July 14, 2014

Tim Pinner
Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17

Dear Mr. Pinner:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on July 7, 2014.

You have requested “any and all info pertaining to the new Concept Charter Schools being built at 5401 S. Western and 8522 S. Lafayette (Chicago Lawn and Chatham). Where does the funding come from? How much? Is it CPS or State of Illinois? Are there any Federal Funds involved?”

FOIA is not the vehicle through which individuals are to seek answers to questions. However, in the spirit of cooperation, the following responses correspond to your questions.

The only records we have at this time for the two new Concept Schools would be the applications that were approved by CPS and submitted to ISBE for certification. CPS posted these applications online at the following link: http://cps.edu/newschools/pages/process.aspx. The applications contain proposed budgets for the term of the charter.

District-authorized charter schools receive funding from various local, state, and federal government sources, and through private gifts, grants and donations. The vast majority of funds come through the district in the form of tuition. Specifically, charter schools are entitled to receive not less than 75 percent, and not more than 125 percent, of the school district’s per capita student tuition multiplied by the number of students residing in the district who are enrolled in the charter school - 105 ILCS 5/27A-11(b). Additional information regarding how charter schools are funded can be reviewed in the Charter Schools section of the Illinois School Code. The law can be viewed at the following link (see especially sections 27A-11 and 11.5): http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=010500050HArt%2E+27A&ActID=1005&ChapterID=17&SeqStart=165500000&SeqEnd=167400000.

Finally, every year by December 1, each charter school in Illinois must submit an audit and the Form 990 it filed that year with the IRS. Our agency posts those documents online.
at the following link: ftp://ftpfinance.isbe.net/charter_school_audits/. In the case of CPS charters, CPS collects a great deal more financial information from its charters than ISBE. Consequently, you may also wish to contact CPS District 299 for additional information regarding your request.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Griffin at (217) 782-4648 or mgriffin@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel