

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with The University of Chicago Charter School Corporation 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: The University of Chicago Charter School Corporation c/o
Center for Urban School Improvement
1313 E. 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: (773) 702-0663
Contact Person: Linda Wing, Deputy Director

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX22) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 336 students in grades Pre-K - 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008 (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX05) and authorized an increase in the maximum student enrollment to permit 450 students in grades Pre-K – 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 05-0126-EX11: Approved the establishment of a new campus (Donoghue Campus) located at 707 E. 37th Street and an increase of the enrollment cap to 950.
- Board Report 05-0622-EX4: Approved the change in business name from North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School to the University of Chicago Charter School.
- Board Report 05-1116-EX9: Approved the establishment of a new campus (High School Campus) at a location to be determined and an increase of the enrollment cap to 1540.
- Board Report 06-0322-EX3: Approved the location of the High School Campus to be located at 6420 S. University Avenue.
- Board Report 06-0524-EX9: Approved the name of the High School Campus to be known as University of Chicago Charter School at the Woodlawn High School Campus.
- Board Report 07-1024-EX2: Approved the establishment of a new campus to open in 2008, located at 4444 S. Evans Avenue, an increase of the enrollment cap to 1690 and a change in grades served at the Donoghue Campus to Pre-K – 5 beginning with the 2008 – 2009 school year.

- Board Report 07-1219-EX2: Approved the correction of the at capacity enrollment of the North Kenwood/Oakland Campus to 486, the correction of the at capacity enrollment of the fall 2008 campus to 540, the change in at capacity enrollment of the North Kenwood/Oakland Campus to 336 and the correction of the entire enrollment capacity for all campuses to 1966.

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: The University of Chicago Charter School Corporation (U of C) submitted a renewal proposal on October 5, 2007, to continue the operation of the University of Chicago Charter School under a unified mission. U of C 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 Pre-K - 12 with a maximum student enrollment of 1966 students.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2008 - 2009 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
North Kenwood/Oakland Campus	1998	1119 E. 46 th Street / 1014 E 47 th Street	Pre-K – 8	312	336
Donoghue Campus	2005	707 E. 37 th Street	Pre-K – 5	300	500
Woodlawn Campus	2006	6420 S. University Avenue	6-12	480	590
Carter G. Woodson Campus	2008	4414 S. Evans	6-8	262	540

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of U of C's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of the three campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and the learning communities were assessed. Public hearings were conducted on January 16, 2008 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with University of Chicago Charter School Corporation for an additional five years. There was no public testimony, oral or written, from anyone in opposition of the renewal of U of C charter. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, U of C received 37 of 46 high ratings and 8 of 46 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. Since the 2003-2004 school year, the charter school's attendance rate has stayed above 94% and the percentage of students transferring out of their campuses has not exceeded 3.6%. Student achievement analysis reveals that close to 70% of students are meeting or exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite in 2007, roughly five percentage points higher than the district. The charter school has also met Adequate Yearly Progress for the past four years. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, U of C be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of University of Chicago Charter School's charter status is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013.

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 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY09 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$ 8,026,196.00 in 2008-2009. U of C will also receive a one time payment from the Office of New Schools of \$170,000.00 to cover the cost of 3 planning positions for the Carter G. Woodson Campus to open in the Fall of 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.

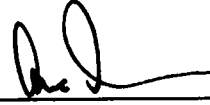
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement

Approved:



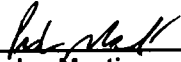
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

JM



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel