

February 27, 2008

**APPROVE THE ADDITION OF A REGIONAL GIFTED CENTER PROGRAM  
AT JOHN C. COONLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the addition of a Regional Gifted Center Program at John C. Coonley Elementary School.

**DESCRIPTION:** Effective September 2008, a Regional Gifted Center program will be implemented at the John C. Coonley Elementary School. A kindergarten and first grade will be added for the initial start-up; however, one grade will be added each year thereafter, until the Regional Gifted Center serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

**ENROLLMENT:** The Regional Gifted Center at John C. Coonley Elementary School shall enroll students based on the identification and selection requirements for all Regional Gifted Centers. Parents will complete an application for the Regional Gifted Centers, and admissions testing is required. Testing eligibility for students will be based on age for entrance into kindergarten. All students of appropriate age applying for grades K-4 will be tested. Students applying for grades 5-8 must qualify to take the admissions exam; eligibility is based on the scores from the student's previous year's ISAT or other standardized, nationally normed test. In order to be eligible for testing, students must score at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in both reading and math. Selection of students is based on their test score, available spaces, racial/ethnic background and parent choice. Students must live more than 1.5 miles from the school in order to receive citywide transportation service and live within the boundaries of 900 North to North City Limits, and 3200 West to Lake Shore Drive.

**CURRICULUM:** The Regional Gifted Centers provide an accelerated instructional program that places an emphasis on thinking, reasoning, problem solving and creativity. In addition to rigor in the core content areas, instruction includes a world language or Latin, laboratory science, computer science and fine arts. A differentiated, enriched curriculum allows for skill development appropriate for the gifted student's abilities and interests.

**LSC REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** The schools referenced in this Board Report will be staffed in accordance with the Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Teachers Union.


**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget.

**Approved for Consideration:**



**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved:**



**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to legal form:**



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel