

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 07-0627-EX7  
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.

This May 2008 amendment is necessary to (a) correct the address for the Westside Holistic Alternative High School and (b) remove the Prologue Alternative High School from the list of YCCS Campuses. 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 amended Board Report. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Youth Connection Charter School  
10 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60616  
(312) 328-0799  
Contact Person: Sheila Venson, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(773) 553-1530  
Contact Person: ~~Beatriz Rendon, Interim Executive Officer~~  
Josh Edelman, 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~~ 22 campuses listed in the table below.

The correct address for the Westside Holistic Alternative High School is 4909 W. Division. Prologue Early College High School is no longer a campus of YCCS.

| 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                  | <del>5443 W. Huren</del><br><u>4909 W. Division Street</u> | 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                                    | 412        | 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.

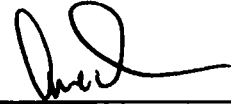
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Approved:**



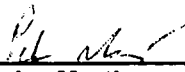
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully Submitted:**




\_\_\_\_\_  
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form** 



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel