

APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF MASON SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approves the high school grade expansion of the Roswell B. Mason School (Unit: 4650, School ID: 610056) ("Mason").

DESCRIPTION: Currently, Mason serves kindergarten through eighth grade in addition to offering pre-kindergarten programs. Effective July 1, 2009, Mason will increase its grade structure to offer approximately 35 9th grade seats and, thereafter, Mason will increase its grade offering by one grade per year until the school serves pre-kindergarten to high school as described below.

This high school grade expansion is proposed due to the District's intent to improve the graduation rate and encourage college attendance. Sufficient space is available within the Mason school building to effectuate the grade expansion.

The Local School Council and community members were notified of the proposed grade expansion during LSC Meetings throughout the 2008-2009 school year. The LSC provided a signed letter indicating their acceptance of the expansion. A copy of this letter is on record within the Board Office. Parents of Mason's 8th graders were also notified of the proposed grade expansion by way of a written letter.

ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY: A school overlay boundary only for the high school expansion will be established effective March 25, 2009, as described below:

Beginning at the Kenton Avenue and 16th Street
East to Pulaski Road
South to Cermak Road
West to Kenton Avenue
North to the Starting Point

Students currently enrolled in Mason will not be required to transfer. The grade expansion does not require changes in Mason's attendance area, nor does it require changes in the adjacent high school attendance areas. Under the Board's Enrollment and Transfer Policy (08-0827-PO2), students currently enrolled in Mason's eighth grade are entitled to enroll in its ninth grade class and continue until high school graduation.

It is anticipated that the approximate number of 9th grade seats available at Mason each year will be filled first by rising Mason 8th graders then by any applicants residing within the school overlay boundary. In the event that any 9th grade seats become available after accommodating students from these two groups, the remaining seats will be afforded to applicants through the second lottery.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADE EXPANSION: Students in the high school grades will complete four years of coursework in three years by attending classes year-round, including summers.

LSC IMPLICATIONS: The Mason Local School Council will continue and may be modified at a later date in order to allow for high school student representation.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Mason will be staffed according to the ratios in the Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Teachers Union.

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: *ms*



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel