

**CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AND CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO
CASIMIR PULASKI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board approve the change of educational focus of Casimir Pulaski Elementary Fine Arts Academy, located at 2230 West McLean Avenue, from a fine and performing arts magnet cluster program to the International Baccalaureate Primary and Middle Years Programmes, as well as change the school's name to Pulaski International Academy Elementary School.

A Notice of a Preliminary Recommendation was held on August 4, 2009, at the Casimir Pulaski Elementary Fine Arts Academy, and a Public Hearing was held on August 21, 2009, at 125 South Clark Street, discussing the proposed recommendations.

This approval is necessary to establish a change of educational focus that will offer two rigorous and accelerated International Baccalaureate Programmes that will eventually serve all students in grades K-8.

DESCRIPTION: Effective July 1, 2010, the newly named Casimir Pulaski International Academy Elementary School (Pulaski International) will offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) as its educational focus for grades K-3, expanding the program to grade 4 in 2011-2012 and grade 5 in 2012-2013. Pulaski International will implement the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) in school year 2013-2014 for grade 6, expanding to grade 7 in 2014-2015 and grade 8 in 2015-2016. The fine and performing arts magnet cluster program and one corresponding position will remain in place until the first implementation year of the MYP (2013-2014). The school will also have a Pre-Kindergarten program.

The Regional Gifted Center for English Language Learners, which serves grades K-8, will remain housed at this location as currently structured, serving a citywide population.

Enrollment: Pulaski International will continue to enroll students who live within its attendance boundary, and fill remaining spaces through a citywide application and lottery process. In the event that the number of eligible applicants exceeds the school's enrollment capacity, applicants will be randomly selected through a computerized lottery.

Curriculum: Pulaski International will provide its students with an international education beginning at the kindergarten level. The school will offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) at grades K-5 and the Middle Years Programme (MYP) at grades 6-8. Both the IB PYP and MYP provide students with academically challenging and balanced programs of education that require study across a broad range of subjects, and give special emphasis to learning languages. These programs will equip students with the skills to learn and acquire knowledge, individually or collaboratively, and to apply these skills and knowledge accordingly across all subject areas.

The school will also incorporate an environmentally focused "green" concept, through which the environment will be used as an integrating context for learning across all subject areas. Students will engage in inquiry-based units focusing on building global awareness as related to waste minimization, energy conservation, and ecological literacy.

Academic Calendar: At inception, Pulaski International will follow the Chicago Public Schools' standard 10-month academic calendar from August to June with a summer school program in July and August. Teachers and educational support personnel may be required to commit to training and other activities outside of the academic calendar.

School Day: At inception, Pulaski International will employ a closed campus model with a minimum teacher school day of 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Teachers and educational support personnel may be required to commit to after-school training and activities with students, staff and community. Teachers and educational support personnel may also be required to commit to training outside of the school year. Students' standard school day will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Pulaski International will be staffed in accordance with Board staffing formulas for all positions. Neighborhood Program teacher positions (i.e., excluding positions in the Regional Gifted Center for English Language Learners (RGC-ELL) Program) at grades K, 1, 2, and 3 will be closed and new teacher position programmed as International Baccalaureate teacher-in-training positions will be opened for the 2010-2011 school year and filled through the Board's job posting procedures. Neighborhood Program classroom educational support personnel positions will be closed and new classroom educational support personnel programmed as International Baccalaureate educational-support-personnel-in-training positions will be opened for the 2010-2011 school year and filled through the Board's job posting procedures. For the 2011-2012 school year, the remaining Neighborhood Program teacher positions, except any pre-kindergarten or counselor position(s), will be closed and new teacher positions, programmed as International Baccalaureate teacher-in-training positions, will be opened and filled through the Board's job posting procedures. The new Neighborhood Program teacher-in-training and educational-support-personnel-in-training positions will require unique skills, abilities, proficiencies, experience, and qualifications and the applicant's pre-offer voluntary commitment to on-going training and professional development. RGC-ELL teacher positions will not be affected by this action in either the 2010-2011 or the 2011-2012 school years.

FINANCIAL: An increase to the Office of Academic Enhancement budget of \$58,820 from the Office of Management and Budget is necessary to fund approved IB training for school staff, administration and fees associated with authorization. Current Office of Academic Enhancement-funded teacher positions will be updated to be utilized as an IB Coordinator and a world language instructor starting fall 2012.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



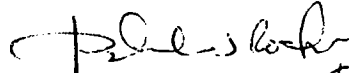
Christina Herzog
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Approved:



Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form:



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel

