

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Young Women's Leadership Charter School for an additional three-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:** Young Women's Leadership Charter School  
2641 S. Calumet Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616  
Phone: (312) 949-9400  
Contact Person: Michelle Russell, Co-Director

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

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** *The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 99-1215-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2005. The agreement authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 525 students in grades 6 through 12. The agreement was renewed (authorized by Board Report 05-0223-EX3) for a term commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010. The agreement authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 400 students in grades 7 through 12.*

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Young Women's Leadership Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 14, 2009, to continue the operation of Young Women's Leadership Charter School. The charter school shall be located at 2641 S. Calumet Avenue and shall serve grades 7 through 12 with a maximum student enrollment of 400 students. The agreement incorporates an accountability plan in which the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

Young Women's Leadership Charter School also entered into an Educational Services Partnership Agreement with Edison Schools Inc. to provide oversight of the academic program at Young Women's Leadership Charter School beginning with the 2010 – 2011 school year.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the charter school's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial and governance analyses, and site visit of the school in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, learning community and services for ELL students and students with special needs were assessed. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, the school received 9 out of 47 high ratings and 25 out of 47 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2006 to 2008, the charter school's attendance rate averaged 88.3%. From 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite increased by 9 percentage points (56.3% of students meeting/exceeding state standards to 65.3%). In 2008-2009, the charter school's PSAT Composite was 12.3% of students meeting or exceeding standards. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria and subject to inclusion in the Charter School Agreement of additional terms and conditions which were communicated to the charter school in March 2010, Young Women's Leadership Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school for a three (3) year term. A public hearing was

conducted on May 10, 2010 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Young Women's Leadership Charter School's charter status is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013, provided that all of the additional terms and conditions communicated to the charter school by the Office of New Schools in March 2010 are included in the agreement. During this renewal term, the charter school will be required to maintain the Educational Services Partnership Agreement with Edison Schools Inc. In addition, upon release of the Performance, Remediation and Probation Policy (PRPP) ratings for the 2010-2011 school year, the middle and high school divisions of Young Women's Leadership Charter School must each achieve at least 37% of possible points under the PRPP, with the majority of points coming from metrics in which zero points were attained based on 2008-2009 school year data. Upon release of the PRPP for the 2009-2010 school year, the school must show progress toward meeting the 2011 target.

**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 written 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.

**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 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 FY11 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$ 2,508,216.00 in 2010-2011.

**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**

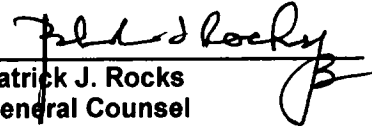
**Within Appropriation:**



---

**Diana Ferguson**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 



---

**Patrick J. Rocks**  
**General Counsel**