

March 26, 2008

**DESIGNATE JOSHUA D. KERSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS A MAGNET SCHOOL, CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL FOCUS TO AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME AND CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO JOSHUA D. KERSHAW ELEMENTARY MAGNET SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve the designation of Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary School (unit # 54270), located at 6450 S. Lowe Avenue as a magnet school, change the school's educational focus to an International Baccalaureate Programme and change the school's name to Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary Magnet School effective July 1, 2008.

**DESCRIPTION:** Effective July 1, 2008, Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary School will be designated as a magnet school with an International Baccalaureate program as its educational focus. The school's name will be changed to *Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary Magnet School (Kershaw Magnet)*. Kershaw Magnet will serve students in grades K-8 in the magnet program. Kershaw Magnet will also have a Pre-Kindergarten program.

**Enrollment:** The 246 students currently attending Kershaw Elementary will be enrolled at Kershaw Magnet and will remain enrolled at the school until they graduate from the school or otherwise transfer from the school. The attendance boundaries of Kershaw Elementary will be eliminated at the end of the 2007-08 in accordance with Board Report 08-0123-EX5. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, Kershaw Magnet shall enroll incoming students based on a citywide application process. Kershaw Magnet can house approximately 525 students. A special magnet application process will be held in the spring 2008 to seek enrollment to fill up to 279 remaining spaces. If more applications are received than there are spaces available, students will be selected for the remaining spaces through a computerized lottery process, which will randomly select students to fill the spaces available at each grade.

**Curriculum:** Kershaw Magnet will provide its students with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP). The Primary Years Programme is an international, trans-disciplinary program designed for students between the ages of 5 and 12 years. The IB PYP fosters the development of the whole child, encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic welfare. The IB MYP, a continuation of the PYP, is designed for students between the ages of 11-16 years and offers an educational approach that embraces traditional school subjects and continues to incorporate an international and global perspective. The program helps students develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to become a caring, productive and responsible citizen in a global society. Kershaw is currently a candidate IB school and will participate in the process of becoming an authorized IB school. This process takes approximately three years.


**Academic Calendar:** At inception, Kershaw Magnet will follow Chicago Public Schools' standard 10-month academic calendar from August to June with a summer school program in July and August. Teachers may be required to commit to training and other activities outside of the academic calendar.

**School Day:** At inception, Kershaw Magnet will employ a closed campus model with a minimum teacher school day of 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Teachers will commit to after-school training and activities with students, staff and community. Students' standard school day will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. After-school programming will be established to provide tutoring, instructional activities, enrichment activities and/or social center activities to students.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** All existing teaching positions will be closed effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Educational support personnel positions will not be affected. New teaching positions programmed as International Baccalaureate teacher-in-training positions will be opened for the 2008-2009 school year and filled through the Board's job posting procedures. Teaching personnel who are laid off as a result of the position closings will receive benefits established for them in collective bargaining agreements, Board Rules and Board policies.

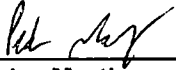
**FINANCIAL:** CPS has received a grant from the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$10,107,216.00 to support the establishment of five new magnet schools including Kershaw. Subject to the guidelines for establishing magnet schools, beginning in 2008, the Bureau of Student Transportation will need to establish bus routes for the new magnet school.

Approved for Consideration:



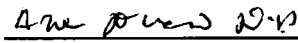
Barbara Eason-Watkins  
Barbara Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



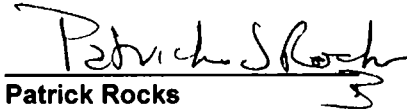
Pedro Martinez  
Pedro Martinez  
Chief Financial Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan  
Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Patrick Rocks  
Patrick Rocks  
General Counsel