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Office of the City Clerk

Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk

Jim Owczarski
Deputy City Clerk

July 29, 2010

Tony Evers
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7841

Dear Superintendent Evers:

Enclosed please find certified copies of Common Council Motions 100280, 100282 and 100283 authorizing the following to operate a charter school in the City of Milwaukee beginning with the 2011-2012 school year:

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy
CEO Leadership Academy
Garden Homes Montessori School

Pursuant to Section 118.40(1), Wis. Stats., I am notifying you of the City of Milwaukee Common Council's intention to grant charter school status to this school and enclosing a description of the school. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ronald Leonhardt, City Clerk

Enclosures

cc: Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.
Mayor Tom Barrett
Sharon Robinson, Director of Administration
Howard Fuller, Charter School Review Committee
Carrie Driver-Johnson, Garden Homes Montessori School
Salim Ucan, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy
Denise Pitchford, CEO Leadership Academy
Files 100280, 100282, 100283

Rdl/Council/charter10.doc

City of Milwaukee

Office of the City Clerk

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Certified Copy of Motion

FILE NO: 100280

Title:

Substitute motion authorizing the Milwaukee Math and Science Academy to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school.

Body:

Whereas, The state charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats., and the charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, authorize the Common Council to grant authority to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school to applicants who meet the requirements of the statute and ordinance; and

Whereas, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy has applied to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school as authorized under the Milwaukee charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, and the Wisconsin charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats.; and

Whereas, The Charter School Review Committee has made a written positive finding for the applicant for all factors described under s. 330-15, Code of Ordinances, and has recommended that the Common Council grant the application to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school; and

Whereas, The City Attorney is in the process of negotiating a proposed 5-year charter school contract with the applicant; now, therefore

It is moved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Common Council approves the Charter School Review Committee's recommendation and authorizes the Milwaukee Math and Science Academy to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, subject to subsequent Common Council approval of the negotiated charter school contract with the applicant.



I, Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a(n) Motion Passed by the COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 27, 2010.

Ronald D. Leonhardt

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Date Certified

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy Executive Summary

“Our children are falling behind; they are simply not ‘world-class learners’ when it comes to mathematics and science,” said Senator John Glenn, Chairman of the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century in its report to the Nation. The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) of students from 41 nations and our own National Assessment of Educational Progress found that the children of the United States are world leaders in mathematics and science at the fourth grade level, but are almost last upon high school graduation.

Mission:

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy, is a K-12, college-preparatory school that focuses on mathematics, science, and technology. The mission of Milwaukee Math and Science Academy is to prepare its students for college by creating an effective learning environment of higher standards and expectations with a rigorous college prep curriculum that focuses on mathematics, science, and technology. MMSA will be located in the City of Milwaukee and will serve underprivileged urban children who are, as a result of low expectations, not aptitude.

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy is based on a proven and successful existing school design by Concept Schools, Inc. Concept Schools first began in Ohio in 1999 and has expanded to 19 charter schools spread across Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. In such a short time, Concept Schools have built a great reputation for creating effective learning environments through their standardized test scores, graduation and college acceptance rates, attendance and retention rates, and parent/student satisfaction.

Until recent years, Concept Schools design was based on grades 6-12. However, we found that we could better meet the needs of our student population if we expanded to a K-12 model. Such expansion was born out of the need to get to students early enough, beginning in Kindergarten, and equip them with the necessary skills, both academic and social, to excel in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum in middle and high school. Elementary schools within the Concept Schools network have proven this to be true as they attain high level of success. The pillars of Concept Schools Design are:

- Rigorous College Preparatory Curriculum with Math, Science, and Technology Emphasis
- Personalized Education
- Higher Standards and Expectations
- Knowledgeable and Skilled Staff
- Data-driven Instruction Through Ongoing Assessment of Learning
- Increased Student Engagement
- Increased Parent-School Relations
- Community Partnership

Concept School Design uses a standard-based, college-preparatory curriculum that focuses on mathematics and English through 8th grade and then focuses on math, science, and technology through the high school. The curriculum has already been aligned to Wisconsin state standards. High school graduation requirements are higher than a traditional public school in Milwaukee and they include community service hours as well as a senior thesis.

In terms of pedagogy, our goal is not to subscribe to one teaching method but have many successful teaching methods to maximize classroom learning. We believe in allowing teachers to teach in an environment that supports their successful practices and strategies, so that each teacher can customize their teaching materials according to their particular group of students needs. Our teachers will use a combination of the following instructional techniques:

- *Direct teaching*, a systematic way of planning, communicating, and delivering a mastery of information in the classroom.
- *Problem based learning*, an educational approach that organizes curriculum and instruction around carefully crafted problematic situations adapted from real-world issues.
- *Project based learning*, a model for classroom activity that shifts away from the classroom practices of short, isolated, teacher-centered lessons and instead emphasizes learning activities that are long-term, interdisciplinary, student-centered, and integrated with real world issues and practices.
- *Collaborative learning* occurs when two or more students work together to solve problems and complete tasks.

