

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

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Triumphant Charter School for an additional 5-year period. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term 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 renewal is stated below.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Triumphant Charter School  
4953 S. Seeley  
Chicago, Illinois 60609  
Phone No.: (773) 918-0766  
Contact Person: Helen Hawkins, Head of School

**OVERSIGHT:** Charter Schools Office  
125 S. Clark, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1535  
Contact Person: Greg Richmond, Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0122-EX4) is for a term commencing July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002. The agreement authorizes the operation of a single facility Charter School focusing on over-aged students and students who have experienced prior academic difficulties in grades 6-8. The school is located at 4953 S. Seeley with current enrollment of approximately 170 students. The Agreement incorporates an accountability plan whereby the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Triumphant Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 5, 2001 to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs at the same location. Triumphant's proposal requests an increase in the maximum student enrollment to permit up to 185 pupils. Based on the current funding formula rate of payment of \$5,279 per pupil, the additional pupils requested in this proposal will cost an additional \$79,000 annually.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** The Charter School's Office Review Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated Triumphant's renewal proposal as well as the school's past academic, financial and operational performance. During the last school year, Triumphant satisfied its academic accountability requirements in all but two areas. Over the last three years, the preponderance of academic performance trends show increases, most notably in four key Iowa Test of Basic Skills assessment areas. Triumphant has also recorded improved student attendance rates and has met the financial and operational accountability requirements that are identified in the original agreement. The Committee recommends, based on these accountability measures and results, that Triumphant Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Triumphant's charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions 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 Director of Charter 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.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2002-2003 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY02 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 July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Approved:**

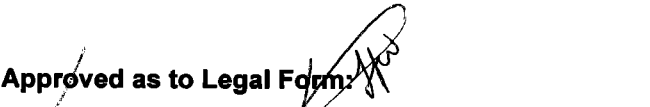
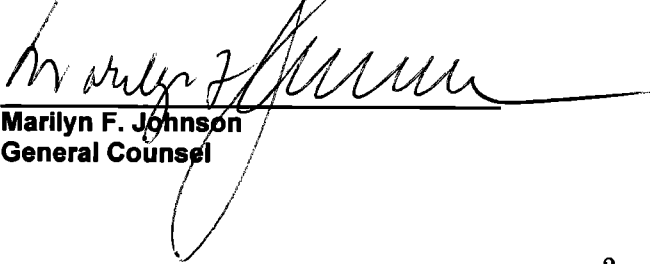
**Respectfully submitted:**

  
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**Barbara J. Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**

  
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**Kenneth C. Gotsch**  
Chief Fiscal Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**   
  
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**Marilyn F. Johnson**  
General Counsel