

Subject: Action on a Request to Approve the Five-Year Non-Instrumentality Charter School Contract with La Causa, Inc. for La Causa 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. La Causa Board Item
2. La Causa 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:

La Causa Charter School (La Causa) was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. La Causa has two campuses located at 1643 South 2nd Street (main campus) and 809 West Greenfield Avenue (early childhood center). The current contract is for up to a maximum of 810 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades K4 through 8. La Causa has received a five-year non-instrumentality charter school for each of its previous charter school renewals.

La Causa's goal is to have students graduate bilingual, biliterate and bicultural. La Causa's mission is to provide innovative, foundational, and culturally rich academic programs focused on fine arts and vocational education, bilingual education, while engaging the entire family in their children's educational experience.

On December 8, 2020, the Administration recommended a five-year renewal for La Causa. On December 17, 2020, the Board approved a three-year renewal recommendation for La Causa 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 La Causa, Inc. for La Causa Charter School.

In April 2021, representatives from La Causa, 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, La Causa 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 La Causa Charter School and the school will be located at 1643 South 2nd Street (main campus) and 809 West Greenfield Avenue (early childhood center);
- c. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school has been updated to reflect that George A. Torres 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 La Causa will serve up to a maximum of 810 FTE pupils in grades K4 through 8;
- 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;
- 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; and
- w. Technical revisions have made to Appendix A (Proposal).

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 La Causa, Inc., for La Causa Charter School to begin with the 2021-2022 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2025-2026 school year.