

MEETING DATE: March 19, 2019

CATEGORY: Items of Business

TYPE: Action

SUBJECT: Action on a Request to Approve the Instrumentality Charter School Contract with Green Tree Preparatory Academy to Begin with the 2019-2020 School Year and to End with the Last Regularly Scheduled Day of the 2023-2024 School Year

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT:

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:

Green Tree Preparatory Academy Redline Contract  
Appendix A Charter School Petition/Proposal  
Appendix B List of MPS Policies Procedures  
Appendix C Charter School Annual Assessment Calendar  
Appendix D Charter School Articles of Incorporation  
Appendix E Charter School Bylaws  
Appendix F Charter School Annual Operating Budget  
Appendix G MPS Charter School Budget Format  
Appendix H Charter School Calendar  
Appendix I Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND: On December 21, 2018, a charter school petition was submitted for the Green Tree Preparatory Academy (GPA), an instrumentality charter school, that will serve approximately 870 students in grades 6 through 12. The school is proposing to begin in the 2019-2020 school year.

GPA's mission is to build a body of student leaders who will lead or own tomorrow's businesses. GPA's vision is to provide a safe, nurturing, and professional community of learning where students are educated, empowered, and enabled to develop the essential skills necessary to lead and to exceed.

The Green Tree Preparatory Academy's program will include a high-school preparatory program for middle-school students, with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and a foreign-language exploratory (FLEX) program which will introduce students to a foreign language with some interpersonal language skills.

Green Tree Preparatory Academy will offer three high-school academies -- Katherine Johnson Academy of College Preparation; Charles Drew Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); and Michelle Obama Academy of Leadership, Business, Law, and Social Justice -- from which students will be able to choose their academic focuses. Each academy will focus on its specialty area in relation to both core course and elective

offerings. As part of its petition, GPA requested to be identified as a MPS citywide specialty school.

On January 10, 2019, at the meeting of its Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation (SASI), the Board gave public hearing regarding GPA's instrumentality charter school petition.

On January 24, 2019, the Board approved GPA's petition to create an instrumentality charter school for five years and directed the Administration, in consultation with the Office of the City Attorney and the Office of Board Governance, to negotiate an instrumentality charter school contract with GPA and to bring that contract to the Board for consideration.

In March 2019, representatives from GPA and the Administration, in consultation with the Office of the City Attorney and the Office of Board Governance, met to negotiate a contract for GPA using the Board-approved model contract. All modifications addressed in this item have been mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Contingent upon the Milwaukee Board of School Directors' approval, GPA accepts the attached instrumentality charter contract, with the following modifications as reflected in the attachments to this item:

- a. Whereas clauses have been updated to reflect historical background;
- b. The name of the school is Green Tree Preparatory Academy and the school will be located at 6850 N. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Milwaukee Wisconsin, 53223;
- c. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school has been updated to reflect Katrina Fisher shall be the school leader, and 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 have been updated to reflect applicability and current practices;
- f. Language has been updated to reflect governance structure of charter school;
- g. Language has been revised relating to charter school staff;
- h. Language relating to requirements for admission to school has been updated;
- i. Language relating to the manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed has been updated to reflect audit selections;
- j. Language has been updated to reflect selection of disciplinary guidelines;
- k. Language relating to school facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance has been updated;
- l. Language relating to the effect of the establishment of charter school on the liability of the MPS Board has been updated;
- m. Language relating to background screening has been updated;
- n. Language relating to right to inspect and information request requested information and reports has been updated;
- o. Language relating to calendar has been updated;
- p. Language relating to purchasing has been updated;
- q. Language relating to transportation and nutrition has been updated;
- r. Language relating to applicability intergovernmental agreements has been updated;
- s. Language relating to Local Education Agency (LEA) responsibilities and district's responsibilities as School Food Authority (SFA) has been clarified;

- t. GPA will serve up to a maximum of 420 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades 6 through 9 in the 2019-2020 school year, up to a maximum of 570 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 10 in the 2020-2021 school year, up to a maximum of 720 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 11 in the 2021-2022 school year, and up to a maximum of 870 FTE pupils in grades 6 through 12 in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years;
- u. Language relating to payment has been updated to reflect GPA's identification as a MPS citywide specialty school;
- v. The term of the contract is five years, to start with the 2019-2020 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2023-24 school year; and
- w. Language relating to modification or termination of contract has been revised to provide clarity and reflect current practices;
- x. Language added to demonstrate that parties mutually agree to the terms of the contract; and
- y. Technical revisions have been made throughout the contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** The funds for this charter school contract will be included as part of the FY20 budget process. As a citywide specialty school, Green Tree Preparatory Academy may receive an additional allocation as determined by the Board annually.

**IMPLEMENTATIONS AND ASSESSMENT PLAN:** Upon the Board's approval, the contract will be effective with the 2019-2020 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 instrumentality charter school contract with Green Tree Preparatory Academy to begin with the 2019-2020 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2023-2024 school year.