

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WEST CAREER ACADEMY AND ENTERING INTO A SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES WEST, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR ALTERNATIVE RENAISSANCE SCHOOL SERVICES**

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

Approve the establishment of the Community Services West Career Academy located at 1239 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623 and approve entering into a School Management and Performance Agreement with Community Services West, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, for the operation of Community Services West Career Academy. This approval is contingent upon final approval from the Board's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") as detailed below. The 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 Community Services West within 120 days of the date the CEO files a report with the Secretary of the Board approving the contract school application. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Community Services West  
1239 South Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: (773) 762-2272  
Contact: Myra Sampson

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Phone: (773) 553-1530  
Contact: Josh Edelman, Executive Officer

**DESCRIPTION:**

School Designation: Pursuant to the Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy"), Community Services West Career Academy will open in the fall of 2008 as a Contract School as described in the Renaissance Policy. The Board hereby designates the Community Services West Career Academy as an alternative school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of the Community Services West Career Academy as a Renaissance Contract School was held on October 11, 2007 at North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School, 1615 S. Christiana, Chicago, IL 60623 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: Community Services West Career Academy will enroll students in grades 11 and 12 through a lottery with preference given to residents in the West Garfield/North Lawndale/Austin communities. The school will serve youth 16 to 21 years of age who may be considered at-risk of academic failure. The program shall be designed to prepare students for graduation from high school and will act as a Career Preparatory Academy which provides a post-secondary path with special focus on the culinary arts. Community Services West will accept enrollment for up to 120 students in grades 11 and 12 in the 2008-2009 school year. In subsequent years, the school will grow to serve a capacity of 200 students in grades 11 and 12.

Attendance Boundaries: The Department of School Planning is directed to work with the Office of New Schools, Community Services West Career Academy and the West Garfield/North Lawndale/Austin communities to develop an attendance plan for submission to the Board for approval.

Curriculum: The Community Services West Career Academy is designed as a career preparatory school that will provide students who have completed culinary arts classes with food sanitation manager certifications. On-line and traditional classroom learning techniques will prepare and guide students through a technology driven world. Community Services West Career Academy will follow CPS high school graduation requirements. In addition to CPS required courses, the curriculum will focus on infusing rigorous academic skills with culinary arts, information technology, business, teamwork, internships, practicums, collaboration, creativity and innovation, as well as leadership, personal growth skills, and overall respect for others. Students will receive training in applications common in today's business environment including computerized cash registers, project management skills, and digital scales.

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 Community Services West 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 Community Services West Career Academy. 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, 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 alternate policies subject to and upon Board approval.

**CONTINGENT APPROVAL:** The award of a contract by the Board and entering into a School Management and Performance agreement is contingent upon the ability of the team of Community Services West to meet benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including, but not limited to, appointing a principal candidate, enhancing curriculum development and finalizing enrollment and recruitment procedures. These benchmarks were communicated to the school team on or before November 14, 2007 with all deadlines to be met by April 15, 2008. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines 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 is to be conducted by

the Chief Executive Officer. 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 contract 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 May 15, 2008. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

**TERM:** Upon final review of this contract school application and approval from the Chief Executive Officer, the term of the School Management and Performance Agreement shall commence September 1, 2008 and end August 31, 2013. Community Services West and Community Services West Career Academy's designation as a Renaissance Contract School will expire on August 31, 2013 unless renewed or terminated earlier by the Board.

**COMPENSATION:** The Community Services West will be paid on a per-pupil basis for the operation of the Community Services West Career Academy.

**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 written 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 120 students in 2008-09 (FY09) will be approximately \$943,320.00. 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, Community Services West 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-P03), 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 Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully submitted:**



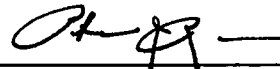
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel