

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overview

Carmen Schools of Science and Technology (Carmen) is planning a new middle school to open on Milwaukee's south side. The school is planned as a *replication* of the educational model Carmen executed for Carmen Middle School of Science and Technology, Northwest Campus, which opened in August 2013. The new middle school will prepare students for a college preparatory education at a Carmen high school or any other Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) college preparatory high school. The middle school, like Carmen's high schools, will emphasize a strong foundation in literacy and math, student proficiency in science and technology, character development, and life skills. The educational model includes a variety of personalized supports for students who enter middle school behind grade level, at grade level, and above grade level. The school intends to open on the south side of Milwaukee in August 2018 as a non-instrumentality charter school authorized by the Board of School Directors of the Milwaukee Public Schools. In its first year of operation, the middle school will serve 80 students in grades 6, but if it proves necessary to meet the enrollment target in the school's first year, it will launch with two sections of grade 6 and one section of grade 7. By its fifth year of operation, the middle school will operate with as many as 320 students in grades 6-8. *Carmen's mission is to graduate all students as critical thinkers and self-directed learners who are prepared for success in college, meaningful careers, community involvement, and family life.*

### Educational Program

Students must take courses in English, math, science/engineering, social studies, and Spanish. Course electives include fine arts, music, and physical education. The middle school has adopted the Engage NY English and Engage NY math curricula for grades 6-8; a combination of the STC and FOSS secondary school science inquiry-based, modular curriculum that includes life sciences, earth science, physical science and technology; and a social studies curriculum that incorporates ancient history, world history and U.S. history. Other non-academic requirements include participating in 10 hours of community service per year; an advisory program taught by the students' teachers that addresses social/emotional issues, character development, individual plans for students success, and relationship-building among students; and a longer school day and school year. An optional summer school program is another resource available to students to ensure they can remain at or above grade level in all subject areas and pursue remedial and enrichment activities to achieve their individual growth goals. New students undertake an 40-hour academic and sociocultural orientation to middle school in August. Teachers and the school leader must meet the professional standards required by the state of Wisconsin for their respective positions.

### Name of Persons Seeking to Establish the MPS Charter

Patricia J. Hoben, Ph.D., Head of Schools, Carmen Schools of Science and Technology and Glen Hackmann, Chair, Carmen Board of Directors.

### Applicant Team Developing the Proposed Program

The south side middle school planning team leader is Dr. Patricia Hoben, Head of Schools, with support from Ms. Kris Mac Donald, who served for two years as co-leader at the Carmen Northwest campus middle school and is now the interim Dean of Students and School Culture at the Carmen South high school campus. Dr. Hoben is a scientist with government and nonprofit management and



educational leadership experience at national, state, and local levels. She holds a Ph.D. from Yale University in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and is the founding principal of Carmen's first high school, Carmen High School of Science and Technology, South Campus. As Head of Schools, Dr. Hoben currently oversees the administration of all three Carmen schools and reports directly to the Carmen Board of Directors. Ms. Mac Donald holds a Wisconsin school administrator's license, a Master's in Educational Leadership from MSOE via the Woodrow Wilson school leadership fellowship program, and currently is a Ryan Fellow in school leadership through the Accelerate Institute in Chicago. Parents from the Carmen Northwest middle school and parents from Carmen Southeast and Carmen South high schools are also participating in focus groups and other planning activities for the new south side middle school.

### **Expected Outcomes**

In addition to the academic performance outcomes set forth in the charter school contract for all non-instrumentality charter schools, the expected outcomes include, but are not limited to, the following local measures:

#### *Student Outcomes:*

- Students who graduate from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the south side Carmen middle school after being enrolled two or more years there will enter a Carmen high school with an average composite score on the pre-ACT or equivalent assessment that is 1.5 points (approximately 1.5 grade levels) higher than the average score of students enrolling in Carmen's south side high schools from all other K-8 or middle schools.
- Fall to Spring scores on the NWEA MAP assessments for students in grades 6 and 7 will show at least 60% of students meeting their growth goals.
- NWEA MAP assessments for students in grades 6 and 7 will show an average growth of at least 120% of projected growth from Fall to Spring.
- Fall to Spring growth on the pre-ACT or equivalent test will be 1 point or higher for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in reading.
- Fall to Spring growth on the pre-ACT or equivalent test will be 1 point or higher for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in English language.
- Fall to Spring growth on the pre-ACT or equivalent test will be 1 point or higher for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in math.
- Fall to Spring growth on the pre-ACT or equivalent test will be 1 point or higher for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in science.

#### *School Culture*

- The school-wide average daily attendance rate exceeds the average daily attendance rate for MPS students in grades 6-8 in the first year of operation and all subsequent years.
- The school-wide average daily attendance rate is 90 percent or higher in year one, 92% or higher in year 2, 94% or higher in year 3 and subsequent years.
- September-to-September student keep rate is 80% or higher each year.
- Annual September to September teacher return rate averages 80% or higher after the second year of operation, not including those who a) are not asked to return due to performance issues; b) leave because they move out of Milwaukee or Wisconsin; or c) have a significant life change that causes them not to return to work.