

AMEND BOARD REPORT 08-1022-EX20
APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF ALCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS TO BE KNOWN AS
ALCOTT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR THE HUMANITIES

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

That the Board approve the high school grade expansion of the Alcott Elementary School with the establishment of a high school campus to be known as Alcott High School Program for the Humanities ("AHSPH") and as a Renaissance Performance School-contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

This March 2009 Board report amendment is necessary to (a) identify that AHSPH will be located at 2957 North Hoyne Avenue, (b) establish a performance school overlay attendance boundary and (c) update the first year enrollment for AHSPH.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: AHSPH is scheduled to open at 2957 North Hoyne Avenue in the fall of 2009 as an expansion to the Alcott Elementary School as a Performance School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy"). This site will require that AHSPH share its facility with Schneider Elementary School. The two schools will share their facility in accordance with the Board's Shared Facility Policy, 05-0126-PO1.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of AHSPH as an expansion to Alcott Elementary School was held on October 8, 2008 at the Alcott Elementary School, 2625 N. Orchard, Chicago, IL 60614 and October 15, 2008 at the Board Chambers, respectively, in accordance with the Renaissance Policy. The October 15, 2008 hearing was recorded. A summary report of both hearings is available for review. A public hearing for AHSPH was held on March 17, 2009, at Schneider Elementary School, located at 2957 North Hoyne Ave. The hearing was recorded and a summary report 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 campus, 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 of AHSPH was submitted by the Alcott High School for the Humanities design team comprised of the principal, teachers and parents of Alcott Elementary School.

School Profile: AHSPH is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009 serving approximately 150 no more than 85 students in grade 9. In subsequent years the school will add grades 10, 11, and 12 serving up to 600 students at capacity. Alcott Elementary School 8th graders may transition to the AHSPH as 9th graders and once a site is identified the process for the enrollment of additional students and the establishing of any attendance boundaries will be presented to the Board for approval. AHSPH will offer the substantive content of a Liberal Arts education with rigorous emphasis on writing and oral defense of work, embedded in a Humanities curriculum. Through the AHSPH curriculum, students will explore the core disciplines using methods that are largely analytic, critical, or speculative, and become acquainted with the unique perspectives of each, developing four key capacities: understanding the purpose of disciplinary expertise; understanding an essential knowledge base; understanding inquiry methods; understanding forms of communication.

Attendance Boundary: Effective March 25, 2009, a performance school overlay boundary for AHSPH will be established as described below:

Beginning at Western Avenue and Belmont Avenue
East to Lake Michigan
Southeast to North Avenue
Continuing west to Western Avenue
North to Starting Point

Under the Board's Enrollment and Transfer Policy (08-0827-PO2), students currently enrolled in Alcott's eighth grade are entitled to enroll in its ninth grade class and continue until high school graduation. A lottery will be held to select students residing in the performance school overlay boundary for 50% of the remaining seats, and then all remaining applicants (from within and outside of the performance school overlay boundary) will be selected through a second lottery.

Governance: The Alcott Elementary School Local School Council will continue and may be modified at a later date in order to allow for high school student representation.

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of the AHSPH will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant the Renaissance Policy and approval of the Board. At a minimum, the Performance Plan will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The granting of the expansion of the school by the Board and the entering into an evaluation performance plan is contingent upon the ability of the school design team to meet benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including but not limited to: (1) working with ONS to secure a facility and, (2) development of a comprehensive plan supporting the social and emotional learning of all students. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school design team in a formal Memo 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 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 ~~450~~ 85 students in 2009-10 will be approximately ~~\$1,158,600.00~~ 631,040.00. 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, AHSPH 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:



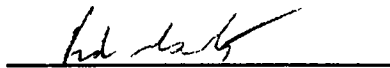
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:




Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel 