

# FAILED OF ADOPTION

14-0122-EX15

January 22, 2014

## CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR CHARTER AND CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY CURTIS SHARIF STEM ACADEMY (CURTIS SHARIF STEM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 2)

### THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

Consideration of a proposal for charter and Charter School Agreement submitted by Curtis Sharif STEM Academy. If approved, the term of the Charter School Agreement would be for a five-year period, beginning July 1, 2015. 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 by June 30, 2015. The agreement presented for consideration herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Curtis Sharif STEM Academy  
313 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
Phone: 312-813-4625  
Contact: Deborah Um'rani, Design Team Leader

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Curtis Sharif STEM Academy Charter School 2  
Location to be Determined  
Phone: 312-813-4625  
Contact: Deborah Um'rani, Design Team Leader

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
125 S. Clark, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 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 Curtis Sharif STEM Academy Charter School 2 proposal was submitted by Curtis Sharif STEM Academy and received by the Board in two tiers: a Tier 1 proposal was due in September 2013, and a Tier 2 proposal completed the proposal in accordance with the Charter Schools Law, in December 2013. The Curtis-Sharif STEM Academy's mission is to provide a college preparatory elementary education that integrates a STEM curriculum, the fine, cultural, visual and performing arts, character education, the humanities, and healthy living in an academically and intellectually rigorous, culturally empowering, socially nurturing, safe, orderly environment to develop creative, respectful scholars and leaders who are empowered to be positive influences in their homes and communities. The CSSA educational environment exposes students, beginning in Kindergarten and at whatever point they enter the 'CSSA Pipeline to Excellence', to a curriculum that focuses on inquiry based learning, critical thinking skills, problem-based learning, the scientific method, the Socratic method, the arts and an international baccalaureate curriculum framed by the common core standards to engage students in intellectual inquiry in every subject area.

The school is slated to open in the fall of 2015 at a location to be determined and will serve a maximum of 165 students in grades K-5. The school will add grades in subsequent years with an at capacity

enrollment of 300 students in grades K-8. A community meeting and a public hearing on charter school submissions submitted in 2013 were held on December 16, 2013 and January 7, 2014, respectively.

If approved, the identification of a facility will be required to be submitted to the Board for consideration.

**TERM:** If approved, the term of the Curtis Sharif STEM Academy charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2020.

**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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Senior 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.

**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 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY16 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 May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

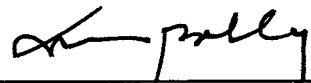
Submitted for Consideration:

  
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Jack Elsey  
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Submitted for Consideration:

  
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Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer / PAB

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
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James L. Bebley  
General Counsel