

APPROVE ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES TO CREATE THE GROWING SCHOOL GARDENS COLLABORATIVE RELATING TO THE GROWING SCHOOL GARDENS INITIATIVE

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the various agencies to create the Growing School Gardens Collaborative ("Collaborative") to support and implement the Growing School Gardens Initiative. The MOU will establish the Collaborative's governance structure and operating procedures, and establish roles and responsibilities among the members of the Collaborative. There will be no cost or financial obligation on the part of the Board as a member of the Collaborative, or any commitment with respect to Board property, without prior Board approval and an amendment to this Board Report. The Growing School Gardens Initiative will raise funds and implement programs to provide Chicago Public Schools students with opportunities to interact with gardens and learning landscapes that enhance school curricula. A written agreement is currently being negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written agreement is not executed within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

AGENCIES: See attached list.

USER: CPS Department of Facilities
125 S Clark, 17th Floor
Suzanne Carlson
773-553-1482

GROWING SCHOOL GARDENS INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION: The Growing School Gardens vision is that every Chicago Public School student will have opportunities to interact with school gardens and learning landscapes that enhance school curricula. To realize that vision, the members of the Collaborative will work to establish school gardens and learning landscapes that are integrated into the curricula and culture of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) through a sustainable and collaborative program, Growing School Gardens (GSG).

The goals of the GSG Collaborative are to:

- Increase student achievement through outdoor learning
- Prepare youth to be "eco-literate" citizens and stewards of the environment
- Promote physical activity
- Facilitate staffing support and professional development of teachers in order to fully integrate school gardens and learning landscapes with school curricula and culture
- Establish long term sustainability and funding for the GSG program
- Increase green infrastructure in the City of Chicago through school gardens and learning landscapes

TERM: The term of this agreement shall commence on the date the agreement is signed and shall end 60 months thereafter. This agreement shall have unlimited options to renew for periods of one year each.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES:

The Growing School Gardens Collaborative will be made up of representatives from the City of Chicago Department of Environment, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District, Chicago Community Trust, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Botanic Garden, Openlands, National Wildlife Federation, University of Illinois Extension, and Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance.

Each of these agencies will appoint one member to the Steering Committee. From time to time, and at the sole discretion of the Steering Committee members, additional members showing an ongoing commitment to the mission of the Collaborative may be appointed to serve in the Steering Committee. In addition, the City of Chicago Mayor's Office will appoint one non-voting member to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will have governance responsibilities related to mission, internal rules, program guidelines, grant making and implementation, annual budget, staffing, and communications.

The Steering Committee will strive to make decisions by consensus of all members. Voting privileges will be limited to one vote per agency, but additional agency representatives can attend Steering Committee meetings. Neither the Collaborative nor any member of the Collaborative will have the authority to commit any funding, property, or other resources of the Board without the prior approval of the Board and an amendment to this Board Report.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include other relevant terms and conditions in the written agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the agreement. Authorize the Chief Facilities Officer to execute all ancillary documents required to administer or effectuate this agreement.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Exempt

LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: There is no cost or financial obligation on the part of the Board. Any such commitment shall require prior Board approval.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:


Patricia L. Taylor
Chief Facilities Officer

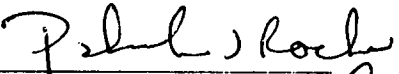

Approved:


Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form. 


Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel 

LIST OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The Growing School Gardens Collaborative will be made up of representatives from:

City of Chicago Department of Environment
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Park District
Chicago Community Trust
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago Botanic Garden
Openlands
National Wildlife Federation
University of Illinois Extension
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance.