

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
THE YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with the Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS) 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: Youth Connection Charter School
10 W. 35th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616
(312) 328-0799
Contact Person: Sheila Venson, Executive Director

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 97-0723-EX9) was for a term commencing August 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002. The Agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout Chicago. The YCCS Agreement with the Board limits their enrollment to no more than 1850 students. YCCS operates 25 campuses through sub-contracts with vendors throughout the city. YCCS is governed by a single board with uniform policies that apply to all vendors regarding admissions, curriculum, school calendar, student assessments, performance goals, student discipline and employment policies.

The charter and Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 02-0424-EX02) were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007. The Agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple campus charter school with an enrollment gradually increasing to a maximum enrollment of 3200 students in 2006-07. 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: YCCS submitted a renewal proposal on February 2, 2007, to continue the operation of a multi-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout the city under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades 9-12 with a maximum student enrollment of 3,200 at the 23 campuses listed in the table below.

Campus Name	Address	Enrollment	Grades
Youth Connection Leadership Academy	3424 S. State St.	138	9th-12th
Ada S. McKinley - Lakeside	2920 S Wabash Ave	157	9th-12th
The Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps)	3348 S. Kedzie Ave.	61	12th
Sullivan House Alternative High School	8164 S. Chicago Ave	130	9th-12th
Howard Area Alternative High School	7647 N. Paulina Ave	55	10th-12th
Latino Youth Alternative High School	2001 S. California Ave	110	9th-12th
Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy	2570 S. Blue Island Blvd	81	9th-12th
Jane Addams	1814 S. Union St	120	9th-12th
Community Youth Development Institute	7836 S. Union St	135	10th-12th
Olive Harvey Middle College High School	10001 S. Woodlawn Ave	184	9th-12th
Truman Middle College High School	1145 W. Wilson Ave	137	9th-12th
Association House - El Cuarto Ano	1116 N. Kedzie Ave	76	9th-12th
Community Service West - Community Christian Academy	1231 S. Pulaski Ave.	169	9th-12th
Community Service West - Academy of Scholastic Achievement	4651 W. Madison St	172	9th-12th
Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School	2739 W. Division	84	9th-12th
Bronzeville Blue Gargoyle Alternative High School	220 W 45th Place	143	9th-12th
West Town Academy Alternative High School	2039 W. Fulton St	85	9th-12th
Austin Career Education Center	5352 W. Chicago Ave	148	11th-12th
Westside Holistic Alternative High School	5443 W. Huron	183	9th-12th
Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School	9035 S. Langley	70	9th-12th
Winnie Mandela Alternative High School	7105 S. Ridgeland	76	9th-12th
ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja	3121 N. Pulaski	130	9th-12th
Prologue Alternative High School	640 W. Irving Park Road	112	9th-12th

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Renewal Evaluation Committee ("Committee") consisting of members from the Office of New Schools and the Department of Dropout Prevention and Recovery conducted a comprehensive evaluation of YCCS's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of multiple charter school campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and the learning community was assessed. In addition to the foregoing, the Committee evaluated the school's academic standards listed in their charter agreement. The Committee determined that the school is making reasonable progress towards achievement of those academic standards and should be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of YCCS's charter and agreement status is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012. YCCS shall be authorized during the renewal term to operate a multiple campus charter school with an enrollment not to exceed 3200 students. YCCS shall be closely monitored in all areas of academic and operational accountability, as outlined in their Charter School Agreement.

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 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.

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 \$21,600,000 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.

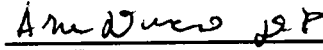
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

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