

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
SOUTH SHORE FINE ARTS ACADEMY**

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

That the Board approve the establishment of the South Shore Fine Arts Academy ("SSFAA") as a Renaissance Performance School contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

School Designation: SSFAA is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009 as 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 SSFAA was held on October 8, 2008 at Sweet Holy Spirit Church, 8621 S. South Chicago, Chicago, IL 60617 and in the Board Chambers on October 15, 2008, respectively, in accordance with the Renaissance Policy. The October 15 hearing was recorded and a summary report of both of the hearings is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In April 2008, 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 school, contract school, or performance school were submitted by interested parties on June 2, 2008. Supplemental proposal materials for approved design frameworks were submitted on July 28, 2008. 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 SSFAA was submitted by the SSFAA Design Team, comprised of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Gifted Coordinator and Literacy Coach of the South Loop Elementary School and the Principal of SSFAA. CPS will establish the school with the assistance of the design team.

School Profile: SSFAA is scheduled to open as a performance school in the fall of 2009. SSFAA will be a vibrant and culturally rich Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade school of choice serving Chicago's broader South Shore community and the entire city with fine arts imbedded in its strong academic model. Serving 240 students in grades Pre-K through 2 and growing up to 584 students in grades Pre-K through 8. Students will receive art and music instruction regularly. Students will also benefit from a variety of fine and performing arts partnerships both during and after school through artist residencies and other grade level appropriate collaborations between artists and classroom teachers. Planned partnerships include: Art Resources in Teaching (A.R.T.), Lookingglass Theatre Company, Merit Music, The Art Institute of Chicago, and Reading in Motion (R.I.M).

All curriculums will include project-based learning, technology and arts integration. Differentiated instruction will allow students to work at a level that challenges their strengths and supports their weaknesses. The SSFAA educational program will include a standards-based curriculum that is focused on end of the year expected student learning outcomes; a professional environment marked by true teacher collaboration; and instruction that is guided and driven by data analysis collected from both formal and informal assessments that are administered throughout the year. SSFAA will incorporate current South Loop Elementary School practices, including a shared leadership model, a very high level of teacher administered academic interventions, and a culture of professionalism and high expectations that holds teachers publicly accountable for individual student and whole class achievement. Classroom teachers will participate in two additional hours of professional development per week in support of the standards based change process and differentiated instruction for a total of over seventy-seven additional hours of

professional development beyond traditional Chicago Public Schools. Once a site is identified, the process for enrollment or establishing any attendance boundaries will be presented to the Board for approval.

Advisory Body: Initially, the SSFAA 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 SSFAA 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 SSFAA design team. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school design team in a formal Memorandum of Conditions with all deadlines to be met by March 15, 2009. 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 April 15, 2009. 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 240 students in 2009-10 will be approximately \$1,425,360.00. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY09 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

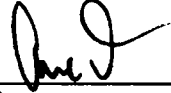
**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** As a Performance School, SSFAA will employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those agreements.

**Approved:**



**Barbara J. Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully submitted:**



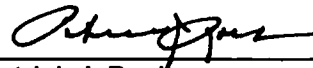
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel