

January 24, 2007

**APPROVE THE SMALL SCHOOLS CONVERSION PLAN TO CONVERT
JAMES H. BOWEN HIGH SCHOOL INTO FOUR SMALL SCHOOLS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") approve the small schools conversion plan for the conversion of James H. Bowen High School ("Bowen") into the following four small high schools located on the Bowen campus:

1. **Chicago Discovery Academy** opened in September 2002

2. **Bowen Environmental Studies Team (BEST)** opened in September 2002

3. **Global Visions Academy** opened in September 2003, and

4. **The New Millennium School of Health** opened in September 2004.

PURPOSE:

This document details the process which began in 2002 for the conversion of Bowen into four small high schools, each with its own principal, staff, budget, teaching staff, student body, and governance.

Each of the new small schools established on the Bowen campus will significantly improve student performance in the following areas: (1) attendance (2) academic performance (3) graduation rates, and (4) the percentage of students who go on to enroll and succeed in college or other post-secondary

b. CDA will accomplish its educational goals by:

- (1) providing authentic experiences from professionals and completing community research;
- (2) providing theme-based field experiences once a month; and
- (3) developing workshops that will meet student needs and provide social support.

c. Timeline

CDA opened in September 2002 with grades 9-12

The vision of the Bowen Environmental Studies Team (BEST) is to provide a college-

4. New Millennium School of Health

a. Educational Focus and Goals

The vision of the New Millennium School of Health is to offer a college-prep ~~comprehensive educational program based on career opportunities in the health care~~

industry. The curriculum will provide students with competencies to facilitate a smooth transition from secondary education to post-secondary experiences and life long learning.

b. NMSH will accomplish its goals by:

- (1) offering a comprehensive program that has a challenging and innovative curriculum;
- (2) providing options that lead to careers and professions in the medical and health ~~field and work settings such as hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities.~~

G. Small Schools Governance

provide appropriate oversight and support on an interim basis until such time as an appointed Local School Council was established in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. The interim

H. Staffing

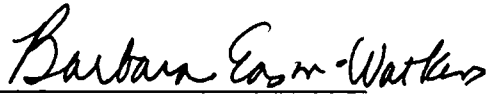
To the extent possible, Bowen staff whose qualifications, expertise and educational philosophy met the requirements for the new small school were given hiring priority. During the conversion process, new staff was hired for each new small school in accordance with Board hiring policies and procedures.

of New Schools.

Each small school was staffed with a Principal, Counselor and clerk in the first year of operation, regardless of the number of students enrolled. Each small school was also granted one Lead Teacher

Approved for Consideration:

Respectfully Submitted:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:

Approved as to Legal Form 

