

January 25, 2023

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT  
WITH CONDITIONS**

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

Authorize renewal of the University of Chicago Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional three-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. The Renewal and any related contracts must be executed by the current contract's expiration date in order for First Quarter funding to be released for the new contract term. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** University of Chicago Charter School Corporation, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
c/o Urban Education Institute  
1313 E. 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
Phone: 773-834-4354  
Contact Person: Tanika Island-Childress, CEO

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** University of Chicago Charter School  
1313 E. 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
Phone: 773-834-4354  
Contact Person: Tanika Island-Childress, CEO

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Alfonso Carmona, Chief Portfolio Officer

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report (97-1217-EX22) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 336 students in grades Pre-K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008, serving not more than 450 students (authorized by Board Report 03-0225-EX05). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013, serving no more than 1,966 students in grades K through 12 (authorized by Board Report 08-0326-EX11). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 (authorized by Board Report 13-0227-EX9). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX16). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 18-0425-EX5: Approved (a) the consolidation of grade 7 offered at the Carter G. Woodson Campus with grade 7 at the Woodlawn Campus beginning in the fall of 2018: (b) the restriction of the Carter G. Woodson Campus to offer grade 8 in the 2018-2019 school year, with the campus closing completely by June 30, 2019: and (c) a campus wind down agreement for the Carter G. Woodson Campus. As a result of the campus closure, the overall at capacity

enrollment of the charter school shall decrease from 2,126 students to 1,586 students for the fall of 2019.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** University of Chicago Charter School Corporation submitted a renewal proposal on July 29, 2022 to continue the operation of University of Chicago Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades K through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 1,586 students.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2022-2023 enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
North Kenwood/Oakland	1998	1119 E. 46th Street	K-5th	298	336
Donoghue	2005	707 E. 37th Street	K-5th	452	500
Woodlawn	2006	6300 S. University Avenue	6th - 12th	578	750

If the University of Chicago Charter School Corporation 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.

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 University of Chicago 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 January 10, 2023 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, University of Chicago 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, University of Chicago Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of University of Chicago Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

**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 University of Chicago Charter School Corporation.

**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 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY23 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.