

April 24, 2019

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 17-1206-EX19**  
**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS**

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

Authorize renewal of the Young Women's Leadership 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.

This April 2019 amendment is necessary to terminate the existing Charter School Agreement with Young Women's Leadership Charter School by mutual consent of the parties. Young Women's Leadership Charter School provided notice to the Office of Innovation and Incubation in February 2019 of its intent to close its school at the end of the 2018-2019 school year due to issues regarding financial sustainability. Young Women's Leadership Charter School shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and voluntarily return its charter to the Board effective as of July 1, 2019.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR/** Young Women's Leadership Charter School, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
**CHARTER SCHOOL:** 2641 S. Calumet Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60616  
 Phone: 312-949-9400  
 Contact Person: Dr. Vanesa Scott-Thompson, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 42 W. Madison Street, 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 99-1215-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 2000 and ending June 30, 2005 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 525 students in grades 6 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010, serving no more than 400 students in grades 7 through 12 (authorized by Board Report 05-0223-EX3). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013 (authorized by Board Report 10-0526-EX10). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX11). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 14-0528-EX3: Approved the change in grades served from grades 7 through 12 to 8 through 12 beginning in the fall of 2014, and thereafter, from grades 8 through 12 to 9 through 12 beginning in the fall of 2015.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Young Women's Leadership Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2017 to continue the operation of Young Women's Leadership Charter School ("YWLC"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 2641 S. Calumet Avenue and shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 400 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.

On February 8, 2019, Young Women's Leadership Charter School notified the Office of Innovation and Incubation that its governing board voted to cease operations at the charter school at the end of the 2018-2019 school year due to financial sustainability issues. In mid-February of 2019, Young Women's Leadership Charter School notified all families of the closure of the school at the end of the school year.

The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends terminating the Charter School Agreement with Young Women's Leadership Charter School by mutual consent of the parties. Young Women's Leadership Charter School shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and voluntarily return its charter to the Board effective as of July 1, 2019.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of YWLC'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 YWLC. 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, YWLC be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of YWLC's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023. As indicated in this April 2019 amended Board Report, the agreement shall be terminated by mutual consent of the parties and the charter for this school shall be returned to the Board effective as of July 1, 2019.

**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 Young Women's Leadership Charter School.

**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 termination agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement and termination 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 as well as any other information as may be necessary due to the closure of the charter school. 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~~19~~-2019~~20~~ fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY4~~8~~<sup>19</sup> 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.

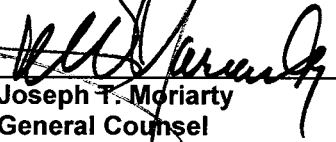
Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

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.

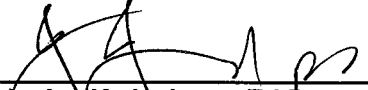
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
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Elizabeth Kirby  
Chief of School Strategy and Planning

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
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Joseph T. Moriarty  
General Counsel

**Approved:**

  
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Janice K. Jackson, Ed.D  
Chief Executive Officer