

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 11-0323-EX9**  
**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH**  
**LAWDALE EDUCATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORK (L.E.A.R.N.) CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Lawndale Educational and Regional Network (L.E.A.R.N.) 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.

This December 2011 amendment is necessary to authorize the L.E.A.R.N. Charter School to (a) establish a new elementary school campus in the fall of 2012 at a location to be determined, (b) increase the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 625 to 3542 students in the fall of 2012, (c) establish two new elementary school campuses to open in the fall of 2013 at locations to be determined, and (d) increase the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 1250 to 4792 students in the fall of 2013. Establishment of the additional campuses and the corresponding changes to enrollment are contingent upon any required public hearings, evidence of community support and Board approval of the locations of the campuses. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event written amendments to the Charter School Agreement are not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within the timeframe specified in the amended Board Reports identifying and approving the sites of the proposed campuses. The amended agreements authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Lawndale Educational and Regional Network (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~~ Portfolio Office  
 125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Chicago, IL 60603  
 (773) 553-1530  
 Contact Person: ~~Nora Moreno Cargie, Chief of Staff~~  
Oliver Sicat, Chief Portfolio Officer

**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 single facility 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 (2009 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 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 – 2009 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 09-0923-EX3: 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 (2011 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-EX10: Approved the modifications of at capacity enrollment of the Excel Campus from 600 to 525 and the Romano Butler Campus from 525 to 600 students.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** L.E.A.R.N. 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. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street as the location for the 2011 Campus.

In August 2011, L.E.A.R.N. Charter School submitted a proposal to do the following: (a) establish a new elementary school campus to open in the fall of 2012 at a location to be determined, (b) increase the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 625 to 3542 students in the fall of 2012, (c) establish two new elementary school campuses to open in the fall of 2013 at locations to be determined, and (d) increase the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 1250 to 4792 students in the fall of 2013. The elementary school campus opening in the fall of 2012 (6<sup>th</sup> Campus) shall begin serving 260 students in grades K-3. In successive years, this campus will grow one grade at a time, until reaching a capacity of 625 students in grades K-8. The elementary school campuses opening in the fall of 2013 (7<sup>th</sup> Campus and 8<sup>th</sup> Campus) shall each begin serving 260 students in grades K-3. In successive years, each

campus will grow one grade at a time, until reaching a capacity of 625 students in grades K-8.

A public hearing on these proposed changes was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. The hearing was recorded and a summary report of the hearing is available for review.

<b>Campus Name</b>	<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>At Capacity Grades</b>	<b>2010 - 2011 Enrollment</b>	<b>At Capacity Enrollment</b>
Romano Butler Campus	2001	1132 S. Homan	K-8	583	600
Excel Campus	2008	2401 W. Congress Parkway	K-8	339	525
3 <sup>rd</sup> Campus	2009	212 S. Francisco	K-8	326	600
South Chicago Campus	2010	8914 S. Buffalo	K-8	216	596
5 <sup>th</sup> Campus	2011	1700 W. 83 <sup>rd</sup> Street	K-8	236 (in the fall of 2011)	596
6 <sup>th</sup> Campus	2012	TBD	K-8	260 (in the fall of 2012)	625
7 <sup>th</sup> Campus	2013	TBD	K-8	260 (in the fall of 2013)	625
8 <sup>th</sup> Campus	2013	TBD	K-8	260 (in the fall of 2013)	625

**CONTINGENT APPROVAL:** Approval to open one new elementary school campus in the fall of 2012 and two new elementary school campuses in the fall of 2013 and the execution of the amendments to the Charter School Agreement are contingent upon a final review and approval of the new elementary school proposals, an assessment of the District's need for these charter school campuses based upon demographics and student demands, evidence of community support, any required subsequent public hearings, and Board approval of the proposed school sites. Approval of the 2012 and 2013 campuses is also contingent upon the school operator meeting benchmarks established by the Portfolio Office. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school operator in a formal Letter of Conditions with all deadlines to be met by March 15, 2012 for the 2012 campus, and March 15, 2013 for 2013 campuses. The Portfolio Office will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the approval to open these new campuses. A final review of these new campus proposals will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer on or before April 15, 2012 for the 2012 campus, and April 15, 2013 for 2013 campuses to determine final approval or denial of the new campus proposals. The CEO's recommendation to approve the new elementary school campuses will be subject to Board approval as indicated by subsequent amendments to this Board Report.

All sites for the 2012 and 2013 campuses must be located in high need or overcrowded communities.

**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 L.E.A.R.N. Charter School 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 1, 2011 and ending 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, funding, 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.

**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 2011-2012-2013 and 2013-2014 fiscal year budgets. 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:**

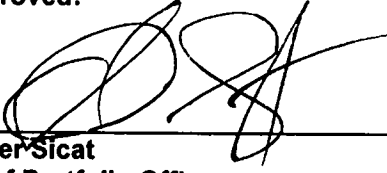
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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)~~ May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

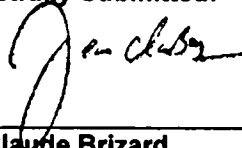
**Approved:**



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**Oliver Sicat**  
**Chief Portfolio Officer**

**Respectfully Submitted:**



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**Jean Claude Brizard**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

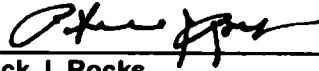
**Within Appropriation:**



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**David G. Watkins**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



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