

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
KIPP CHICAGO SCHOOLS
(KIPP ASCEND CHARTER SCHOOL)**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with KIPP Chicago Schools 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: KIPP Chicago Schools
1945 S. Halsted, Suite 101
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: (312) 733-8108
Contact Person: Nicole Boardman

CHARTER SCHOOL: KIPP Ascend Charter School
1440 S. Christiana Avenue &
1616 S. Avers Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: (773) 521-4399
Contact Person: April Goble

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 03-0527-EX5) was for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 320 students in grades 5 – 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 08-0602-EX5) were renewed for an additional five (5) year period commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013 and authorized an increase in the maximum student enrollment to 330. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 08-1022-EX13: Approved the increase of the grades served from 5 – 8 to K – 8, the increase of the at capacity enrollment from 330 students to 949 students and the clarification of the relationship of any pre-kindergarten program to the charter school.
- Board Report 09-0325-EX5: Approved the relocation of the school from 715 South Kildare Avenue to 1616 S. Avers.
- Board Report 12-0425-EX3: Approved the school to temporarily locate grades K through 2 to 1440 S. Christiana Avenue beginning in the fall of 2012.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: KIPP Chicago Schools submitted a renewal proposal on September 1, 2012 to continue the operation of the KIPP Ascend Charter School (KIPP Ascend) under a unified mission. The charter school shall have a maximum student enrollment of 949 and shall serve grades 1 through 8 as follows:

- (a) Starting in the fall of 2013, remove the Kindergarten grade and temporarily add the 3rd grade at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue;
- (b) Starting in the fall of 2014, remove the 1st grade and temporarily add the 4th grade at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue;
- (c) Starting in the fall of 2015, remove the 2nd grade at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue;
- (d) Starting in the fall of 2016, remove the 3rd grade at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue; and
- (e) Starting in the Fall of 2017, remove the 4th grade at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue so that the Charter School shall have no grades at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue.

School Year	Grades at 1440 S. Christiana Avenue	Grades at 1616 S. Avers Avenue
2013-2014	1-3	5-8
2014-2015	2-4	5-8
2015-2016	3-4	5-8
2016-2017	4	5-8
2017-2018	No Grades	5-8

If KIPP Chicago Schools is authorized to operate a pre-kindergarten program in the same building as the charter school, then 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 KIPP Chicago Schools for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

This agreement will incorporate an accountability plan where 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 KIPP Ascend’s performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visit of the 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 KIPP Ascend. In addition to the foregoing, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school’s student performance. From 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, KIPP Ascend received 23 out of 52 high ratings and 19 out of 52 middle ratings 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, KIPP Ascend’s student attendance averaged approximately 94.7%. In 2011-2012, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite was 74.4%, an increase of 5.4 percentage points from 2009-2010. The committee recommends that, based on the school’s performance on these and other accountability criteria, KIPP Ascend be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of KIPP Ascend’s charter and agreement is being extended for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018.

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 KIPP Chicago Schools.

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 2014 fiscal year 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.

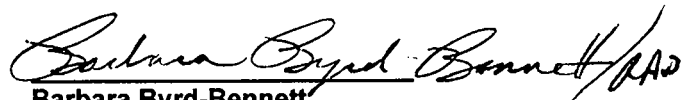
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:



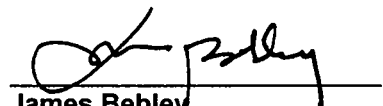
Jack Elsey
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Approved:



Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



James Bebley
General Counsel