

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
UNO CHARTER SCHOOL**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with UNO Charter School Network for an additional five-year period. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be 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 renewal is stated below.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** UNO Charter School Network  
954 West Washington Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone: (312) 432-6301  
Contact Person: Juan Rangel, President

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

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 800 students in grades K – 8 on two campuses. The campus serving grades K – 3 was located at 2651 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The campus serving grades 4 – 8 was located at 2401 W. Congress. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008 (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX7) and authorized an increase in the maximum student enrollment to permit 1060 students in grades Pre-K – 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 05-0622-EX2: Approved the establishment of a new campus (Rufino Tamayo Campus) located at 5157 S. California and an increase of the enrollment cap to 1310. Also approved the change in charter school name from Octavio Paz Charter School to UNO Charter School.
- Board Report 05-1026-EX2: Approved the address correction for the Rufino Tamayo Campus to 5135 S. California.
- Board Report 06-0222-EX15: Approved the establishment of 2 new elementary campuses and to increase the at capacity enrollment of the Rufino Tamayo Campus to 297. The Bartolome de Las Casas Campus is located at 1641 W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street and was approved to open serving a maximum student enrollment of 261 students in grades K – 8. The Carlos Fuentes Campus is located at 2845 W. Barry and was approved to open a maximum student enrollment of 504 students in grades K – 8. The UNO Charter School enrollment cap increased to 2122 students.
- Board Report 06-1115-EX4: Approved the establishment of 4 additional campuses. The first campus (Brighton Park) is located at 2916 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, serves an at capacity of 522 students in grades K – 8. All remaining campuses are located at 4248 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Two campuses (Archer Heights – North and Archer Heights – South) will serve a total of 522 students each in grades K – 8. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Archer Heights Campus will serve a total of 522 students in grades 9 – 12. The UNO Charter School enrollment cap increased to 4210 students.

- Board Report 07-0124-EX2: Approved the correction of the start date of the Brighton Park Campus to 2007.
- Board Report 07-0822-EX7: Approved the name change of the UNO Charter School - Brighton Park Campus to UNO Charter School – Officer Donald J. Marquez Campus.
- Board Report 07-0926-EX3: Approved the correction of the at capacity enrollment of the Bartolome de las Casas Campus to 297, the correction of the at capacity enrollment of the Carlos Fuentes campus to 576, and the correction of the entire enrollment capacity for all campuses to 4318.

The agreement incorporates an accountability plan where the school is evaluated by the board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** UNO Charter School Network (UNO) submitted a renewal proposal on October 5, 2007, to continue the operation of the UNO Charter School under a unified mission. UNO has since modified its renewal proposal to include commitments to operate the eight (8) campuses unified through the use of uniform assessment plans and performance standards, curriculum and school calendar alignment, as well as standard governance, operational, employment, educational and admissions policies. The Charter School shall serve grades Pre-K - 12 with a maximum student enrollment of 4318 students.

In addition, the UNO Charter School Network was awarded pre-qualified status for a term commencing January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011 to provide designated services in the form of opening a maximum of four (4) schools or campuses during the awarded pre-qualification period, with a maximum number of two (2) schools or campuses per year (authorized by Board Report 07-1114-EX4). Award of a subsequent agreement to UNO for the opening of these additional campuses during this pre-qualification period is contingent upon the school operator submitting timely responses to requests for additional information (RFI), in addition to the school operator meeting specific requirements as outlined in Board Report 07-1114-EX4.

UNO Charter School Network also submitted a material modification in February of 2008 to (a) formally recognize the existing Octavio Paz Primary Campus located at 2651 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and the existing Octavio Paz Intermediate Campus located at 2401 W. Congress each as its own campus with an at capacity enrollment not to exceed 530 at each campus, (b) increase the at capacity enrollment of the Officer Donald J. Marquez, Archer Heights – North, Archer Heights – South and Archer Heights High School Campuses each to 600 and (c) increase the at capacity enrollment of the entire UNO Charter School Network from 4318 to 4630.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2008 - 2009 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
Octavio Paz Primary Campus	1998	2651 W. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Pre-K – 3	348	530
Octavio Paz Intermediate Campus	1998	2401 W. Congress	4 – 8	435	530
Rufino Tamayo	2005	5135 S. California	K – 8	261	297
Bartolome de las Casas	2006	1641 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street	K – 8	261	297
Carlos Fuentes	2006	2845 W. Barry	K – 8	522	576
Officer Donald J. Marquez	2007	2916 W. 47 <sup>th</sup> Street	K – 8	522	600
Archer Heights – North	2008	4248 W. 47 <sup>th</sup> Street	K – 8	522	600
Archer Heights – South	2008	4248 W. 47 <sup>th</sup> Street	K – 8	522	600
Archer Heights High School	2008	4248 W. 47 <sup>th</sup> Street	9 – 12	180	600

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of UNO's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of the three campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and the learning communities were assessed. Public hearings were conducted on January 9, 2008 and May 13, 2008 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with UNO Charter School Network for an additional five years. There was no public testimony, oral or written, from anyone in opposition of the renewal of UNO Charter School. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, UNO received 22 out of 38 high ratings and 16 out of 38 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. Since 2003-2004, the charter schools attendance rate has averaged 94%. From 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite has increased by 10.3 percentage points (61.3% of students meeting/exceeding state standards to 71.6%). The charter school also met Adequate Yearly Progress targets for four consecutive years (2003-04 to 2006-07). Looking across all of the school performance indicators, UNO Charter School can be categorized as "Meeting Standards" for achieving pupil performance standards using the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. The Office of New Schools recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, UNO Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of UNO Charter School Network's charter agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending 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: site location, enrollment, funding, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Officer 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.

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

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY09 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$23,009,712.00 in 2008-2009.

**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, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

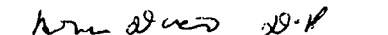
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement

**Approved:**



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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

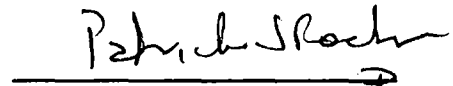
**Respectfully Submitted:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**

  
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**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
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**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel