

July 23, 2008

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 08-0326-EX5**  
**DESIGNATE OSCAR MAYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS A MAGNET SCHOOL WITH**  
**ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES, CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL FOCUS TO AN**  
**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME AND MONTESSORI PROGRAM AND CHANGE**  
**THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO OSCAR MAYER MAGNET SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board designate Oscar Mayer Elementary School (unit # 4680), located at 2250 N. Clifton, as a magnet school, change the school's educational focus to an International Baccalaureate Programme at the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and a Montessori program at the preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade level and change the school's name to Oscar Mayer Magnet School, effective July 1, 2008.

This July 2008 amendment is necessary in order for the Bureau of Student Transportation to provide transportation in the form of Chicago Transit Authority fare cards or travel reimbursements for parents and guardians of students who qualify for transportation under the magnet school policy.

**DESCRIPTION:** Effective July 1, 2008, Oscar Mayer Elementary School will be designated as a magnet school with a Montessori program and an International Baccalaureate program. The school's name will be changed to Oscar Mayer Magnet School (Oscar Mayer Magnet). The school will serve grades preK-5 in the Montessori program and grades 6-8 in the International Baccalaureate Programme.

**Enrollment:** Students currently attending Oscar Mayer Elementary School will be enrolled in Oscar Mayer Magnet and will remain enrolled at the school until they graduate or otherwise transfer from the school. Currently, 520 students are enrolled at the school. Oscar Mayer Magnet can house approximately 948 students. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, Oscar Mayer Magnet will enroll new students from its current attendance area and available remaining seats will be filled through the application process set in the Options for Knowledge guide. All students interested in attending Oscar Mayer (whether residing inside or outside the attendance area) will submit applications to the school to allow the school to anticipate personnel needs and provide needed training for teachers. A special application process will be held in the spring 2008.

In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the spaces available each year, applicants from outside of the school's attendance area shall be selected by a computerized lottery, which will randomly select students to fill the spaces available at each grade.

**Attendance Boundaries:** Mayer's current attendance boundaries will be maintained. Each year thereafter, a demographic assessment will be conducted to determine whether Oscar Mayer will maintain its designation as a magnet school with attendance boundaries or will be categorized as a magnet school with no attendance boundaries. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee shall submit a written report of this assessment to the Secretary of the Board on or before September 1st of each school year. This report will include an analysis of the school's compliance with the goals in the Second Amended Consent Decree in *United States v. Board of Education*, 80 C 5124.

**Curriculum:** The new Oscar Mayer Magnet School will offer a Montessori model of education beginning with the pre-primary level (preK-kindergarten). The program will begin with the pre-primary level and will phase in one grade level each year until the program is serving preK-5. The classrooms in this model of education are multi-age classrooms. The Montessori curriculum presents an integrated approach that unifies the separate branches of the curriculum into studies of the physical universe, the natural world and the human experience. Literature, mathematics, the arts, writing, history, social science, civics, economics, environmental studies, and the sciences all complement one another in the curriculum. Learning occurs in an inquiring, cooperative, nurturing atmosphere where students increase their own knowledge through self-initiated and teacher-initiated experiences. The criteria for teacher selection at Oscar Mayer Magnet School shall reflect the content of the new curriculum.

Oscar Mayer Magnet School will provide its students with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) at the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The IB MYP offers an educational approach that embraces traditional school subjects and incorporates an international and global perspective. The program helps students develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to become caring, productive and responsible citizens in a global society.

**Academic Calendar:** At inception, Oscar Mayer Magnet School 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, Oscar Mayer Magnet will employ a closed campus model with a minimum teacher school day of 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Teachers will commit to after-school training and activities with students, staff and community. Students' standard school day will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 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. New teaching positions programmed as Montessori teacher-in-training positions will be opened for the 2008-2009 school year even though the program will phase-in and such positions will be 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 Mayer. Subject to the guidelines for establishing a magnet school, beginning in 2008, the Bureau of Student Transportation will need to establish bus routes for the new magnet school. The Bureau of Student Transportation will provide transportation in the form of Chicago Transit Authority fare cards or travel reimbursements for parents and guardians of students who qualify for transportation under the magnet school policy.

Approved for Consideration:



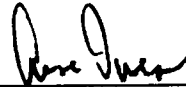
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



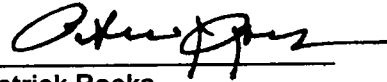
**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

Approved:



**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



**Patrick Rocks**  
General Counsel