



2014 Charter School Proposals

Meeting of the Board of Education
January 22, 2014

2013 Request for Proposals Process



- The charter school RFP process is an annual process that CPS has followed for over a decade, fulfilling CPS' obligation under state law to consider charter proposals on an annual basis.
- The Board of Education is legally obligated to vote within 75 days of receiving a complete proposal.
- CPS sought high quality charter schools that aim to serve communities with over-crowded school populations on the NW and SW sides of the city.
- However, we are legally required by law to accept all applications submitted, regardless of location or focus and CPS remains committed to helping increase access to high-quality school options across the city

2013 Request for Proposals Process



- This year's process sought to accomplish two goals:
 1. Only approve high quality schools
 2. Engage community in a more meaningful, authentic way
- Applications were evaluated across 4 broad categories:
 1. Parent and Community Engagement
 2. Academic Capacity
 3. Operational Capacity
 4. Economic Soundness
- Embedded across all areas we required schools to demonstrate competency and high levels of quality.
- Proposals were evaluated through two concurrent processes, each led by different groups:
 1. the Comprehensive Evaluation Teams, or CETs, were comprised of industry experts from external groups to CPS as well as subject-area experts within CPS.
 2. In priority communities, proposals were also reviewed by Neighborhood Advisory Councils, or NACs. These were comprised of parent and community volunteers from 3 priority areas.

Results of the Process



- CPS considered 9 proposals for 22 campuses
 - 4 campuses were voluntarily withdrawn from the process
 - 5 campuses were requested in priority communities or overcrowded areas
 - 9 campuses were requested in areas of the city where there is currently adequate capacity
 - 4 campus requests did not specify a location
- Today we ask that the Board consider the following:
 - 11 campuses for denial
 - 7 campuses for approval
 - 2 Campuses for full approval
 - 5 campuses for approval with conditions

2013 Applicants: What They Bring



Those organizations who are being submitted for approval collectively bring some exciting features to CPS and the Chicago education landscape. They include:

- More innovative school models, including STEM, personalized/blended learning and other new instructional methods
- Proven success in managing high quality teacher and school leader talent,
- Leaders emerging from nationally-recognized training programs,
- Deep community involvement and boards who represent respected citizens and leaders taking a vested interest in their community's education.

Consideration for 2014 Approval – Great Lakes Academy (1 Campus)



- The school leader has a track record of driving student achievement at schools with similar student populations
- The proposed school leader has completed the prestigious and highly competitive Building Excellent Schools fellowship. As part of this program, she studied 45 high-performing charter schools that work to great success with similar low-income, minority populations in major US cities.
- The founding Board has a high degree of expertise across a wide range of areas critical to opening and managing a high quality school and reflects a diversity of social, gender, age, and economic backgrounds.
- The applicant submitted 1,500 signatures from community members in support of the school, which the applicant secured from hosting several community forum-style events; nine “Stop and Chats,” during which members of the Design Team stood outside of local grocery stores, coffee shops, and dollar stores to have one-on-one conversations with residents; and five larger, more formal Sneakers on the Street canvassing events.
- The applicant secured 120 Intent-to-Enroll forms from age-eligible students for 128 available K-1 spots in Year 1 of operation. The Design Team visited more than 20 daycare centers in the South Shore area to forge early partnerships with parents of young students on behalf of Great Lakes Academy.
- The proposal includes a fiscally sound budget and illustrates the due diligence conducted to secure an appropriate facility.

Consideration for 2014 Approval – Noble Street (2 Campuses)



- The Noble Network of schools has a demonstrated track record of academic success with Chicago Public School students, as evidenced by the fact that Noble Street met Chicago Public Schools' academic replication criteria. The average ACT score across the Noble Network is 20.5.
- Of the 10 high school campuses that have enough data for an academic performance policy rating, 6 are currently rated Level 1; 4 are rated Level 2.
- The Noble Network has a clear and effective human capital strategy to attract and retain high quality school leaders and teachers, which will support its planned growth and expansion.
- The Network has maintained financial soundness and sustainability throughout its history and has met or exceeded its ambitious fundraising goals. The network recently successfully completed a \$30 million fundraising campaign, demonstrating the ability of the Network to secure funds necessary for its growth plans.
- The Network has also demonstrated an ability to sustain its operations without the need for philanthropic revenue sources when it fully reaches its identified growth plan.
- Noble Street employs a sophisticated data management system to track a multitude of data points on student performance and progress.

Exeter Campus Conditions:

- Noble Street will need to submit additional information regarding parent and community engagement, the proposed educational plan, school leadership, and identify a viable facility for the Exeter campus

Consideration for 2014 Approval – Noble Street (2 Campuses)



ITW Campus

- The Noble Network secured a commitment from Illinois Tool Works to fund three quarters of the total projected acquisition and construction cost of \$20 million for the proposed facility; the remainder will be covered by other private revenues secured by the Network.
- The ITW Campus received letters of support from State Representative Soto (4th District), Alderman Mitts (37th Ward), and Lori Vallelunga, President and CEO of Bethel New Life.
- NAC Recommendation - Approval

Noble Exeter

- Noble Exeter, one of two Noble campuses submitted for recommendation, will draw on the innovative academic instruction offered at New England's prestigious Philip Exeter Academy.
- Exeter is known for pioneering a unique style of teaching called the Harkness Method, distinguished by a conversational approach in which students sit around a table respectfully discussing, challenging and educating each other.
 - The teacher acts as a guide to the conversation but the conversation is led by the students themselves.
 - The Harkness Method has a proven track record of strengthening critical thinking skills and academic understanding fully preparing students for collegiate and professional success.
 - It will complement the rigorous academic program already implemented at Noble campuses while providing a new avenue for student growth and exploration.

Consideration for 2014 Approval – Concepts (2 Campuses)



- Concepts' Chicago Math and Science Academy, an existing Chicago Public Schools' charter school, is rated as a Level 1 school and meets the district's replication criteria.
- The mission of the school is to provide students with a college preparatory curriculum that focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- The proposed schools will offer a robust system of engaging parents that includes a parent involvement report card and student-led parent-teacher conferences. The schools plans to provide a substantial amount of data to parents online, such as daily homework assignments, grades, attendance, and other information.
- The schools will have an extended school day and year – 185 total days and a 7-hour school day.
- NAC Recommendation - Denial
- *Conditions:*
 - Concept Schools must submit viable facility plans for both charter schools, identify principals with proven track records driving student achievement with similar student populations for each charter school, and provide additional information on partnerships in Chicago Lawn.

Consideration for 2014 Approval – Concepts (2 Campuses)



Chicago Lawn Specific

- The applicant submitted 2,031 signed petitions in support of HAS-Chicago Lawn, along with 34 letters from parents in support of opening Horizon Science Academy in Chicago Lawn and 6 letters of support from local politicians, organizations, and corporations.
- Chicago Lawn received letters of support from State Senator Munoz (1st District), Alderman Thompson (16th Ward), Nick Kollias (commercial Director of the Greater Southwest Development Corporation), Jose Alejandro Garcia (Commission of Special Service Area 59), and Hector Rico (Executive Director of the Latino Organization of the Southwest).

Chatham

- The proposed school will be part of the Legacy Project, a multi-million dollar redevelopment campaign in Chatham, in partnership with Pastor Jenkins of the Fellowship Education and Economic Development (FEED) Corporation.
- The proposed school has strong evidence of community support, including from Alderman Brookins, Senator Howard Brookings, and Clarice Mills (President of West Chatham Improvement Association).
- The applicant submitted 1,477 signed petitions in support of HSA-Chatham, along with 14 letters of support from community members and 23 letters of support from local politicians and organizations for HSA-Chatham.

Consideration for 2015 Approval – Intrinsic (1 Campus)



- Design team members have a wide array of skills and experiences that support the continuum of knowledge needed to successfully run a school including: instruction, school leadership and organizational management, budget/accounting administration, and best practices and interventions for diverse learners.
- Members also have the specific experience for the school model focus (i.e., technology).
- The instructional strategies are highly aligned with the mission and vision of the school to create a student- and data-driven educational setting that creatively infuses technology.
- Each student at Intrinsic has an individualized learning plan based on prior academic and socio-emotional history and personal interest.
- Intrinsic Schools received letters of support from Ald. Reboyras, CPS Network Deputy Chiefs, three principals of CPS schools, and several citywide organizations and partners. In addition, Intrinsic submitted 448 signatures of students interested in attending an Intrinsic School, 78 of which are current 7th grade students
- NAC Recommendation - Approval
- *Conditions:*
 - Intrinsic Schools must submit clear metrics and criteria to evaluate network and school leaders, as well as identify a viable permanent facility for its second charter school (please see Section II of Appendix I for additional details). Intrinsic Schools' approval is also contingent on the academic performance of its first charter school.

Consideration for 2015 Approval – Chicago Education Partnership (1 Campus)



- The proposed school will provide students and families with a holistic learning experience from 7:30 in the morning to 6:30 at night by offering a continuum of services in partnership with the after-school partner, By the Hand.
- The applicant received letters of support from almost 30 community, political, and faith-based organizations in the area, including Congressman Danny Davis, State Representative LaShawn Ford, Alderman Mitts, and Alderman Ervin.
- To house the new school, By the Hand has agreed to pay for the construction of a new facility and renovation of an existing By the Hand facility, which are located next to each other.
- The proposal's financial forms and budget narrative provided well-documented, reasonable, and conservative assumptions that provide confidence that the design team will implement strategies that will promote fiscal health and long-term organizational sustainability.
- The design team collected 414 signatures on petitions to support the school and 222 completed letters of intent-to-enroll forms.
- Chicago Education Partnership proposes to form a West Side Education Coalition with elected officials, CPS principals, social service providers and non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, care providers, and local businesses to work collaboratively to improve educational outcomes for children on Chicago's West Side.
- *Conditions:*
 - CEP will submit responses to all subsections of the Academic Capacity section in the 2014 New Schools RFP (please see Section IV of Appendix I for more details).

Consideration for Denial



- Connected Futures (5 Campuses)
- Curtis Sharif STEM Academies (4 Campuses)
 - NAC Recommendation – Denial
- Be the Change (1 Campus)
 - NAC Recommendation – Denial
- Asian Human Services (1 Campus)*

Summary of Actions

Operator / # Campuses	CEO Recommendations
Concept Schools / 2	Contingent Approval of 2 campuses for 2014
Curtis Sharif Stem Academy / 4	Deny
Be the Change / 1	Deny
Intrinsic Schools / 4	Approve 1 campus 2015
Noble Street / 3	Approve 2 campuses (1 with conditions) for 2014
Asian Human Services Passages / 1	Deny
Chicago Education Partnership / 1	Contingent Approval of 1 campus for 2015
Great Lakes Academy / 1	Approve 1 campus for 2014
Connected Futures Academy / 5	Deny