

April 27, 2016

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 14-0528-EX6**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 13-0522-EX102**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 11-0223-EX2**  
**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTESSORI NETWORK, INC.,**  
**AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION**

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

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with The Montessori Network, Inc., for a five-year period. This approval is contingent upon final approval from the Board's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") as detailed below. The Charter School Agreement is currently being 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 the CEO files a report with the Secretary of the Board indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the charter school proposal and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

*This May 2013 amendment is necessary to authorize The Montessori Network, Inc. to identify the CPS facility at 6550 South Seeley as the location of The Montessori School of Englewood Charter. 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.*

*This May 2014 amendment is necessary to correct the grades served and the maximum enrollment in the May 2013 Board Report (13-0522-EX102). The language in the Board Report should be corrected to reflect the grades served at the charter school as K-6 with a maximum enrollment of 240 students. No written amendment to the Charter School Agreement is required.*

*This April 2016 amendment is necessary to authorize the relocation of the charter school to the CPS facility at 6936 South Hermitage Avenue beginning in the fall of 2016. The CEO asks that the Board grant a waiver from the Charter School Capital and Facility Budget Policy, 11-0427-PO1.*

*This April 2016 amendment is also necessary to reflect that the charter school is relocating to a facility that has the capacity to enable the charter school to serve grades K-8 with the corresponding maximum enrollment of 540 students as identified in its original proposal (Board Report 11-0223-EX2). 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.*

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** The Montessori Network, Inc.  
 5248 N. Wayne Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60640  
 Phone: 773-808-1921  
 Contact: Rita Nolan, Executive Director

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** The Montessori School of Englewood Charter  
 6550 S. Seeley Avenue 6936 S. Hermitage Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60636  
 Phone: 773-808-1921  
 Contact: Rita Nolan, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
425 S. Clark Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor 42 W. Madison, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Officer Mary K. Bradley, Executive Director

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

**CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** The Montessori School of Englewood Charter (the Montessori School) proposal was submitted by The Montessori Network, Inc. and received by the Board in August 2010. The Montessori School's mission is to prepare a new generation of students for lifelong academic, personal, and professional success through a rigorous, tuition-free K-6 Montessori education. The Montessori Method will encourage them to graduate from high school and college, fostering aspiration to excellence and cultivating personal commitment to a peaceful and sustainable global community. The Montessori classroom maximizes the development and capabilities of the individual student through a combination of instructional strategies: developmentally based hands-on materials and instructional methods, multi-sensory education, project-based learning, Socratic dialogue, individualized instruction, student choice, social justice education, a focus on relationships, and culturally responsive teaching. The Montessori School will ignite the minds and illuminate the hearts of its students. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2012 serving 90 students in grades K-2. At capacity, the school will serve 240 students in grades K-6. The school will be located at 6550 S. Seeley. Public hearings on charter school submissions submitted in 2010, as required by statute, were held on December 13, 2010, January 18, 2011, and February 17, 2011.

The school operator originally applied for approval to operate grades K-8 with up to 540 students, but the facility selected by the school operator could not support that program size; therefore, the school is authorized to only operate through grade 6 at this time. In the event the school operator identifies another site with a larger capacity, it may apply to amend its charter to add grades 7-8. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the Office of New Schools no later than July 1, 2016. [Paragraph inadvertently omitted from a previous board report.]

In March 2013, the CEO recommended to the Board that the CPS facility at 6550 South Seeley be identified as the location of The Montessori School of Englewood Charter. This site will require that The Montessori School of Englewood Charter share its facility with Luke O'Toole Elementary School. The two schools will share their facility in accordance with the Board's Shared Facility Policy, 05-0126-PO1.

A public hearing on the proposed co-location was held on May 7, 2013 at Board Chambers, 125 South Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

In May 2014, the Office of Innovation and Incubation would like to correct the grades served and the maximum enrollment in the May 2013 Board Report (13-0522-EX102). The language in the Board Report should be corrected to reflect the grades served at the charter school as K-6 with a maximum enrollment of 240 students.

In January 2016, the Montessori Network, Inc. submitted an application to request the relocation of the charter school to the CPS facility at 6936 South Hermitage Avenue beginning in the fall of 2016 in order for the charter school to have the capacity to serve grades K-8 with the corresponding maximum enrollment of 540 students as identified in its original proposal (Board Report 11-0223-EX2). A public hearing on the proposed changes was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

**CONTINGENT APPROVAL:** The granting of a charter by the Board and the entering into a Charter School Agreement is contingent upon the school operator meeting benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including, but not limited to, obtaining the financing for, and the completion of, the renovations to the independent facility at the school site. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school operator in a formal Letter of Conditions with all deadlines to be met by January 15, 2012. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the charter school proposal. A final review of the charter school proposal will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee will file a report indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the charter school proposal and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The report will be filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before February 15, 2012. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

**TERM:** The term of the Montessori School charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2012 and end June 30, 2017.

**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, 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 Senior Executive Director of the Office of the 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 Council is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2014-16-2015-17 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY14-16 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

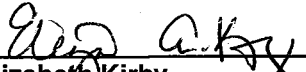
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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, 2006 (96-0626-P03), 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.

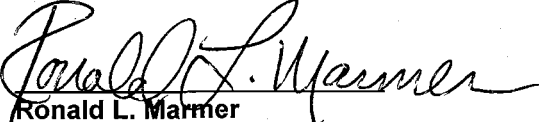
Approved for Consideration:

  
Elizabeth Kirby  
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

Approved:

  
Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
Ronald L. Marmer  
General Counsel