

**WITHDRAWN  
DRAFT**

09-0225-EX17

February 25, 2009

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Alain Locke Charter Academy 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:** Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School  
3141 W. Jackson  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone : 773-265-7230  
Contact Person: Lennie Jones, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> 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-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2004 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 750 students in grades K – 12. The charter school was located at 3141 W. Jackson. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2009 (authorized by Board Report 04-0225-EX2).

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:** Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 5, 2008, to continue the operation of the Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades K -8 with a maximum student enrollment of 617 students.

The original charter school agreement authorized serving students in grades 9 though 12. The charter school will be required to submit a proposal through the New Schools Selection Process for evaluation and Board approval, and a public hearing will be required before being authorized to serve high school students.

Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School is authorized to operate a pre-kindergarten program in the same building as the charter school. The children enrolled in the pre-kindergarten will not be included in the enrollment of the charter school and the pre-kindergarten program will not be governed by the charter school agreement. To the extent the Board provides funding for the pre-kindergarten program, that program will be subject to a separate agreement with and separate funding authorized by the Office of Early Childhood Education. A material breach of any contract between the Board and Alain Locke Charter School for operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools

conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Alain Locke's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, governance analysis, and financial analysis. A public hearing was conducted on Tuesday, February 9, 2009 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School for an additional five years. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2004-2005 to 2007-2008, Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School received 16 out of 23 high ratings and 6 out of 23 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2004-2005 to 2006-2008, Alain Locke's student attendance averaged 93.2%. From 2005-2006 to 2006-2008 the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite increased by 8.9 percentage points (from 72.1% to 81.0%). The charter school also met Adequate Yearly Progress targets for all years eligible (2004-2005 through 2007-2008). The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Alain Locke be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School's charter status is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2014.

**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 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY10 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$ 3,664,363.00 in 2009-2010.

**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:**

---

**Ron Huberman**  
Chief Executive Officer


**Within Appropriation:**



---

**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form.** 



---

**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel