

December 7, 2016

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF ENGLEWOOD CHARTER AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**

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

Authorize renewal of The Montessori School of Englewood Charter 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:** The Montessori Network, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
5248 N. Wayne Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60640  
Phone: 773-808-1921  
Contact Persons: Thomas Hale, Board President and  
Rita Nolan, Executive Director

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

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 11-0223-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 240 students in grades K through 6. The original board report included a provision to amend the charter to add grades 7 and 8 and increase enrollment to no more than 540 students in the event the school operator identified a facility site with a larger capacity. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 13-0522-EX102: Authorized the relocation of the charter school to the CPS facility at 6550 S. Seeley Avenue beginning in the fall of 2013.
- Board Report 14-0528-EX6: Corrected the grades served and the maximum enrollment in the May 2013 Board Report (13-0522-EX102) to reflect the grades served at the charter school as K-6 with a maximum enrollment of 240 students.
- Board Report 16-0427-EX15: Authorized the relocation of the charter school to the CPS facility at 6936 S. Hermitage Avenue beginning in the fall of 2016 in order for the charter school to have the capacity to serve grades K-8 with a corresponding maximum enrollment of 540 students, as identified in the original proposal (Board Report 11-0223-EX2).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** The Montessori Network submitted a renewal proposal on September 14, 2016 to continue the operation of The Montessori School of Englewood Charter

(Montessori School). The charter school shall continue to be located at 6936 S. Hermitage Avenue and shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 540 students.

If The Montessori Network 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 The Montessori Network 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.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Montessori 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 November 21, 2016 for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Montessori 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, Montessori School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Montessori School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or his designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with The Montessori Network.

**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 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY17 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

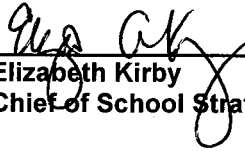
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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