

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-0126-EX15**  
**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UPLIFT COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the UPLIFT Community School as a Renaissance Performance School located at 900 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60640.

This amendment is necessary to update the School Profile to reflect the establishment of a Social Justice teacher training academy at UPLIFT Community School.

**DESCRIPTION:**

School Designation: Pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools), the UPLIFT Community School will open in the fall of 2005 as a Performance School. The Board hereby designates UPLIFT Community School as an alternative school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing on the opening of UPLIFT Community School as a Renaissance Performance School was held on Wednesday January 20, 2005 in accordance with Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools) and the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree. The hearing was recorded. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In September 2004, the Department of New Schools issued a request for proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 initiative, including a request for proposals to operate at 900 West Wilson Avenue, the current site of the Arai middle school. Proposals to operate either a charter, contract or performance school were submitted to the Board on November 22, 2004. Proposals were evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools). Proposals were reviewed by the New Schools Development Department and the Arai Transition Advisory Council and recommendations were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer based upon those reviews and evaluations.

School Design Team: The proposal for the establishment of UPLIFT Community School was submitted by a group of educators from the current Arai school as well as from other schools. The leader of the proposal is Ms. Stephanie Moore, currently a counselor at Nia Elementary School, who was designated in the proposal as the principal candidate for the UPLIFT Community School. Ms. Moore and other members of the design team will assume responsibility for establishing the school.

School Profile: The UPLIFT Community School will open in the fall of 2005 serving approximately 460 students in grades 6 through 9. The school will add a 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the following years. A majority of students are expected to come from the Uptown community, although students from outside of Uptown will be able to attend if space is available. The Department of Demographics and School Planning and the New Schools Development Department will work with the UPLIFT Community School, the Arai Transition Advisory Council and the Uptown community to develop an attendance plan for the school and, if necessary, submit that plan to the Board for approval. The UPLIFT Community School will foster cooperative educational relationships in the Uptown community as a method of developing critically thinking graduates who will succeed in their college endeavors. In September 2008, UPLIFT Community School will establish a Social Justice Teacher Training Academy in partnership with the University of Illinois – Chicago (UIC) to provide lesson plans, curriculum, instructional delivery strategies and related training to high school teachers throughout the District. The purpose of the Training Academy is to establish consistent Social Justice programming in CPS High Schools and provide the means to expand the number of CPS teachers providing social justice coursework in their Humanities curricula. In establishing the Training Academy at UPLIFT, the Office of High School Programs seeks to augment district initiatives to improve high school social studies instruction to develop students who are fully prepared to contribute in their communities as informed and politically active citizens.

Governance: ~~Initially, the UPLIFT Community School will establish a transition governing board, as described in the Uplift proposal, and thereafter a Local School Council will be established in a timely manner. An Appointed Local School Council will be established in a timely manner pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34 2.4b.~~

Performance Plan and Duration: The operation and performance of the UPLIFT Community School will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Policy to Establish Renaissance Schools) within 120 days following the approval of this Board Report. The President and the Secretary of the Board shall be authorized to approve and execute the Performance Plan and all ancillary documents necessary to effectuate the Performance Plan. At a minimum, the Performance Plan will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school. The UPLIFT Community School's designation as a Performance School under a Performance Plan will expire on June 30, 2010 unless renewed or terminated earlier by the Board.

**FINANCIAL:** Using current year financial data, the General Fund cost of 460 students in 2005-06 will be approximately \$2,334,500. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY05 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** As a Performance School, the UPLIFT Community 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:**



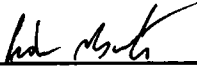
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully Submitted:**



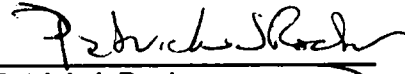
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel