

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION ACADEMY OF CHICAGO**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Transportation Academy of Chicago as a Renaissance Performance School contingent upon Board approval of a site to be identified at a later date.

DESCRIPTION:

School Designation: Transportation Academy of Chicago 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 Transportation Academy of Chicago was held on October 6, 2008 and October 15, 2008 at Chicago Public Schools Board Chambers at 125 S. Clark, Chicago, IL 60603 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 Transportation Academy of Chicago was submitted by the Transportation Academy of Chicago design team comprised of educators, transportation industry representatives, business and civic leaders, and community representatives.

School Profile: Transportation Academy of Chicago 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 at capacity. Transportation Academy of Chicago will enroll students through a random citywide lottery. The Transportation Academy of Chicago will prepare its students for their future by offering a rigorous, relevant, and engaging college preparatory curriculum based on authentic inquiry-based projects situated within the Transportation Industry. The highly technical curriculum will emphasize problem-solving, writing, numeracy, leadership, communication, teamwork, and project management. Students may have opportunities to participate in Advanced Placement and dual-credit college courses. The curriculum will be enhanced with significant and frequent work-based learning experiences that may include mentoring, job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships. These experiences will lead students to nationally-recognized industry certifications and college readiness.

Advisory Body: Initially, Transportation Academy of Chicago 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 Transportation Academy of Chicago 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 submitting a revised proposal for a full 9-12 Academy including an updated budget and securing a facility. 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 2009-10 will be approximately \$1,158,600.00. The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2009-2010 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.

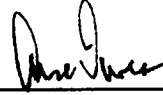
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a Performance School, Transportation Academy of Chicago will employ CPS teachers and staff. Performance Schools are subject to the collective bargaining agreements between CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union and other labor organizations, including the waiver provisions of those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

Approved:



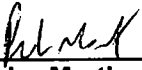
Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



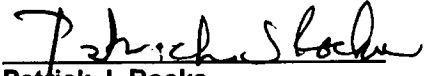
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

