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Department of Administration

John O. Norquist
Mayor

Michael J. Soika
Director

James Rowen
Deputy Director

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Mike Soika
Department of Administration

Re: Academy of Learning and Leadership

Date: January 10, 2003

The Steering and Rules committee, at its meeting of January 9th, approved the creation of a new city sponsored Charter School: the Academy of Learning and Leadership. This issue will be in front of the full council at the January 22nd meeting. Attached please find an executive summary for the school. If you have any questions about the school operations, please call:

Dr. Camille Mortimore at 699-5008.

As always, please feel free to contact me at 286-3828 if you need additional information.

Regards.

The Vision

The Academy of Learning and Leadership is a caring community of child and adult learners actively engaged in generating leadership. In an environment of safety, exploration, creativity, dialogue, reflection, and choice, the Academy develops competent learners and confident leaders. These focused, action-oriented children and adults use their empowered selves for the common good: healthy living, life-long learning, caring families, stable communities, a just society, and a peaceful world.

The Academy - Executive Summary

The Academy of Learning and Leadership (A.L.L.) is a developing charter school strategically focused on active community, learning competence, and leadership confidence. Care for the person, team relationships, creative experiential learning, reflective practice, and community service are at the heart of the A.L.L. model educational community.

Generating Leadership - The A.L.L. education model is highly generative in nature. Teachers, students, parents, administrators, business and healthcare partners are expected, encouraged, and supported in using and developing leadership skills. The Academy insists on hiring educators desiring challenging opportunities to grow and lead, consistently mentors adults and children for leadership growth, immerses adults in extraordinary professional development, and provides daily opportunities to use talents and leadership skills. The combination of these strategies creates an environment in which leading is part of the "marrow of the bone" of the culture of the organization and its people. The A.L.L. Internship Challenge is a summer and school year professional growth opportunity for other city, state, and national educators that provides college credit and allows A.L.L. to disseminate the success of its learning and leadership programs through active hands-on team learning for adults. Through these programs the Academy makes a valuable contribution to generating leadership for the future of urban schools and improving the quality of teaching and learning in a wide variety of schools; the need for these leadership gifts is deeply felt in the Milwaukee community at this time.

Building Partnerships - Family, school, and community partnerships that support the developmental growth of students at the Academy are essential for the well being of children. These partnerships include the Boys and Girls Clubs of Milwaukee, A.L.L. Children's Health Center for school day health concerns as well as preventive and referral services, and the A.L.L. Family Services Center that provides social services, health referral, adult education and job placement. Healthy children and well-functioning families are key to improved learning success.

Educating for Excellence - The Ideal Graduate of the Academy of Learning and Leadership will be distinguished as an active community participant who is a highly competent learner and a confident leader. Specifically, the Ideal Graduate of A.L.L. will embody the qualities of Confident Caring Self, Effective Communicator, Conscious Learner, Committed Person, Powerful Problem Solver, and Community Leader. Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound - a high challenge, team learning methodology - frames Academy learning principles for both children and adults. Every adult within the A.L.L. community is called to a deep and active commitment to the formation of the children of the Academy in the values, ideas, and skills of the Ideal Graduate and of Expeditionary Learning. It is the mission of A.L.L. teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and partners to assure that "All the children are well."

Population Served - The Academy is in the process of finalizing partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Milwaukee in order to open its doors at 15th and Center Street, the LaVarnway Boys and Girls Club, in the fall of 2003; both organizations will jointly provide comprehensive services for children and families at the renovated and expanded site. In 2003 the Academy will enroll 210 children: 60 children, birth to five years, and 150 first through eighth graders. At full capacity, in 2007, it will enroll 180 children from birth to five years in its early childhood center(s) and 450 first through eighth grades, that is, 150 first through eighth graders in each of three elementary schools. The total Academy of Learning and Leadership enrollment will be 630 children on a common campus.