

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL
AGREEMENT WITH CATALYST SCHOOLS,
AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with Catalyst Schools, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation for a five-year period. The Charter School Agreement is currently being 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 agreement is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Catalyst Schools, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation
5608 W. Washington
Chicago, IL 60644
Phone: 773- 854-1633
Contact Person: Michael Fehrenbach

CHARTER SCHOOL: Catalyst Elementary Charter School – Circle Rock
5608 West Washington
Chicago, IL 60644
Phone: 773- 890-0233
Contact Person: Michael Fehrenbach

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1530
Contact Person: Jaime Guzman, Acting Executive Officer

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school. This school operated as an existing public school during the 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years (Board Report 05-1116-EX17). This proposal to convert a public school to charter school status is consistent with Section 27A-8(b) of the Illinois Charter Schools Law.

CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL: The Catalyst Elementary Charter School – Circle Rock (Catalyst – Circle Rock) proposal was submitted by Catalyst Schools and received by the Board on August 10, 2009. Catalyst – Circle Rock will provide a quality elementary educational choice to urban students who have not been adequately served by existing educational institutions through the use of a curriculum and instruction that focuses on reading and math. The special features will be a back-to-basics approach that focuses heavily on reading and mathematics, while other basic courses will also be taught. The mission of Catalyst –Circle Rock is to provide a quality elementary educational choice to the children of the urban poor, who have not been adequately served by existing educational institutions. The school will serve grades K-8 in the fall of 2010 with an at capacity enrollment of 500 students. The school will be located at 5608 West Washington. Public hearings on Renaissance 2010 charter school submissions submitted in 2009, as required by statute, were held on September 10, 2009 and November 9, 2009.

TERM: The term of the Catalyst – Circle Rock charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2010 and end June 30, 2015.

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, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Acting 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. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2010-2011 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 500 students in 2010-2011 will be approximately \$3,058,500.00. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts for FY10.

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, 2006 (96-0626-P03), 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:



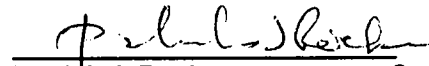
Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Christina Herzog
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel