Performance School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy").

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of the Disney II Elementary School was held on October 15, 2007 at Disney Elementary, 4140 North Marine Drive, Chicago, IL 60613 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 Disney II Elementary School was submitted by the Disney II Design Team, comprised of the current principal of Walt Disney Magnet School, the LAUNCH principal intern at Disney Elementary, the Technology Coordinator and several teachers from Disney Elementary, as well as the Senior Executive Director of Chicago Leadership Academy for Supporting Success (CLASS). CPS will establish the school with the assistance of the design team.

School Profile: Disney II Elementary School is scheduled to open as a magnet school in the fall of 2008 serving approximately 190 students in grades preK through 2. In subsequent years the school will grow and serve up to 490 students in grades preK through 8. The Department of School Planning, the Office of New Schools and the Office of Academic Enhancement is directed to work with the Disney II Elementary School and community members to develop an attendance plan for submission to the Board for approval. Disney II Elementary School will offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum based on the proven, successful curriculum of the current Walt Disney Magnet School. The Disney II curriculum will utilize differentiated instruction and instructional strategies that effectively serve the needs of students at all levels, establishing a nurturing learning environment, integrating arts and technology pervasively, and modeling a disciplined, professional learning community that includes faculty, students, and community stakeholders. Disney II will prepare students to meet and exceed the Illinois Learning Standards in the four core areas of literacy, mathematics, science and social studies while emulating the current Disney Elementary School's successful integration of arts and technology to enliven and enrich the academic program.

Advisory Body: Initially, Disney II Elementary School will establish a transitional advisory body. Thereafter, a Local School Council will be established in a timely manner.

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of Disney II Elementary 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.

**CONTINGENT APPROVAL:** The establishment of this school by the Board and the entering into an evaluation performance plan is contingent upon the school design team meeting the benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools, including but not limited to accepting and preparing to open in the CPS facility that is offered to the Disney II design team. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school design team with all deadlines to be met by May 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 the 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 June 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 190 students in 2008-09 will be approximately \$766,050.00. 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, Disney II Elementary 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:



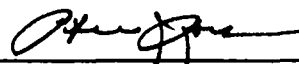
Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez  
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel