

Subject:

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 2020-2021 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 500 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 30, 2020, the Board approved a two-year renewal for MESA 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 April 2020, representatives from MTEC for MESA, the Office of Board Governance, the Office of the City Attorney and 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 accepts the attached non-instrumentality charter contract for MESA 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 Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy and the school will be located at 6600 West Melvina Street;
- c. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school has been updated to reflect that Dr. Laci Coppins Robbins shall be the school leader, and to language has been added 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 and to provide for local performance measures to reflect the short-term nature of the contract;
- f. Language relating to charter school governance has been updated to provide clarity and to be consistent with statutory language relating to charter school governance;
- g. Language relating to requirements for admission to school has been updated;
- h. Language relating to financial and performance audits to has been updated reflect current practices and to reflect selection of method for financial and performance audits;
- i. Language has been updated to reflect selection of disciplinary guidelines;
- j. Language relating to facilities, indemnification and insurance has been updated;
- k. Language relating to the effect of the establishment of the Charter School on the liability of the Board has been updated;
- l. Language relating to background screening has been updated;

- m. Language relating to right to inspect and receive requested information and reports has been updated;
- n. Language relating to calendar has been updated;
- o. Language relating to purchasing has been updated;
- p. Language relating to transportation and nutrition has been updated;
- q. Language relating to Local Education Agency (LEA) responsibilities and district's responsibilities as School Food Authority (SFA) has been updated;
- r. 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;
- s. Language relating to payment has been updated to provide clarity;
- t. The term of the contract is two years, to start with the 2020-2021 school year and to end with the last regularly scheduled day of the 2021-2022 school year;
- u. Language relating to modification or termination of contract has been revised to provide clarity and reflect current practices;
- v. Language has been added to demonstrate that parties mutually agree to the terms of the contract;
- w. Technical revisions have been made throughout the contract; and
- x. Technical revisions have made to Appendix A (Proposal).

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 2021-2022 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 non-instrumentality charter school contract with Milwaukee Teacher Education Center for Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy to begin with the 2020-2021 school year and end on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2021-2022 school year.