Use of these techniques provides an engaging, dynamic learning environment for students to explore the questions they have about the world and ways they can contribute to the world. We are utilizing a variety of instructional approaches to teach advanced concepts and thinking skills in mathematics and science.

Through our small class sizes, we personalize relationships between teachers and students. Our mentorship program further supports students and allows strong relationships to develop. Our clearly defined high expectations for academic achievement and conduct make no excuses based on the background of students. We expect our students to achieve proficiency or better on the WKCE by their third year at the school. We provide students more time in the classroom to acquire the academic knowledge and skills that will prepare them for the nation's best colleges and the world beyond.

Higher standards and expectations are reflected through promotion, school-wide discipline policies and graduation requirements. Students' participation in after-school activities, extracurricular activities, school-wide events, and showcases are not only expected but are mandatory in some cases. Such high expectations and standards are clearly communicated to our students, parents, and the larger community on an ongoing basis.

A comprehensive selection process of our staff members allow us to find teachers who are committed to urban education and willing to go beyond their call of duty in order to meet the needs of our students. Our staff selection process requires demo lessons, classroom visits, online screening tests, a comprehensive interview, review of transcripts, referrals, and reference checks. Since finding high quality math and science teachers has been a challenge for urban schools, Concept Schools also recruits some of the best and brightest math and science teachers from overseas and recommends them to the schools within the network.

The MMSA engages our students with many opportunities beyond academics. The staff sponsors after-school clubs, math Olympiad teams, science project teams, debate teams, after-school tutoring, and weekend classes for students who need extra help. MMSA also organizes local, national and even international trips for students, parents, and staff members. Our students will be able to participate in summer cultural exchange programs created by Concept Schools. Through this program students are able to go to another culture and live with a host family for three weeks being comprehensively exposed to another culture. Impact of such programs on urban students is invaluable, taken into consideration the fact that most of them have not left their city/state, let alone their country. Parents and teachers are expected to participate in helping students learn through extracurricular activities, science fair projects, Olympiad competitions, national trips, overseas summer programs, Saturday SAT and ACT educational camps, and all other school related activities. Through community partnerships, our students will participate in apprenticeships and internships, providing them with applied opportunities to pursue research and gain technical experience. Our community partners will also sponsor informational lectures by recognized professionals in the fields of math and science.

Through exposing our students to a rich diversity of American and international perspectives, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy promotes respect for diversity and creates a context within which teachers' and students' experiences can be understood, appreciated, and connected to the curriculum. Such high caliber staff is supported with professional development opportunities, teamwork, and the adequate tools needed to maximize their teaching capacity. Our organizational structure treats teachers as professionals and includes them in the decision-making process within the school. They are given the autonomy to implement their own teaching methods and strategies with the expectation that their students will show a certain level of progress throughout the year, measured by our interim assessment.

The Milwaukee Math and Science Academy will open in the fall of 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will initially open with Kindergarten through 7th grades and add one grade level each year through 2016. By the 2016-2017 school year, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy will complete its growth, serving total of 720 students in Kindergarten through grade 12. Such strategic growth plan will serve two purposes: one, it will allow us to start off with Kindergarten due to the reason explained above and; two, it will allow us to serve middle school grades, which is where there is the greatest need for a college prep math and science program in urban communities. Our first year operating budget is

about \$3 million and is expected to increase each year as we raise our student enrollment. Through the purchasing power and preferred vendor program of our management company, Concept Schools, we are able to keep operational costs low. Furthermore, we will be able to attract and retain high quality teachers by providing starting salaries that are compatible with the local public school district, MPS.

Our design team, including the founding board of directors of Milwaukee Math and Science Academy and Concept Schools' management team have an impressive track record indicative of our collective ability to start, grow, and manage a high performing school. However, the founding board of directors of Milwaukee Math and Science Academy will develop into a governing board of directors that has wealth of experience spanning education, business and community development, and government hence, providing us with the ability to create a dynamic community school that builds on strong public-private partnerships.

Given the success of the Concept Schools model throughout Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Chicago, we have every reason to believe that we can accomplish the mission and objectives of Milwaukee Math and Science Academy. Concept's design is in its tenth year of maintaining a well-rounded and college-prep culture with high college acceptance rate, test scores and attendance rates as well as ever-increasing wait lists. Since the principal and key positions of the proposed school will come from one of the Concept network schools, the MMSA will be well-positioned to carry out the successful principles of this model and adapt it to the context of the educational community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - providing opportunities for colleges and universities, community organizations, museums, businesses and professionals from all fields of expertise to be engaged in the school. The MMSA will be a strong asset to the community, the City of Milwaukee, and the broader world in which we live.

City of Milwaukee

Office of the City Clerk

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Certified Copy of Motion

FILE NO: 100282

Title:

Substitute motion authorizing the CEO Leadership Academy to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school.

Body:

Whereas, The state charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats., and the charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, authorize the Common Council to grant authority to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school to applicants who meet the requirements of the statute and ordinance; and

Whereas, CEO Leadership Academy has applied to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school as authorized under the Milwaukee charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, and the Wisconsin charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats.; and

Whereas, The Charter School Review Committee has made a written positive finding for the applicant for all factors described under s. 330-15, Code of Ordinances, and has recommended that the Common Council grant the application to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school; and

Whereas, The City Attorney is in the process of negotiating a proposed 5-year charter school contract with the applicant; now, therefore

It is moved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Common Council approves the Charter School Review Committee's recommendation and authorizes the CEO Leadership Academy to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, subject to subsequent Common Council approval of the negotiated charter school contract with the applicant.



I, Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a(n) Motion Passed by the COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 27, 2010.

Ronald D. Leonhardt

Ronald D. Leonhardt

July 29, 2010

Date Certified

Description of the School

CEO Leadership Academy

CEO Leadership Academy is in its sixth year of providing academically challenging, college preparatory education for students in the ninth through twelfth grades. Established by a former Superintendent of Schools and eight local leaders in religious and civic organizations, its mission is to nurture scholars capable of transforming their world, by sending them to and through college.

Achievement of Mission

CEO Leadership Academy is a Professional Learning Community, one which combines high academic standards, high character expectations and an emphasis on giving back to the communities. CEO's founder and Board of Directors believe that preparation for colleges goes far beyond academics. Student leadership is cultivated through academic mastery, community – focused education and the fostering of lifelong learning in any environment.

Nurture scholars...

CEO students are part of a learning community that is kept intentionally small. With enrollment capped at just 200 students, class sizes are often as small as fifteen students. Students receive the one – on – one and small group time that is necessary to help them grasp and apply challenging concepts in the classroom. They also receive assistance through individual assessments performed by staff, which highlights areas of strength or growth for each student. Students who qualify for special assistance in mathematics or English, for example, can be connected with these resources in early ninth grade.

... Capable of transforming their world ...

CEO's community – focused perspective on the educational process means that all students are required to complete community service activities that enable them to give back to their communities. This expectation is lowest while students are youngest; it increases with each year as student maturity and academic preparation increase. It is a vital method by which students learn about the world around them. Students may find their own community service activities or they may work with CEO family and staff to identify activities that will qualify. Staff follows up at the site of the community service activity to ensure that the process has been a positive one for all involved.

...By sending them to and through college.

CEO students receive college preparatory coursework and testing preparation beginning in the ninth grade. All students are screened for areas of strength and areas of potential growth as they prepare for college. Students are given access to academic supports if they need them, and this often consists of establishing one – on – one or small group sessions with students. While assuring that each student is at or above grade level in core academic areas, a tandem path of college preparation

is also established. Students begin taking practice college entrance examinations as early as the 9th grade. With each successive year, this preparation becomes more focused and by their junior year, they begin taking real college entrance examinations, such as ACT.

Academics, however, are only part of the college preparation experience. Students begin visiting college and university campuses in the ninth grade, familiarizing themselves with what campuses look like, what the classrooms are like, and by writing and asking their own questions of student or staff guides at each campus. CEO has been fortunate for the last two years to receive funding support to bring 35 eleventh and twelfth graders on college tours to the southeastern, eastern and southern states. On each tour, students visited 7 – 8 colleges and universities, then came back to conduct a panel presentation designed to enlighten students who did not go about what college might really be like. These tours have been truly transformative for the students who have attended.

Preparation for college, particularly for CEO students, must involve the whole family. Almost all CEO students will be the first in their families to attend college. This creates a learning experience for the entire family unit, and CEO hosts frequent parent/student information nights to discuss Financial Aid Forms, the college application process, and college decision making. Online services help each student keep track of his or her college preparation process, guiding them to the next step in concert with supportive CEO staff.

