

**Subject:**

Action on a Request to Approve the Instrumentality Charter School Contract with Honey Creek Continuous Progress School to Begin with the 2020-2021 School Year and to End with the Last Regularly Scheduled Day of the 2024-2025 School Year

**Background:**

Honey Creek Continuous Progress School (Honey Creek), located at 6701 West Eden Place, was established as an instrumentality charter school beginning in fall 2005. During each renewal cycle since, the Board has approved a five-year renewed contract. The current contract is for up to a maximum of 401 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades K4 through 5.

The vision of Honey Creek is to create an environment in which students are academically prepared to meet the challenges of higher education and will become socially responsible citizens.

On December 19, 2019, the Board approved a five-year renewal for Honey Creek 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 Honey Creek.

In April 2020, representatives from Honey Creek, 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 instrumentality charter school contract and agreed to the attached redline contract.

Contingent upon the Board's approval, Honey Creek accepts the attached 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 Honey Creek Continuous Progress School and the school will be located at 6701 West Eden Place;
- c. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school has been updated to reflect that Gitanjali Chawla 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 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 financial and performance audits to has been updated to reflect current practices and to reflect selection of method for financial and performance audits;
- 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 receive information, reports, and records has been updated;

- o. Language relating to calendar has been updated;
- p. Language relating to purchasing has been updated;
- q. Language relating to applicability of intergovernmental agreements has been updated;
- r. Language relating to Local Education Agency (LEA) responsibilities and district's responsibilities as School Food Authority (SFA) has been clarified;
- s. Honey Creek will serve up to a maximum of 410 full-time-equivalent (FTE) pupils in grades K4 through 5;
- t. Language relating to payment has been updated;
- u. The term of the contract is five years, to start with the 2020-2021 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2024-2025 school year;
- v. Language relating to modification or termination of contract has been revised to provide clarity and reflect current practices;
- w. Language has been added to demonstrate that parties mutually agree to the terms of the contract; and
- x. Technical revisions have been made throughout the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The funds for this charter school contract are included as part of the FY21 budget process.

**Implementation and Assessment Plan:**

Upon approval, the contract will be effective starting with the 2020-2021 school year and ending with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2024-2025 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 Honey Creek Continuous Progress School to begin with the 2020-2021 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2024-2025 school year.