

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL
AGREEMENT WITH POLARIS CHARTER ACADEMY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with Polaris Charter Academy for a five year period. The Charter School Agreement 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 agreement is stated below.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Polaris Charter Academy
620 North Sawyer
Chicago, IL 60624
Phone: 708-660-0301
Contact Person: Tracy Kwock

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-1535
Contact Person: Beatriz Rendon, Executive Director

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 *et seq.*) provides that up to 30 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 5/34-27A-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 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 Polaris Charter Academy proposal was submitted to the Chicago Board of Education on September 5, 2006. The mission of Polaris Charter Academy is to educate students to be self-motivated, creative, critical thinkers with the ultimate goal of shaping life-long learners and citizens with a strong sense of personal and civic responsibility. This school will aim for high achievement through active learning, critical literacy, and teamwork structured around in-depth learning expeditions—real world projects with active teaching and community service. This school will also utilize professional development services provided by Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound (ELS) to ensure that its staff will be fully supported in using these innovative expeditionary learning methods. Polaris Charter Academy will open in the fall of 2007 serving no more than 150 students in grades K through 2. In successive years, the school will add additional grades and will serve up to 480 students in grades K–8. The cost of 180 students in 2007-08 will be approximately \$972,750. The school will be located at 620 N. Sawyer. Public hearings on Renaissance 2010 charter school submissions submitted in 2006, as required by statute, were held on July 21, 2006 and October 18, 2006. An additional public hearing was held on November 8, 2006.

TERM: The term of the Polaris Charter Academy charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2007 and end June 30, 2012.

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 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 Executive Director of the Office of New Schools to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the actions 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 Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY07 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 5/34-2.4b, 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 5/34-21.3.4b 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 June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

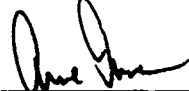
Contingent Liability – The Agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed to be a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



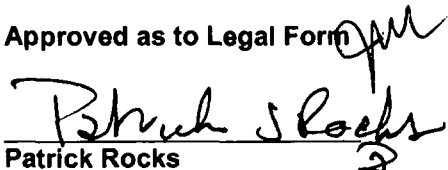
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel