

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE SOLIDARITY HIGH SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Social Justice Solidarity High School as a Renaissance Performance School contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Social Justice Solidarity High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010 as a Small School pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and also as a Performance School in accordance with Board's Renaissance Schools Policy, 07-0627-PO4, as amended ("Renaissance Policy").

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the opening of Social Justice Solidarity High School was held on October 8, 2008 at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60613 and on October 15, 2008 at Board Chambers in accordance with the Renaissance Policy. The October 15th hearing was recorded. A summary report of both hearings is available for review.

Request for Proposals: In April 2008, the Office of New Schools issued a Request for Proposals to solicit responses from parties interested in starting schools under the Renaissance 2010 Initiative. Design Frameworks to operate either a charter campus, contract or performance school were submitted by interested parties on June 2, 2008. Supplemental proposal materials for approved design frameworks were submitted on July 28, 2008. Proposals were evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in the Renaissance Policy. Proposals were reviewed by the Office of New Schools and a Comprehensive Evaluation Team and recommendations were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer based upon those reviews and evaluations.

School Design Team: The proposal for the establishment for Social Justice Solidarity High School was submitted by the Social Justice Solidarity High School design team comprised of the current Principal and staff of the Greater Lawndale Little Village School for Social Justice, members of CPS central office and educational partners such as University of Illinois and Roosevelt University.

School Profile: Social Justice Solidarity High School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010 serving approximately 150 students in grade 9. In subsequent years the school will add grades 10, 11, and 12 and serve up to 600 students. Social Justice Solidarity High School will enroll students through a random citywide lottery. Enrollment in the school will be administered without regard to the student's or applicant's race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability. While the school will be open to all students, its special mission will be to provide a haven where students can feel safe and valued for who they are. The school plans to implement a college preparatory curriculum in all subject areas, including programs such as the College Board's Springboard® English program and Integrated Mathematics Program. The school will investigate the question of how does one become an ally in Social Justice for all students through a study of such principles as truth and transparency, collective community power, and struggle and sacrifice.

Advisory Body: Initially, Social Justice Solidarity High School will establish a transitional advisory body. Thereafter, a school advisory body shall be appointed by the Board in a timely manner in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b and the Board's Renaissance School Policy in the following manner: an appointed local school council will be established in accordance with the Board's policy on the governance of alternative and small schools, except when the Board expressly authorizes another method for involving parents, community members and school staff in activities of the school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4(b).

Performance Plan: The operation and performance of the Social Justice Solidarity High School will be in accordance with a Performance Plan to be established pursuant the Renaissance Policy and approval of

the Board. At a minimum, the Performance Plan will address student academic outcomes and financial and management practices of the school.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: The granting of the establishment of the school by the Board and the entering into an evaluation performance plan is contingent upon the ability of the school design team meeting benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including but not limited to, refining strategies for differentiated instruction, securing a facility, and resubmitting a 5 year operating budget. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school design team in a formal Memorandum of Conditions with all deadlines to be met by March 15, 2010. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the performance school application. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee will file a report, approved by the General Counsel as to legal form, indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the performance school application and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The report will be filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before April 15, 2010. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

FINANCIAL: Using current year financial data, the General Fund cost of 150 students in 2010-11 will be approximately \$1,158,600.00. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY09 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a Performance School, Social Justice Solidarity High School will employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those agreements.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

Approved as to Legal Form:

Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel