

February 26, 2014

APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH CHICAGO TECH ACADEMY (F/K/A CENTER FOR POLYTECHNICAL EDUCATION, INC.), AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the School Management and Performance Agreement with Chicago Tech Academy (f/k/a Center for Polytechnical Education, Inc.), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, for the operation of Chicago Technology Academy High School on a contingent basis. If approved, the School Management and Performance Agreement with Chicago Tech Academy will be renewed for an additional one-year period. Approval will be contingent as detailed below. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written School Management and Performance Agreement is not executed by the Board and the school operator within the time specified in an amended Board Report granting full approval of the contract renewal proposal. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Chicago Tech Academy (f/k/a Center for Polytechnical Education, Inc.)
3411 W. Diversey, Suite 10
Chicago, Illinois 60647
Phone: (773) 278-5418, ext. 15
Contact Person: Todd Thibodeau, President

CONTRACT SCHOOL: Chicago Technology Academy High School
1301 W. 14th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: (773) 534-7755
Contact Person: Matthew Hancock, Executive Director

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
125 S. Clark, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(773) 553-1530
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original School Management and Performance Agreement (08-1022-EX15) was for a term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2014 and authorized the operation of a contract school serving no more than 600 students in grades 9 through 12. The School Management and Performance Agreement was subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 09-0325-EX6: Approved the location of the contract school to the independent facility at 1301 W. 14th Street.
- Board Report 11-0928-EX3: Approved the change of the name of the contract school from the Chicago Academy for Advanced Technology to the Chicago Technology Academy High School.

CONTRACT RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Chicago Tech Academy submitted a renewal proposal on September 3, 2013, to continue the operation of Chicago Technology Academy High School (Chicago Tech). The contract school currently serves grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 600 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the contract school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to academic, financial and operational performance.

CONTRACT EVALUATION: After receiving the contract renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools within the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Chicago Tech's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial analysis, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on February 19, 2014 for all schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Chicago Tech. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as successful completion of the contingencies included below, Chicago Tech be authorized to continue operating as a contract school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of the School Management and Performance Agreement is being extended for a one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2015.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: Final approval of this renewal proposal is contingent upon Chicago Tech Academy submitting responses regarding improvement of the board's capacity to oversee and deliver a high quality academic program including, but not limited to: expanding the board's membership to increase academic expertise and identifying an educational management organization (EMO) with a proven track record of driving student academic achievement with similar student populations by May 7, 2014. The specifics regarding these contingencies and the requested submission will be communicated by the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to Chicago Tech Academy in a formal Letter of Conditions. The Board hereby directs the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to monitor the deadlines set forth in the Letter of Conditions, oversee the evaluation of the submission by Chicago Tech Academy, and provide a written report regarding compliance with the Letter of Conditions to the Board by May 15, 2014. Thereafter, this will be re-presented to the Board for a determination regarding whether the contingencies have been satisfied. Failure to meet these contingencies according to the terms set forth in the Letter of Conditions may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Additional terms and conditions which are included as an attachment to the School Management and Performance Agreement with Chicago Tech Academy are as follows:

- By August 1, 2014, the Contract School must submit to the Office of Innovation & Incubation a strategic academic improvement plan, with clear and measurable milestones and end of school year 2014-2015 outcomes.
- Quarterly, the Contract School's Academic Excellence Committee must convene meetings to evaluate progress against its strategic academic improvement plan. No later than ten (10) business days after each meeting, the Contract School must submit to the Office of Innovation & Incubation a copy of the minutes and additional documentation including, but not limited to, a quantitative review of student performance aligned with strategic academic goals, and a qualitative review of student performance with the management organization and school leadership.

COMPENSATION: Chicago Tech Academy will continue to be paid on a per-pupil basis for the operation of Chicago Tech.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the school operator, in the written School Management and Performance Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written School Management and Performance Agreement.

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

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY14 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a contract school, Chicago Tech Academy will continue to employ its own principal, teachers and staff.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

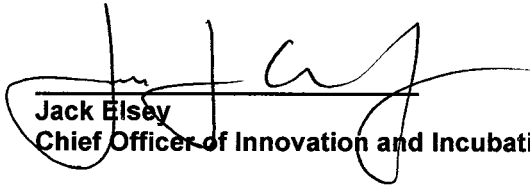
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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 May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:



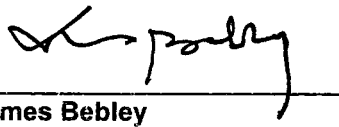
Jack Elsey
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Approved:



Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



James Bebley
General Counsel