

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND  
ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
AMANDLA CHARTER SCHOOL,  
AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with the Amandla Charter School, an Illinois Not-for-Profit Organization for a five-year period. The Charter School Agreement is currently being negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Amandla Charter School  
6800 South Stewart Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60621  
Phone: (773) 396-8022  
Contact: Erin Ferguson

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Amandla Charter School  
6800 South Stewart Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60621  
Phone: (773) 396-8022  
Contact: Erin Ferguson

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Phone: (773) 553-1530  
Contact: Josh Edelman, Executive Director

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq.) provides that up to 30 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

**CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** The Amandla Charter School proposal was submitted by Amandla Charter School and received by the Board on August 6, 2007. The Leadership of the Amandla Charter School has and will continue to work with the Building Excellent Schools Fellows Program to obtain resources and guidance in shaping and providing a high quality college prep education. The Amandla Charter School will provide 1) a rigorous academic program that addresses the needs of students who are, on average, two or more grade levels behind and prepares them for success within their college prep high school, and 2) a school culture and character education program that explicitly teaches, supports, and promotes the habits and values essential for success in school and on the job. The Amandla Charter School seeks to establish relationships within the Englewood community that will support the future success of Amandla students. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2008 serving 125 students in grade 5. In successive years, the school will grow one grade at a time, until reaching a capacity of 600 students in grades 5 – 12 by 2015. The school will be located at 6800 South Stewart Avenue. Public hearings on Renaissance 2010 charter school submissions submitted in 2007, as required by statute, were held on June 28, 2007 and September 19, 2007. An

additional public hearing was held on October 9, 2007. The cost of 125 students in 2008-09 will be approximately \$785,500.00. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on October 12, 2006.

**TERM:** The term of the Amandla charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2008 and end June 30, 2013.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the charter school, in the written Charter School Agreement which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: enrollment, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of New Schools to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the action(s) approved hereunder and to submit the approved proposal and signed Charter School Agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for certification. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

**LSC REVIEW:** Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2008-2009 (FY09) budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond the current FY08 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**


Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 2006 (96-0626-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


**Approved:**

  
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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

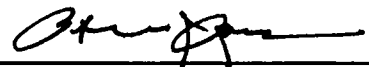
**Within Appropriation:**

  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
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**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel