

Action on a Request to Approve the Non-Instrumentality Charter Contract with Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc.

Background

Carmen High School of Science and Technology, South was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2007-2008 school year and is located at 1712 South 32nd Street. Carmen Middle/High School of Science and Technology, Northwest Campus, was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and is located at 5496 North 72nd Street. Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Southeast Campus, opened in the fall of 2016 at Pulaski High School, located at 2500 West Oklahoma Avenue.

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.

On February 23, 2017, the Board took action to approve the charter schools' renewal for five years and authorized the Department of Contracted School Services, in consultation with the Board's designee and the Office of the City Attorney, to begin contract negotiations with representatives from Carmen Schools.

On March 30, 2017, the Board took action to approve the replication of a middle school for Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. on the south side of Milwaukee and authorized the Department of Contracted School Services, in consultation with the Board's designee and the Office of the City Attorney, to begin contract negotiations with representatives from Carmen Schools.

In May and June 2017, representatives from Carmen, the MPS Office of Board Governance, the Office of the City Attorney, and the MPS Administration met to negotiate a single contract for Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. under which Carmen would operate four (4) charter schools.

Contingent upon the Milwaukee Board of School Directors' approval, Carmen accepts the attached, non-instrumentality charter contract, with the following modifications:

- a. Patricia Hoben shall be the person in charge of the charter schools;
- b. language has been revised throughout the contract to outline which provisions apply to the operator and the charter schools;
- c. language has been clarified to reflect the operation of each charter school;
- d. the name and location of the schools include Carmen High School of Science and Technology, South, located at 1712 South 32nd Street, Carmen Middle/High School of Science and Technology, Northwest, located at 5496 North 72nd Street, Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Southeast, located at 2500 West Oklahoma Avenue,

and Carmen Middle School of Science and Technology, South at a location that is to be determined;

- e. performance criteria has been added to reflect local school measures;
- f. language has been revised relating to the operating budget;
- g. identification has been made to specify the method by which annual audits of financial and programmatic operations of the schools will be performed;
- h. identification has been made to specify the selection of disciplinary guidelines to be followed by the charter schools;
- i. language has been revised to reflect a reduction in the administrative fee;
- j. Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. will serve a maximum of 1,500 FTE pupils in the 2017-2018 school year, 1,815 FTE pupils in the 2018-2019 school year as follows: Carmen South, will serve up to a maximum of 360 pupils in grades 9 through 12; Carmen Southeast, will serve up to a maximum of 390 pupils in grades 9 through 10 and ramp up to serve a maximum of 575 pupils in grades 9 through 11; Carmen Northwest will serve up to a maximum of 750 pupils in grades 6 through 12 in the 2017-2018 school year and will ramp up to 780 pupils; Carmen South Middle School will serve up to 100 pupils in grades 6 and 7 in the 2018-2019 school year;
- k. the term of the contract is two years, to start with the 2017-2018 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2018-2019 school year;
- l. language has been added to reflect revocation and termination as to the contract and any or all charter schools;
- m. language has been updated to align with current practices and state law;
- n. technical revisions have been made throughout the attached contract.

The Appendix A has been updated to align to the contract.

Fiscal Impact

The district budgeted all non-instrumentality charter schools in the 2017-18 budget at the proposed \$8,405 per 1.0 FTE level unless otherwise negotiated. MPS pays non-instrumentality charter schools based on their actual per-pupil enrollment and not on proposed or contract maximum FTEs.

Funding for 1,370 full-time equivalents (FTEs) for Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. at their South, Southeast and Northwest schools is contained in the 2017-18 Adopted Budget. The proposed enrollment contract maximum in 2017-18 is 1,500 FTEs and would require an additional \$1,092,650 be allocated if this level of enrollment is met. The cost to cap the administrative fee as proposed at 1% vs. 3% will reduce planned district revenue by \$219,371.

Total cost of the proposed 2017-2018 contract changes from the 2017-18 Adopted Budget is \$1,312,021. These increases would be incorporated into fall adjustments to the 2017-18 Adopted Budget, subject to September enrollment.

Implementation and Assessment Plan

Upon approval, the contract will be effective starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

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

Upon determination of a location for the south side middle school, the contract will be amended to include the address and a DPI school code will be requested.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached non-instrumentality charter school contract with Carmen High School of Science and Technology, Inc. to begin with the 2017-2018 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2018-2019 school year.