

December 6, 2017

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

Authorize renewal of the EPIC Academy Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional seven-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: EPIC Academy, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation
8255 S. Houston Avenue
Chicago, Illinois, 60617
Phone: 773-535-7930
Contact: Myetie Hamilton, Executive Director

CHARTER SCHOOL: EPIC Academy Charter High School
8255 S. Houston Avenue
Chicago, Illinois, 60617
Phone: 773-535-7930
Contact Person: Tawanna Patton, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison Street, 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 09-1123-EX13) was for a term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2015 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 480 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 600 students (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX4).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: EPIC Academy submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2017 to continue the operation of EPIC Academy Charter High School ("EPIC"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 8255 S. Houston Avenue and shall continue to serve grades 9 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.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of EPIC'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 6, 2017 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including EPIC. 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, EPIC be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of EPIC's charter and agreement is being extended for a seven (7) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2025.

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 EPIC Academy.

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 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY18 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.

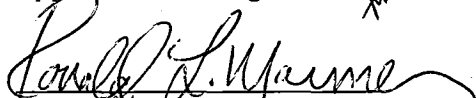
Approved for Consideration:

Approved:


Elizabeth Kirby
Chief of School Strategy and Planning


Forrest Claypool
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:


Ronald L. Marmor
General Counsel