

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Youth Connection Charter School for an additional 3-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: Youth Connection Charter School (YCCS)
10 W. 35th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616
(312) 328-0799
Contact Person: Sheila Venson, Executive Director

OVERSIGHT: Portfolio Office
125 S. Clark, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(773) 553-1530
Contact Person: Carly Bolger, Executive Director, Office of New Schools and Programs

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0723-EX9) was for a term commencing August 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002. The agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout Chicago. The agreement also limited their enrollment to no more than 1850 students. YCCS is governed by a single board with uniform policies that apply to all campuses regarding admissions, curriculum, school calendar, student assessments, performance goals, student discipline and employment policies. The charter and Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 02-0424-EX02) were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007. The agreement authorized YCCS to operate a multiple campus charter school with an enrollment gradually increasing to a maximum enrollment of 3200 students in 2006-07. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed (authorized by Board Report 07-0627-EX7) for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 08-0602-EX2: Approved the address correction for the Westside Holistic Alternative High School at 4909 W. Division and the removal of Prologue Alternative High School from the list of YCCS Campuses.
- Board Report 08-0827-EX8: Approved the increase of the at capacity enrollment at the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus by 300 students to 438 and the increase of the overall at capacity enrollment for the Youth Connection Charter School by 300 students to 3,500.
- Board Report 09-0826-EX7: Approved the name change of the Bronzeville Blue Gargoyle Alternative High School to Innovations High School of Arts Integration, the removal of Winnie Mandela Alternative High School from the list of YCCS Campuses, the addition of the YCCS Virtual High School to the list of YCCS Campuses, the establishment of an enrollment of 300 students at the YCCS Virtual High School, and the decrease of the at capacity enrollment at the Youth Connection Leadership Academy Campus by 300 to 138 students.

- Board Report 10-0728-EX6: Approved the establishment of the Chicago State University Options Laboratory School as a YCCS Campus to open in January 2011, the establishment of a first year enrollment of 150 students and an at capacity enrollment of 250 students at Chicago State University Options Laboratory School, the increase of the overall at capacity enrollment of YCCS by 250 students to 3,750, the relocation of the West Town Academy Alternative High School to 500 N. Sacramento Blvd, and the expansion of the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School to an annex facility located at 2700 W. Haddon.
- Board Report 10-0922-EX4: Approved the name change of Westside Holistic Alternative High School to Westside Holistic Leadership Academy.
- Board Report 11-0126-EX9: Approved the increase of the overall at capacity enrollment of YCCS by 254 to 4,004 students by increasing the enrollment at the following campuses: Youth Connection Leadership Academy, Jane Addams, Community Youth Development Institute, Truman Middle College High School, Association House – El Cuarto Ano, Innovations High School of Arts Integration and West Town Academy Alternative High School.
- Board Report 11-0525-EX8: Approved the change of the start date of the Chicago State University Options Laboratory School from January 2011 to the fall of 2011, the change in location of the Chicago State University Options Laboratory School from 9501 S. King Drive to 1060 E. 47th Street, and the name change of the Chicago State University Options Laboratory School to the Options Laboratory School.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Youth Connection Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 1, 2011, to continue the operation of a multi-campus charter school serving dropouts throughout the city under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 4,004 students.

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

Youth Connection Leadership Academy	3424 S. State St.	177	9th-12th
Ada S. McKinley - Lakeside	2920 S. Wabash Ave.	157	9th-12th
The Paul Simon Academy (Job Corps)	3348 S. Kedzie Ave.	61	12th
Sullivan House Alternative High School	8164 S. South Chicago Ave.	130	9th-12th
Howard Area Alternative High School	7647 N. Paulina Ave	55	10th-12th
Latino Youth Alternative High School	2001 S. California Ave	110	9th-12th
Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy	2570 S. Blue Island Blvd	81	9th-12th
Jane Addams	1814 S. Union St	155	9th-12th
Community Youth Development Institute	7836 S. Union St	175	10th-12th
Olive Harvey Middle College High School	10001 S. Woodlawn Ave	184	9th-12th
Truman Middle College High School	1145 W. Wilson Ave	176	9th-12th

Association House - El Cuarto Ano	1116 N. Kedzie Ave, 4 th Floor	86	9th-12th
Community Services West - Community Christian Academy	1231 S. Pulaski Ave.	169	9th-12th
Community Services West - Academy of Scholastic Achievement	4651 W. Madison St	172	9th-12th
Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School	2739 W. Division St. & 2700 W. Haddon Ave.	84	9th-12th
Innovations High School of Arts Integration	220 W. 45 th Place	204	9th-12th
West Town Academy Alternative High School	500 N. Sacramento Blvd.	115	9th-12th
Austin Career Education Center	5352 W. Chicago Ave.	148	11th-12th
Westside Holistic Leadership Academy	4909 W. Division Street	183	9th-12th
Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School	9035 S. Langley Ave.	70	9th-12th
ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja	3121 N. Pulaski Ave.	130	9th-12th
YCCS Virtual High School	1900 W. Van Buren	300	9th-12th
Options Laboratory School	1060 E. 47 th Street	250	9th-12th

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Portfolio Office conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Youth Connection Charter School's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of the Westside Holistic Leadership Academy, Innovations High School of Arts Integration, Association House-El Cuarto Año, ASPIRA-Antonia Pantoja, Latino Youth Alternative High School, YCCS Virtual High School, Community Services West-Community Christian Academy, Sullivan House Alternative High School, Jane Addams, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School, and the Paul Simon Academy-Job Corps campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and learning communities were assessed. A public hearing was conducted on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 to receive public comments on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Youth Connection Charter School for an additional three years. In addition, the Portfolio Office evaluated the school's student performance. From 2007-2008 to 2010-2011, Youth Connection Charter School received 10 out of 43 high ratings and 19 out of 43 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing alternative school charter school pupil performance. From 2007-2008 to 2010-2011, Youth Connection Charter School's attendance averaged approximately 77%. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Youth Connection Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Youth Connection Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school and included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Youth Connection Charter School.

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 Director of the Office of New Schools and Programs 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 2012-2013 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:

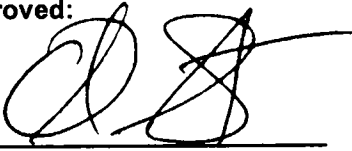
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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

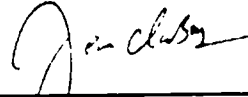
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Oliver Sicat
Chief Portfolio Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



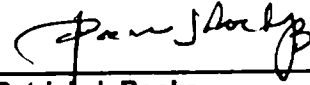
Jean Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



David Watkins
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel