



Board of Education

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street
Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Board Report

25-0424-EX8

Agenda Date: 4/24/2025

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ERIE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the Erie Elementary Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") for an additional two-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/ Erie Elementary Charter School, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation
CHARTER SCHOOL: 1405 North Washtenaw Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60622
Phone: 773-486-7161
Contact Person: Karem Gomez, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Alfonso Carmona, Chief Portfolio Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 05-0126-EX8) was for a term commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 500 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020 serving no more than 415 students in grades K through 8 (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX5). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025 (authorized by Board Report 20-0122-EX4).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Erie Elementary Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on August 30, 2024, to continue the operation of Erie Elementary Charter School ("Erie Elementary"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 1405 North Washtenaw Avenue and shall continue to serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 415 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 Erie Elementary 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 February 4, 2025, for all charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Erie Elementary 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 demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Erie Elementary Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Erie Elementary Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and Erie Elementary Charter School:

- Due to its Summative Designation, the school must participate in the Innovation & Incubation Academic Support process. This process requires schools to complete a Self-Reflection template, the District-managed Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP), and participate in joint progress monitoring and Continuous Improvement activities. The Academic Support process runs annually, offering schools the opportunity to exit based on criteria defined by Innovation and Incubation. Schools not meeting the annual exit criteria will remain in Academic Support until they meet them.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must receive a rating of "Meets Standards" or higher on the Annual Audit (Financial Controls) indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the network must provide a summary of discipline practices, including staff training and multi-tiered interventions and restorative strategies implemented, and an end-of-year update on the progress and results of its discipline practices, with a demonstrated reduction in ISS and OSS.
- The school must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must meet state and federal rules governing English Learners as demonstrated by a rating of Partial or higher on formal compliance reports from the Office of Multilingual-Multicultural Education (OMME). Chicago Public Schools has designated OMME to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must receive a rating of "Meets Standards" or higher on the Legal Compliance indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- By July 1st, 2025, and annually throughout the term, no one person shall hold a directorship and an executive position or other position with substantial financial decision-making authority.

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 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 2025-26 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY25 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: The agreement shall contain general conditions including but not limited to the following: Inspector General provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1; Conflicts provision, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3; Indebtedness provision, in accordance with the Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 pursuant to Board Report 96-0626-PO3; Ethics provision, in accordance with the Board's Ethics Code as amended, and a Contingent Liability provision.

Approved for Consideration:

DocuSigned by:

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Alfonso Carmona
Chief Portfolio Officer

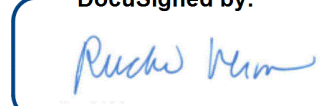
Approved:

Signed by:

AA17786A4B2446C
Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel