

May 28, 2014

**AUTHORIZE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL
AGREEMENT WITH FOUNDATIONS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, AN ILLINOIS
NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with Foundations College Preparatory School 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 of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Foundations College Preparatory School
1233 W. 109th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60643
Phone: 773-413-8193
Contact: Micki O'Neil, Executive Director

CHARTER SCHOOL: Foundations College Preparatory Charter School
1233 W. 109th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60643
Phone: 773-413-8193
Contact: Micki O'Neil, Executive Director

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
125 S. Clark, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1530
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 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 Illinois State Board of Education 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 Foundations College Preparatory Charter School (Foundations Charter School) proposal was submitted by Foundations College Preparatory School and received by the Board in August 2012. Foundations Charter School's mission is to empower underserved youth to thrive in college and life by teaching them to think critically, live with honor and strive for their personal best. The school also aims to develop the foundational knowledge, tools and sustainable systems to support successful replication of the Foundations Charter School model and broader change beyond the school's walls. The Foundations Charter School model is designed to meet the holistic educational needs of the school's target population. The educational program will build strong foundational skills, emphasize critical thinking, and meet students' individual academic and socio-emotional needs. The school will utilize a 6-12 college preparatory curriculum to address foundational academic gaps and instill strong work habits and values to prepare students for the upper grades. The school also has an innovative approach to designing the school day, which uses varied class sizes and structures to best fit instructional objectives and teacher capabilities, and incorporates technology to more effectively utilize strong teachers. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2014 serving a maximum of 170 students in grades 6 and 7. The school will add grades in subsequent years with an at capacity enrollment of 900 students in grades 6-12. Public hearings on charter school submissions submitted in

2012, as required by statute, were held on December 13, 2012 and January 18, 2013. On January 23, 2013, the Board provided contingent approval of the proposal (Board Report 13-0123-EX4) upon the school operator meeting benchmarks identified by the Office of Innovation and Incubation including the identification of a school site, the change in grade structure of the school so that year one was for middle grades only, the principal enrolling in a mentorship /training program that develops high school leaders, and the expansion of the board to directors with demonstrated development/fundraising capacity. The CEO determined that Foundations College Preparatory School met those contingencies.

In March 2014, Foundations College Preparatory School identified the independent facility at 1233 W. 109th Street as the location for the charter school, which will open in the fall of 2014. A public hearing on the final proposal was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

TERM: The term of the Foundations Charter School charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2019.

AUTHORIZATION: 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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Senior Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation 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 Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer to execute any documents related to the disbursement of the one-time incubation and startup funds for the Foundations Charter School.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

INCUBATION: Upon final approval of this charter school proposal and the submission of an Incubation Budget Plan by Foundations College Preparatory School, the Board will disburse an amount not to exceed \$160,000 in incubation funding for Foundations Charter School. The use of the funding will be outlined by the Office of Innovation and Incubation.

STARTUP FUNDING: Upon the execution of the Charter School Agreement with Foundations College Preparatory School, the Board will disburse an amount not to exceed \$383,479 in startup funding for Foundations Charter School. The use of the funding will be outlined by the Office of Innovation and Incubation.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY15 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

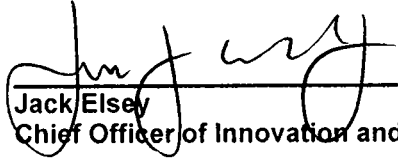
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics — The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:




Jack Elsey
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Approved:



Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



James L. Bebley
General Counsel