

April 27, 2016

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE LEARN CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the LEARN Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions 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: Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc.
3021 West Carroll Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (773) 584-4300
Contact Person: Greg White

CHARTER SCHOOL: LEARN Charter School
3021 West Carroll Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (773) 584-4300
Contact Person: Greg White

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Mary K. Bradley, Executive Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 01-0627-EX7) was for a term commencing July 15, 2001 and ending July 15, 2006 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 400 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed (authorized by Board Report 06-0222-EX14) for a term commencing July 16, 2006 and ending July 15, 2011, serving no more than 1,125 students. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed (authorized by Board Report 11-0323-EX9) for a term commencing July 16, 2011 and ending June 15, 2016, serving no more than 2,917 students. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 11-1214-EX5: Approved the establishment of a new elementary school campus in the fall of 2012 at a location to be determined and the increase in the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 625 to 3,542 students in the fall of 2012. Also approved the establishment of two new elementary school campuses to open in the fall of 2013 at locations to be determined and the increase in the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 1,250 to 4,792 students in the fall of 2013.
- Board Report 12-0328-EX8: Approved the identification of the independent facility at 3021 W. Carroll as the new location for the 6th Campus beginning in fall of 2012 and the Excel Campus beginning in the fall of 2013. Also approved the change in names for the following campuses: from 5th Campus to Hunter Perkins Campus, from 6th Campus to East Garfield Park Campus, from 3rd Campus to Charles and Dorothy Campbell Campus.
- Board Report 12-0822-EX3: Approved the change in start date of the East Garfield Park Campus from the fall of 2012 to the fall of 2013.

- Board Report 13-0424-EX10: Approved the change in start date of the 8th Campus from the fall of 2013 to the fall of 2014; the change in name of the East Garfield Park Campus to the Middle School Campus; the restriction of grades offered at the 7th Campus and Excel Campus to grades K-5 and at the Middle School Campus to 6-8; identification of the independent facility at 3021 W. Carroll as the location for the 7th Campus. Also approved the decrease in the at capacity enrollment at the 7th Campus from 625 to 525 students, thereby decreasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school by 100 to 4,692 students.
- Board Report 14-0122-EX6: Ratified the temporary relocation of the Middle School Campus and the 7th Campus to 1628 W. Washington Boulevard from September 25, 2013 to December 23, 2013. Also approved the temporary relocation of the Excel Campus to 751 S. Sacramento from September 23, 2013 to December 20, 2013. All three campuses had returned to their permanent location at the independent facility at 3021 W. Carroll as of January 8, 2014.

The charter and Charter School Agreement were amended and restated to approve the change in grade structure at the Charles and Dorothy Campbell Campus from grades K-8 to K-5 beginning in the fall of 2014 (Board Report 14-0528-EX7). This Board Report also approved the change in the start date of the 8th Campus from the fall of 2014 to the fall of 2015.

- Board Report 15-0527-EX16: Approved the rescission of the authority to open the 8th Campus in the fall of 2015 due to no site identification.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal on October 19, 2015 to continue the operation of LEARN Charter School under a unified mission.

Also, in January 2016, Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. submitted a material modification to increase the at capacity enrollment of the Romano Butler Campus by 120 students as well as increase the at capacity enrollment of the Hunter Perkins Campus by 119 students beginning in the fall of 2016. Since the charter operator does not meet the Charter School Quality Policy criteria for expanding its campuses by more than 10% of the campus' enrollment, the Office of Innovation and Incubation will only authorize (a) an increase in the at capacity enrollment of the Romano Butler Campus by 60 to 660 students and (b) an increase in the at capacity enrollment of the Hunter Perkins Campus by 59 to 655 students beginning in the fall of 2016.

The charter operator also proposed to build an annex to add additional space to its Hunter Perkins Campus at 83rd Street and Paulina Street in the fall of 2017. The charter operator shall submit written communications to the CEO or his designee on the exact address of the annex no later than 6 months prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. This Board approval of the annex is contingent upon the subsequent approval of the facility by the CPS Facility Department which shall include, without limitation, the receipt of all necessary zoning and occupancy permits and health and safety approvals for that site.

As a result, the charter school shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 4,186 students.

A public hearing on the proposed increases was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review

If Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. is authorized to operate a pre-kindergarten program in the same building as the charter school, 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 Lawndale Educational and Regional Network Charter School, Inc. for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

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.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2015-2016 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
Romano Butler	2001	1132 S. Homan	K-8	622	660
Excel	2008	3021 W. Carroll	K-5	436	525
Charles and Dorothy Campbell	2009	212 S. Francisco	K-5	453	600
South Chicago	2010	8914 S. Buffalo	K-8	497	596
Hunter Perkins Middle School	2011	1700 W. 83 rd Street and 83 rd Street and Paulina Street (Annex)(beginning in fall of 2017)	K-8	495	655
7 th	2013	3021 W. Carroll	6-8	242	625
	2013	3021 W. Carroll	K-5	353	525

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of LEARN Charter School's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on April 19, 2016 for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including LEARN Charter School. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, LEARN Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of LEARN Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2021.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: LEARN Charter School's charter and agreement shall be recommended for renewal with the following conditions to be included in the agreement:

- On or before July 15, 2016, the school must provide evidence to the Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&I) of a compliant transportation policy consistent with state charter law.
- On or before July 15, 2016, the school must provide evidence to I&I of a compliant lottery policy consistent with the state charter law.
- On or before July 15, 2016, the school must provide evidence to I&I that all current board members have completed Open Meetings Act (OMA) training expectations.
- On or before January 1, 2017, and thereafter every January 1, the school must show evidence to I&I that it is and shall remain in compliance with state and federal requirements governing English Learners as demonstrated on formal compliance reports from the Board's Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE). Chicago Public Schools has designated OLCE to conduct school visits and make a determination of compliance with state and federal requirements regarding English Learner Programs.

- On or before June 1, 2017, and thereafter every June 1, the school must show evidence to I&I that it is and shall remain in compliance with CPS Diverse Learner expectations of timely completion of evaluations/Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Related Service Provider (RSP) service documentation as measured by the Board's Office of Diverse Learner and Support Services (ODLSS).
- On or before October 1, 2017, the school must demonstrate to I&I full resolution of facilities and ADA issues.

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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of 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. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 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 FY16 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

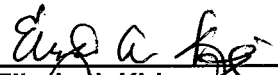
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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

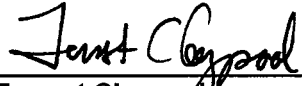
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

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