For the third school year, CEO was fortunate to also have a full – time College Coach whose job it has been to set up and maintain:

- The college tour: Seven Colleges in Seven Days, which brought 35 CEO students on college and university visits around the United States.
- Career Speaker Series: professionals from the community, all of whom have a four - year degree or greater, come in to speak to CEO students about their educational backgrounds and their current professional duties.
- Family Preparation Nights: Special information nights often supported by CEO's partners, in which financial aid, scholarships, or other helpful topics were covered for parents and students.
- College Fairs: Colleges and universities from the city, state and region come to present information to students and, possibly, recruit them.
- Summer employment opportunities: the College Coach has assisted students with the application for summer employment opportunities on and off site.

A dedicated staff and a full – time College Coach have been significant contributing factors to these accomplishments to date:

- Each year by April, over 90% of CEO students have had letters of acceptance to colleges or universities.
- In 2008, the CEO graduation rate was nearly 100%.
- In 2009, the CEO graduation rate was 100%.
- College acceptance rates were nearly 100%.
- Students have been accepted to colleges all over the United States, and have successfully attracted hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship offers each year.

CEO is proud of its accomplishments in getting its students accepted and “to college” and recognizes the hard work it will take to continue to build its program for a strong reputation with the “through college.” To date CEO has graduated 67 students. 66.7% of those students are attending colleges and universities across the country, some of those colleges include: Pepperdine University (California), University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Rust College (Mississippi), University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, Kansas Technical College, Marian College, Central State University (Ohio), and Milwaukee Area Technical College.

CEO could not accomplish these things without the significant contributions of generous donors and strong partnerships.

Generous donors or donor organizations have included, but are not limited to:

The Challenge Foundation
Mrs. Christine Walton and the Walton Foundation
WE Energies Corporation Foundation
M&I Bank Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
The Harry & Lynde Bradley Foundation
The Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation

Our partnerships with local and national organizations to date include, but are not limited to:

Black Alliance for Educational Options
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation
Milwaukee Area Workforce Development Investment Board
Usher New Look, Inc.
Unity in Motion, Inc.
Make a Difference Wisconsin Organization

City of Milwaukee

Office of the City Clerk

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Certified Copy of Motion

FILE NO: 100283

Title:

Substitute motion authorizing the Garden Homes Montessori School to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school.

Body:

Whereas, The state charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats., and the charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, authorize the Common Council to grant authority to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school to applicants who meet the requirements of the statute and ordinance; and

Whereas, Garden Homes Montessori School has applied to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school as authorized under the Milwaukee charter school ordinance, ch. 330, Code of Ordinances, and the Wisconsin charter school statute, s. 118.40, Wis. Stats.; and

Whereas, The Charter School Review Committee has made a written positive finding for the applicant for all factors described under s. 330-15, Code of Ordinances, and has recommended that the Common Council grant the application to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school; and

Whereas, The City Attorney is in the process of negotiating a proposed 5-year charter school contract with the applicant; now, therefore

It is moved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Common Council approves the Charter School Review Committee's recommendation and authorizes the Garden Homes Montessori School to operate a Milwaukee Common Council charter school beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, subject to subsequent Common Council approval of the negotiated charter school contract with the applicant.



I, Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a(n) Motion Passed by the COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 27, 2010.

Ronald D. Leonhardt

Ronald D. Leonhardt

July 29, 2010

Date Certified

Introduction:

Garden Homes Montessori School (Existing School)
2475 W. Roosevelt Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414-444-9024

Grade Levels Served: K4 – 6

Number of Students Served: 310

School Leader and School Contact Person: Carrie Driver-Johnson

Board Chair: Pastor Jeremy Mattek

Application Team:

Carrie Driver-Johnson
sagefieldfarm@gmail.com
414-916-5782

Keegan Mager
regam599@gmail.com
414-943-3326

School Summary and Educational Program:

Garden Homes Montessori School is committed to providing the Garden Homes Community with quality educational opportunities to further the development of children into community leaders. To fulfill this commitment, Garden Homes Montessori uses methods developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, whose work is founded on brain-based research and emphasizes the holistic development of students. Dr. Montessori believed schools should provide opportunities for both intellectual and personal growth. Garden Homes Montessori aggressively pursues opportunities for children to achieve intellectual and personal goals through a studied application of classroom lessons combined with educational outings to various locations around Wisconsin.

Vision:

It is the vision of Garden Homes Montessori School to become an example on how to implement community-centered education using the Montessori Method. As a school and as a community leader, Garden Homes Montessori seeks to nurture its families and students so they may actualize their full potential.

Mission:

It is the mission of Garden Homes Montessori School to provide for the children of Garden Homes Community and the City of Milwaukee all the elements necessary for a safe, optimal, and successful holistic education using the Montessori Method.