

APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH KWAME NKURUMAH ACADEMY, INC., 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 Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc., 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: Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc.
901 E. 95th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60619
Phone: 773-548-6675
Contact: Dr. Iva Carruthers, Chair, Board of Trustees

CHARTER SCHOOL: Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School
901 E. 95th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60619
Phone: 773-548-6675
Contact: Dr. Iva Carruthers, Chair, Board of Trustees

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773-553-1530
Contact Person: Nora Moreno Cargie, Chief of Staff

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 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years (Board Report 07-1024-EX14). 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 Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School (Kwame Nkrumah Academy) proposal was submitted by Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc. and received by the Board in August 2010. The Kwame Nkrumah Academy aims to be a global model of African-centered teaching and learning, a center and community of academic excellence and uncompromised expression. Kwame Nkrumah Academy will equip students with a strong sense of personal identity, requisite ethical moorings, and academic and leadership skills to prepare them for participation in the global community of the 21st Century. The curriculum of the Kwame Nkrumah Academy will focus on discipline and measured instructional outcomes, and include the use of age-appropriate global scholar mentorships, community-based experiential learning, exploration dialogue with diverse peers, language immersion and exchange programs. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2011 serving 201 students in grades K-4. At capacity, the school will serve 421 students in grades K-8. The school will be located at 901 E. 95th Street. Public hearings on charter school submissions submitted in 2010, as required by statute, were held on December 13, 2010 and January 18, 2011.

TERM: The term of the Kwame Nkrumah Academy charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2016.

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 written 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 Council is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY12 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

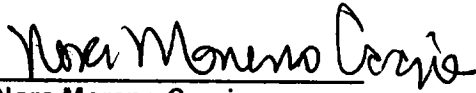
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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 for Consideration:



Nora Moreno Cargie
Chief of Staff

Respectfully submitted:




Terry Mazany
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Diana S. Ferguson
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel