

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
LAWNDALE EDUCATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORK CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. 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.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc.
212 S. Francisco Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (773) 826-0370
Contact Person: Greg White

CHARTER SCHOOL: L.E.A.R.N. Charter School
212 S. Francisco Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (773) 826-0370
Contact Person: Greg White

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 01-0627-EX7) was for a term commencing July 15, 2001 and ending July 15, 2006. The agreement authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 400 students in grades Kindergarten through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 16, 2006 and ending July 15, 2011 (authorized by Board Report 06-0222-EX14). The agreement authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 450 students in grades Kindergarten through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 06-1220-EX3: Approved the correction of the date of the renewal term for the Charter School Agreement.
- Board Report 07-1024-EX3: Approved the establishment of two new campuses, one to open in the fall of 2008 (Excel Campus) and one to open in the fall of 2009 (3rd Campus). Each campus would serve an at capacity enrollment of 600 students in grades Kindergarten through 8.
- Board Report 08-0423-EX8: Approved the location of the 2008 Campus (Excel Campus) at 2745 W. Roosevelt Road.
- Board Report 08-0723-EX12: Approved the change in location of the 2008 Campus (Excel Campus) to 2401 W. Congress Parkway and the name of the 2008 Campus to the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School – Excel Campus.

- Board Report 08-1217-EX3: Approved the change in name of the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School campus located at 1132 S. Homan Avenue to the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School – Romano Butler Campus.
- Board Report 09-0527-EX5: Approved the facility located at 212 S. Francisco as the location for the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School – 3rd Campus.
- Board Report 09-0923-EX3: Approved the change in at capacity enrollment of the Romano Butler Campus from 450 to 525 and for the entire charter from 1650 to 1725 students.
- Board Report 09-1123-EX10: Approved the establishment of two new campuses, one to open in the fall of 2010 (the South Chicago Campus) at 8914 S. Buffalo Avenue and the second to open in the fall of 2011 at 7110 S. Coles Avenue (5th Campus). Each campus would serve an at capacity enrollment of 596 students in grades Kindergarten through 8. The at capacity enrollment for the entire charter school would be 2321 in the fall of 2010 and 2917 in the fall of 2011.
- Board Report 10-0623-EX5: Approved the modifications of at capacity enrollment of the Excel Campus from 600 to 525 students and the Romano Butler Campus from 525 to 600 students.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc submitted a renewal proposal on September 1, 2010, to continue the operation of the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades Kindergarten through 8 with a maximum student enrollment of 2917 students.

L.E.A.R.N. 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 L.E.A.R.N. Charter School for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

The agreement incorporates an accountability plan in which the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to academic, financial and operational performance.

In March 2011, L.E.A.R.N. Charter School also submitted a material modification to identify the facility located at 1700 W. 83rd Street as the location for the 5th Campus.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2010 - 2011 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
Romano Butler Campus	2001	1132 S. Homan	K-8	583	600
Excel Campus	2008	2401 W. Congress Parkway	K-8	339	525
3 rd Campus	2009	212 S. Francisco	K-8	326	600
South Chicago Campus	2010	8914 S. Buffalo	K-8	216	596
5 th Campus	2011	1700 W. 83 rd Street	K-8	236 (in the fall of 2011)	596

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of L.E.A.R.N. 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. A public hearing was conducted on Thursday, March 10, 2011 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. for an additional five years. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2006-2007 to 2009-2010, L.E.A.R.N. Charter School received 16 out of 24 high ratings and 6 out of 24 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2006-2007 to 2009-2010, L.E.A.R.N. Charter School's student attendance averaged 95.8%. In 2010, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite was 83.1%, an increase of 14.6 percentage points from 2006-2007. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, L.E.A.R.N. Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of L.E.A.R.N. Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 16, 2011 and ending July 15, 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, 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 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 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, 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:




Nora Moreno Cargie
Chief of Staff

Respectfully Submitted:



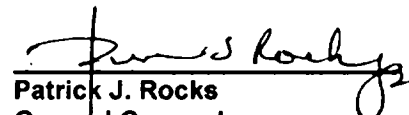
Terry Mazany
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Diana Ferguson
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel