

December 5, 2018

DENY THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER AND CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH KWAME NKRUMAH ACADEMY, INC. FOR THE KWAME NKRUMAH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Chicago Board of Education does not renew the charter and charter school agreement ("Charter School Agreement") with Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc. for the Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School, located at 314 West 108th Street at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc. shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and return its charter to the Board effective as of July 1, 2019.

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 11-0126-EX11) was for a term commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2016 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 421 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019 (authorized by Board Report 16-0427-EX5).

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing on renewal of Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School was held on November 14, 2018. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

CHARTER EVALUATION: On July 31, 2018, Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal to continue the operation of Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School under the same mission and educational program at its current location. After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Kwame Nkrumah Academy Charter School's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance.

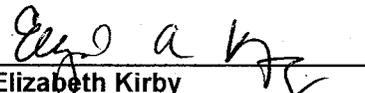
In reviewing the school's academic performance under the School Quality Rating Policy for Schools and Programs ("SQRP"), the school has posted low academic results over the entire term of its agreement. In FY17, the school failed to meet academic expectations on SQRP by receiving a Level 3 rating, which is the lowest rating. SQRP ratings range from Level 1+ (highest) to Level 3 (lowest). In FY16, the school failed to meet academic expectations on SQRP, receiving a Level 2+.

In non-academic areas, the school failed to meet financial performance indicators in FY17 by receiving a "Does Not Meet Standards" in Change in Net Assets, Current Ratio, Net Asset Ratio and Cash on Hand Ratio.

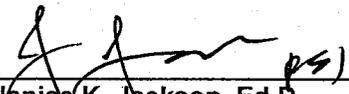
Kwame Nkrumah Academy, Inc. shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school effective as of July 1, 2019. Both parties shall enter into a wind down agreement with respect to the non-renewal of the charter and Charter School Agreement. The Office of Innovation and Incubation shall assist students with transitioning from the charter school.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the wind down agreement for the charter school. Authorize the Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Incubation 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 the charter school.

Approved for Consideration:


Elizabeth Kirby
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

Approved:


Janice K. Jackson, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 


Joseph T. Moriarty
General Counsel