

May 28, 2014

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 13-0227-EX11**  
**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH**  
**YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Young Women's Leadership Charter School 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 May 2014 amendment is necessary to approve a change to the current grade structure at the charter school from grades 7-12 to 9-12 beginning in the fall of 2015. Beginning in the fall of 2014, Young Women's Leadership Charter School will no longer serve grade 7, and in the fall of 2015 will no longer serve grade 8. There is no change to the maximum enrollment at the charter school. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written amendment to the Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the charter school's governing board within 120 days of the date of this amended Board Report. The amended agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Young Women's Leadership Charter School  
 2641 S. Calumet Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60616  
 Phone: 312-949-9400  
 Contact Person: ~~Michelle Russell, Co-Director~~ Deniece Fields, Director

**OVERSIGHT:** ~~Office of New Schools~~ Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 125 S. Clark ~~Street~~, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Chicago, IL 60603  
 (773) 553-1530  
 Contact Person: ~~Carly Bolger, Executive Director~~ Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 99-1215-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 2000 and ending June 30, 2005 and authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 525 students in grades 6 through 12. The charter and Charter Renewal Agreement were renewed (authorized by Board Report 05-0223-EX3) for a term commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010 and authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 400 students in grades 7 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed (authorized by Board Report 10-0526-EX10) for a term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013 and again authorized the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 400 students in grades 7 through 12.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Young Women's Leadership Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 4, 2012, to continue the operation of Young Women's Leadership Charter School. The charter school shall be located at 2641 S. Calumet Avenue and shall serve grades 7 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 400 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.

In February 2014, Young Women's Leadership Charter School submitted a material modification to change its current grade structure at the charter school from grades 7-12 to 9-12 beginning in the fall of 2015. Beginning in the fall of 2014, Young Women's Leadership Charter School will no longer serve grade 7, and in the fall of 2015 will no longer serve grade 8. There is no change to the maximum enrollment at the charter school. A public hearing on the proposed change was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Young Women's Leadership Charter School'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 Young Women's Leadership Charter School. In addition to the foregoing, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. The school was rated Level 2 with 48.9% of points in 2010-11 and Level 2 with 46.7% 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, Young Women's Leadership Charter School's student attendance averaged approximately 90.2%. In 2011-2012, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the PSAE Composite was 24.6%, an increase of 12.3 percentage points from 2008-2009. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Young Women's Leadership Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Young Women's Leadership Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (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 Young Women's Leadership 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 and amendment, 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 and amendment. Authorize the ~~Executive~~ Senior Director of the Office of ~~New Schools~~ Innovation and Incubation 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 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY134 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

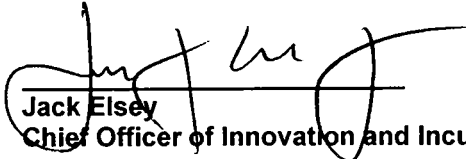
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
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James Bebley  
General Counsel