

June 25, 2014

**AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EXCEL ACADEMY SOUTHWEST AND ENTERING INTO
A SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH
CAMELOT ALT ED-ILLINOIS, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize the establishment of Excel Academy Southwest at 8301 South Damen Avenue, and approve entering into a School Management and Performance Agreement with Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, for the operation of Excel Academy Southwest. A written School Management and Performance Agreement is currently being negotiated. 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 120 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC
7500 Rialto Blvd
Building 1, Suite 260
Austin, TX 78735
Phone: (512) 858-9900
Contact Person: Joseph Carter

CONTRACT SCHOOL: Excel Academy Southwest
8301 S. Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60620
Phone: (512) 858-9900
Contact Person: Joseph Carter

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

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-1.1, 105 ILCS 5/34-18(30) and the contingent authority granted by the Board on June 26, 2013 in Board Report 13-0626-EX3, Excel Academy Southwest will open in the fall of 2014 as a Contract School located at 8301 S. Damen Avenue. The Board hereby designates the Excel Academy Southwest as a Contract School pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of the Excel Academy Southwest as a Contract School at 8301 S. Damen Avenue was held on June 16, 2014 in the Board Chambers. The hearing was recorded and a summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In January 2013, the CEO made available the Request for Proposals for Alternative Options ("RFP") to solicit responses from parties interested in starting or expanding schools or programs to serve out-of-school youth or students at-risk of academic failure. The Excel Academy Southwest proposal was submitted by Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC in response to that RFP. The proposal was evaluated using the criteria pursuant to the Framework for Evaluation set forth in the RFP and on June 26, 2013, the Board provided contingent approval of the proposal (Board Report 13-0626-EX3) upon the school operator meeting the benchmark identified by the Office of Innovation and Incubation which was the identification of a school site. The CEO determined that Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC met that contingency.

Enrollment: Excel Academy Southwest will be a citywide school that will enroll students in grades 9-12 who are having challenges in the normal school setting or who may have dropped out of school or are at-risk of dropping out. Students will be admitted on an ongoing basis provided that seats are available. If there are more applicants than seats available, applicants will be placed on a waiting list and a random student admissions lottery will be conducted on a quarterly basis. Excel Academy Southwest will accept enrollment for up to 375 students who will be recruited by the school for placement with the assent of the Office of Innovation and Incubation.

Curriculum: Excel Academy Southwest will provide an alternative education program focused on youth who are at-risk or have dropped out of a traditional school. The program shall be designed to prepare students for graduation from high school and provide a post-secondary path. Excel Academy Southwest will issue diplomas to students who successfully complete the program in accordance with state and CPS requirements.

Advisory Body: A school advisory body will be established in a timely manner pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b in the following manner: the CEO or her designee in consultation with Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC shall develop the composition and duties of the advisory body for approval by the Board. Such requirements shall be included in the agreement with Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC. The members of the advisory body will be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the CEO or her designee.

School Management Description: At a minimum, the School Management and Performance Agreement will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school and shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the school operator including, but not limited to, enrollment, funding, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. In accordance with Board policy, contract schools may request exemptions from Board Rules and Policies or alternative policies subject to and upon Board approval.

Term: The term of the School Management and Performance Agreement shall commence July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2019. Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC and the Excel Academy Southwest's designation as a Contract School will expire on June 30, 2019 unless renewed or terminated earlier by the Board.

COMPENSATION: Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC will be paid on a per-pupil basis for the operation of the Excel Academy Southwest.

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. Authorize the Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer to execute any documents related to the disbursement of the one-time incubation and startup funds for the Excel Academy Southwest.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

INCUBATION: Upon the final approval of this contract school proposal and the submission of an Incubation Budget Plan by Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC, the Board will disburse an amount not to exceed \$160,000 in incubation funding for the Excel Academy Southwest. The use of the funding will be outlined by the Office of Innovation and Incubation.

STARTUP FUNDING: Upon the execution of the School Management and Performance Agreement with Camelot Alt Ed-Illinois, LLC, the Board will disburse an amount not to exceed \$636,079 in startup funding for Excel Academy Southwest. The use of the funding will be outlined by the Office of Innovation and Incubation.

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, Excel Academy Southwest will 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, 2006 (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:




Jack Elsey
Chief Officer, Innovation and Incubation

Approved:



Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



James Bebley
General Counsel