

January 25, 2023

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
CONDITIONS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the Christopher House 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. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Christopher House, an IL not-for-profit corporation
2507 N. Greenview Avenue
Chicago, Illinois, 60614
Phone: 773-472-1083
Contact: Dee Dee Chesley Board President and
Libby Shortenhaus, Chief Executive Officer

CHARTER SCHOOL: Christopher House Charter School
5235 W. Belden Avenue Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: 773-922-7542
Contact: Dee Dee Chesley Board President and
Libby Shortenhaus, Chief Executive Officer

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison Street, 3rd 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 11-1214-EX8) was for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2018 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 540 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 13-0424-EX5: Approved the change in the permitted use provision in the First Amendment of Ground Lease between the Board and Christopher House (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-OP6) to include the operation of a charter school on the leased premises to be contemporaneous with the term of the Charter School Agreement with the Board. If the Charter School Agreement with the Board is terminated, Christopher House's authority to operate a charter school on the leased premises shall also terminate. Also corrected the address of Christopher House Charter School from 2250 N. Latrobe Avenue to 5235 W. Belden Avenue.

The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX10).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Christopher House submitted a renewal proposal on July 21, 2022 to continue the operation of Christopher House Charter School ("Christopher House"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 5235 W. Belden Avenue and shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 540 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 Christopher House'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, 2022 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Christopher House. 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, Christopher House be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Christopher House'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 Christopher House.

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 2022-2023 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.

23-0125-EX8

Approved for Consideration:

DocuSigned by:

72863AB884664C6...
Alfonso Carmona
Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved:

DocuSigned by:
Pedro Martinez
8E9397A6F19E43B...
Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

^{DS}
ES

DocuSigned by:
Joseph T. Moriarty
571EC59C33144C5...
Joseph T. Moriarty
General Counsel