

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
HENRY FORD ACADEMIES OF ILLINOIS, NFP**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with the Henry Ford Academies of Illinois, NFP for a five-year period. The Charter School Agreement is currently being negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days following final approval from the Chief Executive Officer as detailed below. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Henry Ford Academies of Illinois, NFP
3517 West Arthington
Chicago, Illinois 60624
Phone: (312) 558-1690
Contact: Kathryn M. Vanden Berk

CHARTER SCHOOL: Henry Ford Power House Charter High School
931 South Homan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60624
Phone: (313) 720-4699
Contact Person: Deborah Parizek

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1530
Contact Person: Beatriz Rendon, Executive Director

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq.) provides that up to 30 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL: The Henry Ford Power House Charter High School (Power House High) proposal was submitted by Henry Ford Academies of Illinois, NFP and received by the Board on September 5, 2006. Power House High will be an exemplary school that prepares all students for college and career success. The school's mission is to be a small school that sets high expectations for students not only academically but also professionally through hands-on learning programs that leverage a wide range of local resources to create thriving communities where education is everyone's responsibility. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, students will be interacting daily with adults and developing personal management capacity and maturity. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2008 serving 120 students in grade 9. In successive years, the school will add grades 10 - 12 and will serve up to 460 students in grades 9 - 12. The school will be located at 931 South Homan. Public hearings on Renaissance 2010 charter school submissions submitted in 2006, as required by statute, were held on July 21, 2006 and October 18, 2006. An additional public hearing was held on November 6, 2006. The cost of 120 students in 2008-09 will be approximately \$1,080,000. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on October 12, 2006.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The granting of a charter by the Board and the entering into a charter school agreement is contingent upon the ability of the team of the Henry Ford Power House Charter High

School to meet benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools. These benchmarks were communicated to the school team on October 31, 2006, with deadlines to meet on February 15, 2007, March 30, 2007, and finally May 15, 2007. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines may result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and denial of the charter application. A final review of this charter application is to be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer on or before May 15, 2007. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

TERM: Upon final review of this Charter proposal and approval from the Chief Executive Officer, the term of the Henry Ford Power House Charter High School charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2008 and end June 30, 2013.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to conduct a final review of this charter proposal and make a final determination on the granting of this charter based on the terms referred to above. Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of New Schools to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY07 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

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.

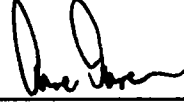
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



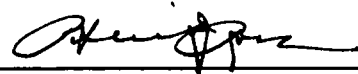
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel