

December 6, 2017

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ASPIRA CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the ASPIRA Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional seven-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:** ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
3013 N. Monticello Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60618  
Phone: 773-252-0970  
Contact: Amanda Alpert Knight, Chief of Staff

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** ASPIRA Charter School  
3013 N. Monticello Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60618  
Phone: 773-252-0970  
Contact: Amanda Alpert Knight, Chief of Staff

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 02-0925-EX02) was for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 450 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, serving no more than 1,500 students in grades 6 through 12 (authorized by Board Report 08-0227-EX26). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 1,250 students (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX5). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 13-0424-EX11: Approved the establishment of one new high school campus named ASPIRA Business and Finance High School Campus at 2989 N. Milwaukee Avenue to open in the fall of 2014 and serve an at capacity enrollment of 1,000 students in grades 9 through 12, thereby increasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school to 2,250 students.
- Board Report 14-0528-EX4: Approved the change in the start date of the ASPIRA Business and Finance High School Campus from fall of 2014 to fall of 2015. Due to this delay, the overall at capacity enrollment at the charter school for the fall of 2014 will be 1,700 students; for fall of 2015 will be 1,950 students; and for fall of 2016 will be 2,250 students.
- Board Report 15-0527-EX14: Approved the change in the phase-out completion date for Mirta Ramirez High School Campus from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2015. Due to the change in the phase-out year, the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school will decrease to 1,500 students beginning in the fall of 2015 and increase to 2,250 students beginning in the fall of 2016. Also approved the disbursement of one-time incubation and startup funds for the ASPIRA Business and Finance High School Campus opening in the fall of 2015.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2017 to continue the operation of ASPIRA Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades 6 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 2,250 students.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2017-2018 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
Haugan Middle School	2005	3729 W. Leland Avenue	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	420	650
Early College High School	2007	3986 W. Barry Avenue	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	376	600
ASPIRA Business and Finance High School	2015	2989 N. Milwaukee Avenue	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	487	1,000

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 ASPIRA Charter School’s 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 ASPIRA Charter School. 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, ASPIRA Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of ASPIRA Charter School’s charter and agreement is being extended for a seven (7) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2025.

**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 ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois.

**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.

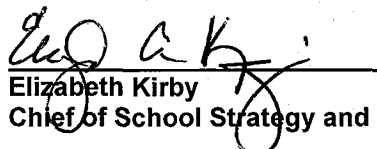
Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the Provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3, which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their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

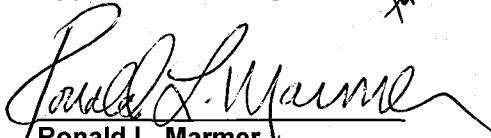
**Approved for Consideration:**

**Approved:**

  
Elizabeth Kirby  
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

  
Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
Ronald L. Marmer  
General Counsel