

December 6, 2017

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ACERO CHARTER SCHOOLS AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Acero Charter Schools Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions 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.

SCHOOL OPERATOR/ Acero Charter Schools, Inc., an IL not-for-profit corporation
 (f/k/a UNO Charter School Network)
 209 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 500
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 Phone: 312-637-3900
 Contact: Helena Stangle, Chief External Affairs Officer

CHARTER SCHOOL: Acero Charter Schools
 (f/k/a UNO Charter School)
 209 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 500
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 Phone: 312-637-3900
 Contact: Helena Stangle, Chief External Affairs Officer

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
 42 W. Madison Street, 3rd Floor
 Chicago, IL 60602
 Phone: 773-553-1530
 Contact Person: Mary K. Bradley, Executive Director

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 through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008, serving no more than 1,060 students in grades Pre-K through 8 (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing on July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, serving no more than 4,630 students (authorized by Board Report 08-0602-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 10,240 students in grades K through 12 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX10). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 13-0424-EX14: Approved the change in the name of the Northside Elementary School Campus to the Rogers Park Campus; (b) expansion of grades offered at the Rogers Park Campus to include grades 9 through 12; (c) increase in the at capacity enrollment at the Rogers Park Campus from 630 students to 1,340 students, thereby increasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school to 10,950 students; (d) change in the name of the 51st and St. Louis Charter High School Campus to the Soccer Academy High School Campus; (e) change in the address of the Soccer Academy High School Campus from 51st Street and South St. Louis Avenue to 5025 S. St. Louis Avenue; and (f) change in the start dates of the UCSN 16 Campus and UCSN 17 Campus from fall of 2013 to fall of 2014. Also corrected the address of the Elementary School Campus from 5050 W. Homan Avenue to 5050 S. Homan Avenue.

Additionally, identified the independent facility at 4420 S. Fairfield Avenue as the location for the UCSN 15 Campus.

- Board Report 14-0528-EX5: Approved the change in the start dates of the UCSN 16 Campus and UCSN 17 Campus from fall of 2014 to fall of 2015.
- Board Report 15-0527-EX17: Rescinded the authority to open the UCSN 16 Campus and UCSN 17 Campus in the fall of 2015 as sites for these campuses have not been identified.
- Board Report 16-0427-EX11: Corrected the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school from 10,950 to 9,750 students. Also changed the student enrollment capacity for the charter school from the individual campus-level to the network-level beginning in the fall of 2016. The overall network-level at capacity enrollment of the charter school will remain unchanged at 9,750 students.
- Board Report 17-0828-EX7: Approved the change in the name of the school operator from UNO Charter School Network to Acero Charter Schools and the change in the name of the charter school from UNO Charter School to Acero Charter Schools. Also approved the change in name of the following campuses: (a) from Elementary School Campus to Jovita Idár Campus, (b) from Soccer Academy High School Campus to Victoria Soto Campus, (c) from Rogers Park Campus to Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Campus, (d) from Near West Elementary Campus to Roberto Clemente Campus and (r) from UCSN 15 Campus to Brighton Park Campus.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Acero Charter Schools, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2017 to continue the operation of Acero Charter Schools under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades K through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 9,750 students.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2017 – 2018 enrollment	Estimated At Capacity Enrollment*
Octavio Paz	1998	2651 W. 23 rd Street	K – 8	368	550
Rufino Tamayo	2005	5135 S. California Avenue	K – 8	287	315
Bartolome de las Casas	2006	1641 W. 16 th Street	K – 8	278	315
Carlos Fuentes	2006	2845 W. Barry Avenue	K – 8	549	630
Officer Donald J. Marquez	2007	2916 W. 47 th Street	K – 8	576	630
SPC Daniel Zizumbo	2008	4248 W. 47 th Street	K – 8	638	670
PFC Omar E. Torres	2008	4248 W. 47 th Street	K – 8	635	670
Major Hector P. Garcia MD	2008	4248 W. 47 th Street	9 – 12	636	720
Sandra Cisneros	2010	2744 W. Pershing Road	K – 8	574	630
Victoria Soto	2013	5025 S. St. Louis Avenue	6 – 12	720	868
Jovita Idár	2011	5050 S. Homan Avenue	K – 8	569	630
Esmeralda Santiago	2011	2510 W. Cortez Street	K – 8	283	630

Roberto Clemente	2012	2050 N. Natchez Avenue	K - 8	544	630
Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz	2012	7416 N. Ridge Blvd	K-12	677	1262
Brighton Park	2013	4420 S. Fairfield Avenue	K - 8	564	600

*At cap enrollment at individual campuses may fluctuate but overall network-level at cap enrollment will remain unchanged.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Acero Charter Schools' academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on November 6, 2017 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Acero Charter Schools. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Acero Charter Schools be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Acero Charter Schools' charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or his designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Acero Charter Schools, Inc.

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 Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation 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 Charter School Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY18 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.

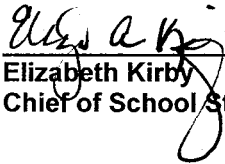
Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their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

Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 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 May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:

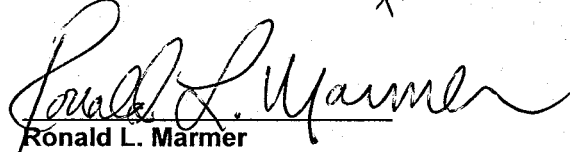


Elizabeth Kirby
Chief of School Strategy and Planning



Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Ronald L. Marmer
General Counsel