

November 18, 2015

**DENY THE RENEWAL OF A CHARTER AND CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE BRONZEVILLE LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

That the Chicago Board of Education (Board) deny the renewal of the charter and Charter School Agreement with Chicago Lighthouse Charter School for the Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School (Bronzeville) at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and authorize a wind down agreement for Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School. The Chicago Lighthouse 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.

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 05-0126-EX12) was for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2011 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 496 students in grades K – 5th. The charter and Charter School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a 5-year period in April 2011 for a term commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2016.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** Bronzeville participated in the 2015-2016 renewal evaluation process. Section 27A - 9(c)(3) of the Illinois Charter Schools Law states that a charter may not be renewed if it fails “to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter”. The Charter School Agreement, and its subsequent modifications with respect to the Accountability Plan, dictate that Bronzeville will be evaluated annually in accordance with the Board’s 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. The Illinois State Board of Education’s Policy on Charter School Renewal/Revocation Decisions identifies the charter school’s progress on meeting student academic standards as the most important factor for renewal.

Bronzeville failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards because it earned a School Year 15-16 SQRP rating of Level 3 based on school year 2014-2015 data and has a 2 year SQRP average of 2.0.

The Chicago Lighthouse Charter School shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school effective as of July 1, 2016. Both parties shall enter into a wind down agreement with respect to the non-renewal of the charter and the Charter School Agreement.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the wind down agreement for the charter school. Authorize the 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 non-renewal of the charter as well as any other information that may be necessary due to the closure of Bronzeville.

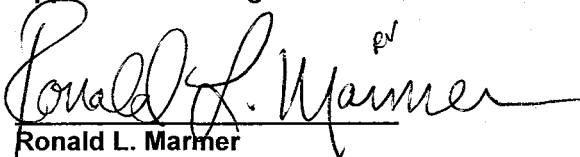
Approved for Consideration:

  
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Elizabeth Kirby  
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

Approved:

  
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Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

  
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Ronald L. Marmer  
General Counsel