



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: School Transition Task Force
Date: Feb. 26, 2019
RE: Task Force Recommendations for Turnaround Academies – Donnan, Howe and Manual

ISSUE: The contracts governing the arrangements by which Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) serves as the Special Management Team at Emma Donnan Middle School (5572), T.C. Howe Community High School (5639) and Emmerich Manual High School (5481) expire on June 30, 2020. The SBOE is committed to transitioning these schools from turnaround status at that time.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) authorized the creation of School Transition Task Force to develop recommendations as to the appropriate path ahead for each school. Since then, the Task Force has met monthly, studied the options available and gathered input from local stakeholders. Based on its findings, the Task Force submits the following recommendations for the SBOE's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Task Force recommends the SBOE direct the Special Management Team, CSUSA, to apply to a charter school authorizer for charter school status for **T.C. Howe Community High School** (5639) and **Emmerich Manual High School** (5481).

The Task Force offers its support for this recommendation, under the following conditions:

- The charter school authorizer determines that each charter application demonstrates financial and operational sustainability.
- The charter schools' organizer(s) shall include, on its Board, a majority of directors who are parents/guardians of a current student or who reside in one of the zip codes in or adjacent to 46203 and 46201 – the neighborhoods in which the schools are located.

Pursuant to Section 16.01 of the Innovation Agreement signed by IPS and CSUSA on May 7, 2015, the Task Force recommends that upon approval of an additional five (5) year extension to the current five (5) year term of the Agreement, **Emma Donnan Middle School** (5572) is returned to IPS. Upon renewal, Donnan's K-6 Innovation Agreement will then apply to the 7-8 turnaround academy, creating one K-8 Innovation Network School.

Background:

- Today, Howe and Manual serve 577 and 695 students, respectively.
- Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) remains committed to its plan not to operate Manual or Howe as high schools if either facility is returned to the corporation.
- Among a broad array of stakeholders, there is strong support for the schools' continued operation and, in many cases, for CSUSA's leadership of each school.
- CSUSA has publicly expressed an interest in operating each school as a charter. Recently, the operator submitted letters of intent to charter authorizers, allowing it to apply for charters for each turnaround academy later this year.
- Stakeholders with concerns have questioned the long-term viability of Manual and Howe, given each school's enrollment is under 50% of the facility's capacity.
- Per its innovation agreement, *Emma Donnan Elementary* will be become a K-8 school, eliminating the separate school number for the current 7-8th grade turnaround academy.