

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SKINNER NORTH CLASSICAL SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the establishment of Skinner North Classical School ("Skinner North") at 1443 N. Ogden Avenue.

A public hearing was held on December 4, 2008, at Mark T. Skinner Elementary School ("Skinner"), located at 1443 N. Ogden Avenue, to discuss the proposed establishment of a new Classical School at this site.

DESCRIPTION:

Effective September 2009, Skinner North will open at 1443 N. Ogden Avenue. Skinner North will be a replication of the original Skinner school. Skinner North eventually will serve approximately 524 students in grades K-8. For the 2009-2010 school year, the Board authorizes the creation of at least two sections of kindergarten, two sections of first grade and one section each for the 2nd and 3rd grades. The Board further authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to carefully evaluate student demand for seats in the fourth through eighth grades and to open classrooms for as many of those grades as can be justified by student interest and expense. Skinner North will serve grades K-8 as soon as is practicable thereafter.

ENROLLMENT: The Skinner North shall enroll students based on the identification and selection requirements for all Classical Schools, as outlined in the Board's Policy on Magnet Schools and Programs (08-0227-PO2).

For the 2009-2010 school year only, students currently enrolled in Skinner will be given the choice of transferring to the new Skinner or remaining at Skinner. These students would not be required to participate in the application and testing process.

Per Board Report 08-1119-EX3, the Office of Academic Enhancement and the administration of Skinner conducted an informal parent survey of the parents and guardians of students currently enrolled in Skinner to determine the level of interest in attending the new Skinner North and to recommend to the Board a proposed grade structure for the new school.

For students applying for enrollment in the 2009-2010 school year, the Office of Academic Enhancement will amend its Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs (GEAP) application to include Skinner North as a choice. Parents applying for grades K-8 will be sent the amended application, providing them the opportunity to re-rank their order of preference. The amended application will be mailed to all parents who met the December 19th deadline for GEAP programs from the Office of Academic Enhancement and have a deadline of February 1, 2009. The Office of Academic Enhancement is committed to selecting students for Skinner North in accordance with the Board's Policy on Magnet Schools and Programs (08-0227-PO2).

All selections for Skinner North will comply with provisions of the Second Amended Consent Decree in United States v. Board of Education.

CURRICULUM: The Classical School curriculum at Skinner will be replicated at Skinner North. A curriculum plan currently used at Skinner will be shared with Skinner North faculty and administration. Skinner North will provide the same acceleration of one year above grade level in reading and math, and a foreign language component of Spanish and Mandarin. The curriculum will be designed to provide a challenging liberal arts course of instruction for students with high academic potential.

The current principal of Skinner, Mrs. Deborah Clark, has committed to participating in the selection process for the new principal of Skinner North, as well as serving as a mentor for the Skinner North principal and providing ongoing oversight and support in the areas of curriculum and instruction, facilities management and building infrastructure, professional development, staffing, budget, and school/community partnerships.

TRANSPORTATION: School bus transportation will be provided to students who live more than 1.5 miles from the school and who reside within the transportation range established for Skinner North Classical School by the Bureau of Student Transportation. Transportation options are subject to change as a result of amendment to the Board's Policy on Magnet Schools and Programs (08-0227-PO2).

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL: A Local School Council will be established in a timely matter.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Skinner North will employ CPS teachers and staff and is subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the will be Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those agreements.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Approved for Consideration:



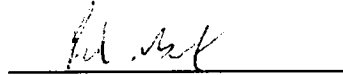
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



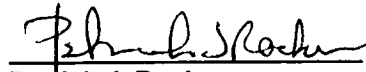
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: *HA*



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

