

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Alain Locke Charter School for an additional 5-year period for grades K through 8. 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: Alain Locke Charter School
3141 W. Jackson
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (773) 265-7230
Contact Person: Lennie Jones, Head of School

OVERSIGHT: Charter Schools Office
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-1535
Contact Person: Genita C. Robinson, Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX2) is for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2004, with the charter school opening in the fall of 1999. The agreement authorizes the operation of single facility Charter School located at 3141 W. Jackson with current enrollment not to exceed 750 students in grades K through 12. 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: Alain Locke Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on December 8, 2003 to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs at the same location. The proposal requests no increase in the maximum student enrollment.

CHARTER EVALUATION: The Charter School's Office Review Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated Locke's renewal proposal as well as the school's past academic, financial and operational performance. During the last school year, Alain Locke satisfied its academic accountability requirements in all areas. In reading, 45.8% of Locke students are at national norms and in math 52.2% of students are at national norms. In both subjects, Locke students achieved more than a year of growth (2.19 and 2.52 respectively) in 2002-03. On the 2002 ISAT, 32.4% of students met or exceeded state standards, an increase 18.8% over the prior year. The school has a low mobility rate and is well managed. The charter school performed better than CPS neighborhood schools on 7 of the 7 student performance measures reviewed. The committee recommends, based on these accountability measures and results, that Alain Locke be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

Alain Locke's renewal proposal presented only a K through 8th grade curriculum. The charter school will be required to submit a high school curriculum for evaluation before being authorized to serve high school students.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Alain Locke's charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2009.

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 General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any Amendments to the Agreement required by the Illinois State Board of Education. 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.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2004-2005 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY04 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. Alain Locke plans to serve 417 students in 2004-05 and 617 students in 2008-9. The approximate costs will be \$2,251,800 and \$3,331,800, respectively.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

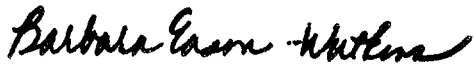
Inspector General – Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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.

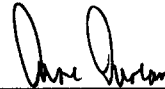
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:




Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel