

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION
(CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL)**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Chicago Charter School Foundation (CCSF) 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.

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Contact Person: Dr. Elizabeth Purvis, Director

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
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Contact Person: Beatriz Rendon, Interim Executive Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0122-EX4 as amended by Board Report 00-0223-EX3) is for a term commencing July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002 and authorized CCSF to operate four campuses with a total enrollment of 5,000. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007 (authorized by Board Report 01-1219-EX2), and subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 04-0428-EX4: Approved the addition of a Pre-K program.
- Board Report 05-0126-EX6: Approved an increase in the enrollment cap to 5426 students and the establishment of an elementary school campus at 7850 S. Chappel Avenue.
- Board Report 05-0727-EX13: Approved the establishment of a new campus at 8130 S. California, an increase of the enrollment cap to 6211 students and a change of address for the Avalon/South Shore campus from 7850 S. Chappel Avenue to 1501 E. 83rd Place.
- Board Report 05-1116-EX12: Approved the establishment of a new campus at 8101 S. Honore, an increase of the enrollment cap to 7111 students, pre-approved the establishment of an additional campus to be located on the South Side of Chicago and an increase of the enrollment cap to 8011 students.
- Board Report 06-0628-EX10: Approved a correction of the address for the Ralph Ellison campus from of 8101 S. Honore to 8001 S. Honore and authorized the operation of the campus in a different facility for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

- Board Report 06-0927-EX7: Approved the reduction of the enrollment cap for CCSF to 7111 because the authorization for the pre-approved campus on the South Side of Chicago was rescinded.
- Board Report 06-1115-EX6: Approved the establishment a new campus at 3834 N. Spaulding to open in the Fall of 2007 and an increase of the enrollment cap to 7,647 students, which approval was contingent upon renewal of the charter and Charter School Agreement.

The 2002 Charter School Agreement, as amended, authorizes CCSF to operate a total of 10 campuses under the name of "Chicago International Charter School" with a maximum enrollment of 7,111. 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: CCSF submitted a renewal proposal on December 1, 2006, to continue the operation of the Chicago International Charter School under a unified mission, using AQS, Edison, Civitas and Victory to provide comprehensive school management. CCSF has since modified its renewal proposal to include commitments to operate eleven (11) campuses as one unified school through the use of uniform assessment plans and performance standards, curriculum and school calendar alignment, as well as standard governance, operational, employment, educational and admissions policies. The Charter School shall serve grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12 with a maximum student enrollment of 7,647.

School Management Co.	Year Opened	Campus Name	Address	At Capacity Grades	2007-2008 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
American Quality Schools (AQS)	1997	Washington Park	6501 S. Michigan	K – 8	457	524
	1997	Bucktown	2235 N. Hamilton	K – 8	640	694
	1997	Prairie	11530 S. Prairie Ave.	K – 8	405	436
	2005	Avalon/South Shore	1501 E. 83 rd Place	K – 8	346	426
	2002	West Belden	2245 N. McVicker	K – 8	500	524
Civitas	2002	Northtown	3900 W. Peterson	9-12	775	594
	2006	Ralph Ellison	8001 S. Honore	9-12	300	900
Civitas	2005	Wrightwood	8130 S. California	K – 8	636	785
Edison Schools Inc. (Edison)	2001	Longwood	1309 W. 95 th Street	K – 12	1494	1420
Victory	2002	Basil	1816 W. Garfield	PreK – 8	705	719
	2007	Avondale	3834 N. Spaulding	K – 8	364	536

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the CCSF's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of multiple CCSF campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and the learning community were assessed. In addition to the foregoing, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2002 to 2006, CCSF received 13 out of 22 high ratings and 5 out of 22 middle ratings on their absolute student performance indicators. On the 2006 ISAT, 67.40% of CCSF students met or exceeded state standards. Finally, the school experienced a high attendance rate of 94.4% in 2005-2006. A Comprehensive Evaluation Team ("CET") was convened to review the evidence and make a recommendation regarding the renewal of the school. Based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, the CET recommends that Chicago International Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of CCSF's charter and charter school agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending 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 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 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. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$41,916,300 in 2007-2008.

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 June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel