



NOBLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2015

CONTACT:

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Southwest Side Noble Campus Unanimously Approved

Noble Superintendent Michael Milkie Sends Open Letter Thanking Parents, Students and Supporters

CHICAGO, IL – In a 6-0 vote today, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago approved the proposal from the Noble Network of Charter Schools that had tremendous support from the community, parents, students, and city and elected officials. Noble was one of two applications approved out of all those submitted. The approval of this proposal will establish Noble's first high school on the southwest side of the city. Representing Noble's 17th campus in Chicago, the proposal was met with widespread community support for its high-quality, open-enrollment public school focused on student success in college and career. This afternoon, the Superintendent of Noble and former CPS teacher, Michael Milkie, released a letter thanking community members, families, students, and other supporters of Noble.

You can read the full letter below:

Dear Noble Families, Students, and Community Supporters,

Today, after many months of hard work by all of you, the Chicago Board of Education approved our plan for Noble's first campus on the Southwest side of Chicago.

We couldn't have done this without your work. It was amazing to see the support for this Noble campus grow and grow, and you also saw how much positive energy it took to make it happen. I wanted to highlight how important all of your efforts were for us to be successful together. In the last six months, you provided:

*Over 1,800 letters of support from SW-side residents

*250 official public comments to CPS calling for Noble's new campus

*40 speakers that addressed the Board of Education at various hearings

*Countless hours of knocking on doors, speaking with neighbors, informing local businesses, and rallying support

We also so much appreciate the nearly 2,400 families from the Southwest side who already choose Noble, even though that means hours of commuting outside of your neighborhood everyday.

Now we get to actually make this school a reality, and there is still a lot of work ahead. We will still need your energy and passion for Noble. But for today, I just want to say thank you.

So thank you for your optimism, dedication, and enthusiasm. Thank you for your voice. Thank you for believing that your community absolutely deserves a Noble option – a high-quality public school that prepares students for college and successful careers. The work to get this campus approved has not been easy, but your support throughout the process has made it possible and we at Noble look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Milkie
Superintendent
Noble Network of Charter Schools

Additional Information about Noble:

The Noble Network of Charter Schools is Chicago's largest and highest performing network of public high schools. Last year, Noble campuses were eight of the top 10 open enrollment public high schools in Chicago and more than 90 percent of graduates matriculated to college this year. Noble Network of Charter Schools was recently named the 2015 winner of the Broad Prize for Top Public Charter School System in the nation.

Noble is a non-selective network serving more than 11,000 students throughout Chicago at 16 campuses. Noble campuses are located in some of Chicago's highest need communities and serve a student population that is 89 percent low-income and 98 percent minority. As a public non-selective high school, there are no testing requirements for enrollment at any of Noble's campuses.

Noble offers support throughout high school through programs like its College Seminar class, Summer of a Lifetime programs at colleges during the summer after sophomore year, scholarships for undocumented students and the College Completion Standards, which help Noble students reverse an alarming national statistic – 11 percent of low-income students in the country are expected to graduate from college. Currently, Noble alumni – who are 95 percent African American or Latino, with more than 89 percent having qualified for federal free or reduced price meals – graduate college at three times the rate of comparable student groups.

With thousands of alumni in college, Noble has developed a variety of support services that will help students earn their college degree through personalized support which is offered to Noble alumni for six years after graduation. All Noble campuses with graduates now have at least one full-time alumni coordinator, whose sole job is to support graduates in college. And, starting this fall, 14 colleges across the country, including five in Illinois, have agreed to partner with Noble to close the financial aid gap for 70 undocumented Noble students in the Pritzker Access Scholarship program.

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