

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

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Perspectives Charter School 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.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Perspectives Charter School
601 South LaSalle Street, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60605
(312) 604-2123

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(773) 553-1530
Contact Person: Beatriz Rendon, Interim Executive Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0122-EX4) was for a term commencing July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002 and authorized the operation of a charter school focusing on college preparation and character development for students in grades 6-12. 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 01-1128-EX2), and subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 05-0727-EX11: Approved the expansion into a new facility located at 1930 South Archer Avenue and increased the maximum student enrollment to 400.
- Board Report 05-1116-EX11: Approved the establishment of an additional campus located at 8131 S. May Street (Perspectives Calumet High School) to open in the Fall of 2006 and to increase the school's enrollment cap by 756, for a maximum enrollment cap of 1156 students.
- Board Report 06-0222-EX13: Approved a change in the opening enrollment number and grades of the Perspectives Calumet High School from 216 students in grades 6 and 9 to 270 students in grades 7 and 9 and changed the grades to be served from 6 to 12 to 7 to 12.
- Board Report 06-0524-EX8: Approved the establishment of two additional campuses to open in the Fall of 2007 contingent upon renewal of the Charter Agreement: a) the Perspectives Charter School – Calumet Middle School Campus to open with 375 students in grades 7 – 8 and a future maximum enrollment of 500 students and b) the Perspectives Charter School – Calumet School of Technology to open with 200 students in grades 9 and 10 and a future maximum enrollment of 500 students in grades 9 – 12; and an increase in the school's enrollment cap to 1900 students.

The agreement incorporates an accountability plan where the school is evaluated by the board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Perspectives submitted a renewal proposal on December 1, 2006, to continue the operation of the Perspectives Charter School under a unified mission. Perspectives has since modified its renewal proposal to include commitments to operate four (4) 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 6-12 with a maximum student enrollment of 1,900.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2007 - 2008 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
South Loop Campus	1997	1930 S. Archer	6 - 12	352	400
Calumet High School Campus	2006	8131 S. May Street	7 - 12	200	500
Calumet Middle School Campus	2007	8131 S. May Street	7 - 8	375	500
Calumet School of Technology Campus	2007	8131 S. May Street	9 - 12	200	500

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Perspective's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of both Perspectives 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, Perspectives received 36 out of 73 high ratings and 30 out of 73 middle ratings on their student absolute indicators. In 2006, 68% of Perspectives students met or exceeded state standards on the ISAT. Finally, the school experienced a high attendance rate of 93.1% in 2005-2006. The committee recommends that, based on the schools performance on these and other accountability criteria, that Perspectives be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Perspectives charter status 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 Interim Executive Officer 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.

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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 \$6,869,375 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