

Resolution 1112R-027

By Directors Bonds and Falk

WHEREAS, MPS offers a wide-range of education platforms from traditional non-contracted schools to charter and partnerships offerings across the district, in effort to mitigate the possibility of saturation of one type of school in any given region; and

WHEREAS, MPS has historically supported and promoted educational programs that are unique and different from traditional schools, and began engaging in a variety of efforts to both reform schools and improve student academic achievement prior to becoming a charter authorizer; and

WHEREAS, In July 1995 MPS published its process and guidelines for submitting a proposal for Innovative Options for Operating Schools; and

WHEREAS, Section 118.40 of the Wisconsin Statute allows a school board to establish a charter school by entering into a contract with the person submitting a petition/proposal for a charter school; and

WHEREAS, During the February 1996 Board cycle the Board adopted policies related to the administration of charter schools and thereafter in June 1998 the Board adopted Resolution 9899R-009 which resolved to developed guidelines relating to the designation of charter schools within the MPS system and for the establishment of an MPS Charter Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Policy 9.12(6)(a) currently sets out the following Board priorities for considering charter school petitions and proposals: Provides new, high-quality innovative school programs for traditionally underserved or at-risk student populations, institutes programs which reduce or re-enter student drop-outs, and Offers autonomy to academically successful MPS programs that increase student achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Board reserves the right to give priority to applications that directly address identified areas of need of targeted student population(s) within the district and replicate currently successful schools as well as to accept high-quality or innovative charter school petitions and proposals outside of these priority areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That both Administrative Policy 9.12 (6) (b) be revised to reflect the following additional priorities for establishing a new charter school within MPS: existing MPS schools that elect to convert to an MPS charter school, school currently in existence outside of MPS that will commit to bringing in additional students into MPS, not current being counted in the over MPS student count, and schools currently in existence, but chartered by a different authorizer in Milwaukee willing to bring all current charter schools to MPS for charter authorization; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That both Administrative Procedure 9.12 (4) (a) Selection and Enrollment of Students, along with MPS requirements for submission of a petition or proposal for charter schools contained in the MPS Charter School Petition/Proposal Development Guide, be updated to reflect a requirement for parties submitting a petition or proposal to become an MPS charter school and asserting to be able to bring additional students to MPS from outside the district to provide evidence that such students will be enrolled in the MPS charter school, upon charter execution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the rubric used, by the MPS Charter School Review Panel, in evaluating charter school petitions and proposals be revised to include the aforementioned priorities for establishing a new charter school with MPS as a part of the evaluation criterion; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration is directed to develop a process for receiving proposals for innovative education programs operating as traditional MPS non-contracted schools and report out on both the process and implementation timeline during the August Board cycle.

<March 29, 2012>