

November 18, 2015

AMEND BOARD REPORT 13-0227-EX2
APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
AMANDLA CHARTER SCHOOL

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Amandla 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 November 2015 amendment is necessary to (a) revoke the charter and Charter School Agreement for Amandla Charter School at the end of the 2015-2016 school year for the reasons set forth below, and (b) authorize a wind down agreement for the Amandla Charter School. Amandla Charter School shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and return its charter to the Board effective as of July 1, 2016.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Amandla Charter School
 6800 South Stewart Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60621
 Phone: (773) 396-8022
 Contact Person: Erin Ferguson

OVERSIGHT: ~~Office of New Schools~~ Office of Innovation and Incubation
~~425 S. Clark, 10th Floor~~ 42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
 Chicago, IL 60603
 (773) 553-1530
 Contact Person: ~~Garly Bolger, Executive Director~~
Elizabeth Kirby, Chief of School Strategy and Planning

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 07-1024-EX16) was for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 600 students in grades 5 through 12.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Amandla Charter School (Amandla) submitted a renewal proposal on September 4, 2012 to continue the operation of Amandla. The charter school shall be located at 6800 S. Stewart Avenue and shall serve grades 5 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 600 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 early November 2015, the CEO provided written notice to Amandla that he intended to recommend to the Board the revocation of its charter and Charter School Agreement at the end of the 2015-2016 school year due to the following reasons:

Section 27A-9(c)(2) of the Illinois Charter Schools Law states that a charter may be revoked if it fails to "meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter". Furthermore, Section 27A-9(c)(4) of the Illinois Charter Schools Law states that, after being notified of the reason for revocation, the charter school must submit a written plan for remediation and the plan for remediation will be reviewed and a determination will be made whether the charter failed to implement the plan.

In addition, Amandla's Charter School Agreement dictates that the charter school will be evaluated annually in accordance with the CPS School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) to determine if the school is meeting or making reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards. In the 2014-2015 school year Amandla received a Level 3 rating on the SQRP. On December 3, 2014, the Office of Innovation and Incubation notified Amandla that, for school year 2014-2015, its school was failing to meet standards or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards and the revocation process began. Amandla submitted a remediation plan. The Office of Innovation and Incubation, in conjunction with the Office of Accountability, reviewed the remediation plan and its implementation. The CEO has decided that Amandla failed to implement its remediation plan. Pursuant to the Illinois Charter Schools Law and the Charter School Agreement, the CEO recommends that the charter and Charter School Agreement for Amandla be revoked at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Amandla shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and return its charter to the Board effective as of July 1, 2016. Both parties shall enter into a wind down agreement with respect to the revocation of the charter and Charter School Agreement.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Amandla'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 Amandla. In addition to the foregoing, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2008-2009 to 2011-2012, Amandla received 17 out of 32 high ratings and 10 out of 32 middle ratings on the school absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2008-2009 to 2010-2012, Amandla's student attendance averaged approximately 93.4%. In 2011-2012, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite was 70.4%, an increase of 17.1 percentage points from 2008-2009. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Amandla be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Amandla's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018. Amandla's charter and agreement is being revoked at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The charter for this school shall be returned to the Board effective as of July 1, 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 Amandla 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 wind down agreement for the charter school, 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 wind down agreement for the charter school. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of New Schools Chief of School Strategy and Planning to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois State Charter School Commission of the revocation of the charter and the Charter School Agreement 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 as well as any other information as may be necessary due to the closure of the charter school.~~

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 ~~2016-2017~~ fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY~~43~~16 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:



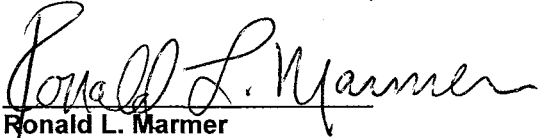
Elizabeth Kirby
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

Approved:



Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Ronald L. Marmer
General Counsel