

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING TECHNICAL CHARTER SCHOOL**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical 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.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical Charter School  
5410 S. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-548-8705  
Contact Person: Marvin Talley, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(773) 553-1530  
Contact Person: Carly Bolger, Executive Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 04-0225-EX4) was for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2009 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 500 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012 (authorized by Board Report 09-0325-EX15). The charter and Charter School agreement were further renewed for an additional 1-year period commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013 (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX10).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical Charter School (ACE Tech) submitted a renewal proposal on September 4, 2012 to continue the operation of ACE Tech to provide a technical career and college preparatory education. The charter school shall be located at 5410 S. State Street and shall serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 500 students.

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

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of ACE Tech's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visit of the high school in which student performance, teaching and learning, leadership and governance, and the learning communities were assessed. A public hearing was held on February 21, 2013 for all charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including ACE Tech. In addition to the foregoing, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. The school was rated Level 3 with 38.0% of points in 2010-11 and Level 2 with 50.9% of points in 2011-2012 on the school absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, ACE Tech's student attendance averaged approximately 89.7%. In 2011-2012, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the PSAE Composite was

15.7%, an increase of 3.3 percentage points from 2008-2009. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, ACE Tech be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of ACE Tech's charter and agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016 .

**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 ACE Tech.

**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 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 fiscal year 2014 budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY13 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.

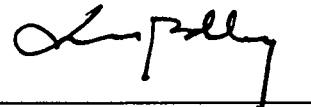
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
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**Jack Elsey**  
**Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation**

**Approved:**

  
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**Barbara Byrd-Bennett**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
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**James Bebley**  
**General Counsel**