

Action on a Request to Approve the Non-Instrumentality Charter School Contract with The Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC) for Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy (MESA) to Begin with the 2018-2019 School Year

Background

Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy (MESA) was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. The current contract is for up to a maximum of 530 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades K4 through 8. MESA is located at 6600 West Melvina Street.

MESA is dedicated to the intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth of all students with an emphasis placed on engaging students in thinking, problem solving, and decision-making allowing students to function in a global society. The goal of MESA is to provide instruction to students through the implementation of expeditionary learning.

On January 25, 2018, the Board approved a two year renewal for MESA's 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 Milwaukee Teacher Education Center, Inc. (MTEC) for MESA.

In June 2018, representatives from MTEC for MESA, 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, MTEC for MESA accept 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;
- b. Language has been updated for technical purposes and to provide for clarity;
- c. Performance measures have been updated to reflect current practices and to provide for local performance measures to reflect the short-term nature of the contract;
- d. Language has been updated to provide clarity and to be consistent with statutory language relating to charter school governance;
- e. Language relating to requirements for admission to school has been added to align with current law;
- f. Language has been clarified as to financial and performance audits to reflect current practices and to reflect selection of method for financial and performance audits;
- g. Language has been updated to reflect selection of disciplinary guidelines;
- h. Language has been updated to reflect current practice as to facilities, indemnification and insurance;
- i. Language has been updated as to the effect of the establishment of the Charter School on the liability of the Board to reflect current practices;

- j. Language relating to background screening has been updated to reflect current practice;
- k. Language has been updated to reflect current practice and law relating to right to inspect and receive requested information and reports;
- l. Language relating to purchasing has been updated to align with current law and practices for certification of non-debarment;
- m. Language relating to transportation and nutrition has been updated to align with current laws and practices;
- n. Language relating to Local Education Agency (LEA) responsibilities and district's responsibilities as School Food Authority (SFA) have been updated to align with current practices;
- o. Language has been updated to reflect that Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy (MESA) will serve up to a maximum of 500 FTE pupils in grades k4 through 8;
- p. Language relating to modification of contract has been revised to reflect current practices;
- q. Language added to demonstrate that parties drafted language jointly; and
- r. Technical revisions have been made throughout the contract.

Fiscal Impact

The funds for this charter school contract are included as part of the FY19 budget process. The per-pupil funding will be based on the state-determined amount for students in grades K5-8th. Students in grade K4 will be funded at 0.6 FTE of the per-pupil amount.

Implementation and Assessment Plan

Upon approval, the contract will be effective starting with the 2018-2019 school year and ending with the 2019-2020 school year.

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

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached non-instrumentality charter school contract with Milwaukee Teacher Education Center for Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy to begin with the 2018-2019 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2019-2020 school year.