

Subject: Action on a Request to Approve the Five-Year, Non-Instrumentality Charter School Contract with Milwaukee Excellence, Inc. for Milwaukee Excellence Charter School to Begin with the 2021-2022 School Year and End on the Last Regularly Scheduled Day of the 2025-2026 School Year

Strategic Plan

Compatibility Plan: Goal 1 Academic Achievement
Goal 2 Student, Family and Community Engagement
Goal 3 Effective and Efficient Operations

Policy: Admin Policy 9.12 - Charter Schools

Attachments:

1. Milwaukee Excellence Board Item
2. Milwaukee Excellence Redline Contract
3. Appendix A: Charter School Proposal
4. Appendix B: List of MPS Policies, Procedures and Requirements
5. Appendix C: Charter School Annual Assessment Calendar
6. Appendix D: Charter School Articles of Incorporation
7. Appendix E: Charter School By-Laws
8. Appendix F: Charter School Annual Operating Budget
9. Appendix G: MPS Charter School Budget Format
10. Appendix H: Charter School Parent/Student Handbook
11. Appendix I: Charter School Calendar

Background:

Milwaukee Excellence Charter School (Milwaukee Excellence) was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. Milwaukee Excellence is located at 4950 North 24th Street. The current contract is for up to a maximum of 600 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades 6 through 10. This is Milwaukee Excellence's first renewal cycle.

Milwaukee Excellence's mission is through rigorous academics and character essential for success, to educate 6th through 12th grade students to excel within and graduate from four-year colleges and pursue the professions of their choice. Milwaukee Excellence's vision is to use a slow growth model, growing one grade at a time. Milwaukee Excellence seeks to provide a high-quality education for the most vulnerable populations in our community, to offer a whole child education with a focus on STEM, coding, and computer science, as well as advance placement courses.

On December 8, 2020, the Administration recommended a five-year renewal recommendation for Milwaukee Excellence. On December 17, 2020, the Board approved a three-year renewal for Milwaukee Excellence and authorized the Administration, in collaboration with the Board's Designee and the Office of the City Attorney, to begin contract negotiations with representatives from the Milwaukee Excellence Foundation, Inc. for Milwaukee Excellence Charter School.

In April 2021, representatives from Milwaukee Excellence, the MPS Office of Board Governance, the Office of the City Attorney and the MPS Administration reviewed and negotiated the proposed modifications to the model non-instrumentality charter school contract and agreed to the attached redline contract.

Contingent upon the Board's approval, Milwaukee Excellence accepts the attached, non-instrumentality charter contract with the following modifications:

- a. Whereas clause has been added to clarify that charter school's governing board is a party to the contract, to reflect current law, and to reflect historical background;
- b. The name of the school is Milwaukee Excellence Charter School and the school will be located at 4950 North 24th Street;
- c. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school has been updated to reflect that Maurice Thomas shall be the school leader, and language has been added to reflect the manner in which administrative services will be provided;
- d. Language has been revised to reflect applicability of MPS policies and statutes;
- e. Language relating to performance indicators has been updated to reflect applicability and current practice;
- f. Language relating to charter school governance has been updated to provide clarity and to be consistent with statutory language relating to charter school governance;
- g. Language relating to requirements for admission to school has been updated;
- h. Language relating to financial and performance audits has been updated to reflect current practices and to reflect selection of method for financial and performance audits;
- i. Language has been updated to reflect selection of disciplinary guidelines;
- j. Language relating to facilities, indemnification and insurance has been updated;
- k. Language relating to the effect of the establishment of the Charter School on the liability of the Board has been updated;
- l. Language relating to background screening has been updated;
- m. Language relating to right to inspect and receive requested information and reports has been updated;
- n. Language relating to calendar has been updated;
- o. Language relating to purchasing has been updated;
- p. Language relating to transportation and nutrition has been updated;
- q. Language relating to Local Education Agency (LEA) responsibilities and district's responsibilities as School Food Authority (SFA) has been clarified;
- r. Language has been updated to reflect that Milwaukee Excellence will serve up to a maximum of 720 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 11 in the 2021-2022 school year and 840 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 12 in the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years;
- s. The term of the contract is updated to reflect five years, to start with the 2021-2022 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2025-2026 school year;
- t. Language relating to modification or termination of contract has been revised to provide clarity and reflect current practices; and
- u. Language has been added to demonstrate that parties mutually agree to the terms of the contract;
- v. Technical revisions have been made throughout the contract.

Fiscal Impact

Statement:

The funds for this charter school contract are included as part of the FY22 budget process.

Implementation and

Assessment Plan:

Upon approval, the contract will be effective starting with the 2021-2022 school year and ending with the 2025-2026 school year.

A copy of the contract will be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached, five-year, non-instrumentality charter school contract with Milwaukee Excellence, Inc., for Milwaukee Excellence Charter School to begin with the 2021-2022 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2025-2026 school year.