



Susan J. Narrajos
Secretary

Issalma Franco
Assistant Secretary

Vanessa Hernandez
Assistant Secretary

Board of Education | City of Chicago

October 31, 2025

**Sean B. Harden President, and
Members of the Board of Education**

Enclosed is a copy of the **Agenda** for the **Special Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at CPS Loop Office, 42 West Madison Street, Garden Level, Board Room. The Board and the Chief Executive Officer have determined that registered speakers who wish to present during Public Participation may have the option to participate in person at the location of the Special Board meeting or virtually via an electronic platform. **Public participation will start after recess at approximately 2:15 p.m.** The public will have access to the meeting via live stream at [cpsboe.org](https://www.cpsboe.org).

Public Participation Guidelines are available on www.cpsboe.org.

For the November 4, 2025 Special Board Meeting, advance registration to speak will be available beginning Friday, October 31st at 10:30 a.m. and will close on Monday, November 3rd at 10:30 a.m. Anyone interested in speaking can sign up. After the 24-hour registration period, a lottery will randomly select a set number of speakers from those who registered. For example, if 100 people register, the lottery might select 10 of them to speak. This process gives everyone a fair chance to address the Board. Advance registration during this period is available by the following methods:

- Online: www.cpsboe.org (recommended)
- Phone: (773) 553-1600

To ensure equity of access to address the Board, an individual may not speak at back-to-back meetings and more than one meeting per month. If you register for back-to-back meetings and more than one meeting per month, you will not be included for that meeting lottery. In the event an individual registers to speak at a consecutive meeting, the individual will not be called to address the Board. However, if less than the allotted number of speakers register for a meeting, the limitation on speaking at consecutive meetings and/or more than once within a month will not apply, and those previously ineligible to speak will be reinstated in the lottery and may be eligible to speak.

Advance registration to observe will also be available beginning Friday, October 31st at 10:30 a.m. and will close on Monday, November 3rd at 5:00 p.m. or until all slots are filled. Advance registration during this period is available by the following methods:

- Online: www.cpsboe.org (recommended)
- Phone: (773) 553-1600



Although Advance Registration is recommended, you can also register to observe a meeting on the day of a Special Board Meeting via:

- Same Day in Person Observer Registration: 42 W. Madison Street lobby
- Registration Time: Opens at 10:15 a.m. and will remain open for the duration of the Special Board Meeting

Same Day, In-Person Observer Registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis as seats become available.

The Public Participation segment of the meeting will begin following recess and proceed for no more than 10 speakers for twenty minutes. Speakers selected through the lottery will receive instructions for Public Participation.

Members of the public may submit written comments for Board of Education meetings via the Written Comments Form on the Board's website at www.cpsboe.org or mailed to 42 W. Madison Street, Garden Level. Written comments received between the day the public agenda is posted through 5 p.m. the day after the Board of Education meeting will be submitted to the Board and posted within five (5) business days on our website at www.cpsboe.org.

The complete, final Agenda of Actions from the October 23, 2025 Board meeting is on our website: <http://www.cpsboe.org/meetings/past-meetings>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan J. Narrajos", is positioned above the printed name.

Susan J. Narrajos
Secretary

SJN
Enclosures



Board of Education | City of Chicago

AGENDA

November 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

NON-DELEGABLE BOARD REPORTS THAT REQUIRE MEMBER ACTION

MOTION

25-1104-MO1 Motion to Hold a Closed Session

CLOSED SESSION

- ☐ Discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE

MOTION

25-1104-MO2 Motion RE: Recess

RECONVENE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA IN-PERSON OR ELECTRONIC FORMAT

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS

VOTE ON PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS



Board of Education | City of Chicago

REPORTS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

25-1104-EX1 Amend Board Report 24-0125-EX4 Authorize the Renewal of The Chicago High School for the Arts Agreement with Conditions.

25-1104-EX2 Establish Chicago High School for the Arts as a District-Managed Fine & Performing Arts School

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- OCTOBER 30, 2025

REPORT FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

25-1030-EX1 Amend Board Report 25-0424-EX7 Authorize Renewal of the EPIC Academy Charter High School Agreement with Conditions

ADJOURN



Board of Education

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

Board Report

25-0424-RS3 FINAL

Agenda Date: 4/24/2025

RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago ("Board") is committed to conducting its meetings in a manner that is open, inclusive, and respectful of public input;

WHEREAS, public participation is a valued part of the governance process, and the Board recognizes the importance of community, stakeholder, and employee voices in Board deliberations;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g), authorizes the Board to establish and record rules for public participation at Board meetings;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Board Bylaw 1-7, the President of the Board is authorized to issue guidelines for public participation at Board meetings;

WHEREAS, the President of the Board has issued revised *Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings* effective April 2025, which replace the prior guidelines issued in September 2024;

WHEREAS, the revised Guidelines are designed to ensure a fair, organized, and equitable process for members of the public to observe and participate in Board of Education meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago as follows:

1. The Board hereby adopts and affirms Exhibit A, *Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings*.
2. It is the Board's intent to establish and record these revised Guidelines to govern public participation and that they shall be posted on the official Board website and shared through appropriate communication channels to ensure broad public awareness.
3. The Board affirms its continued commitment to transparency, accessibility, and respectful public discourse in all Board proceedings.
4. This Resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.



City of Chicago Board of Education



Guidelines for Public
Participation at Board of
Education Meetings



Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

24-0424-RS3 FINAL

These Guidelines are designed to ensure a fair and organized process for public participation at the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (“Board”) meetings. Below are details on how to register to speak, observe meetings, and other important information.

Table of Contents

General Information	3
Observing the Meeting	3
Accommodations - Accessibility	3
Restrictions	4
Speaker Registration and Participation	4
Special Considerations	6
Written Comments and Other Participation	7



General Information

Observing the Meeting

1. Watching Online:

- Members of the public, employees of the District, Local School Council members, and members of other groups may view the meeting live by selecting “Watch live” on the Board’s website at www.cpsboe.org.

2. In-Person Observer Attendance:

- To attend in person, you must register in advance to assure your seat. Registration opens 48 hours before a meeting.
- There are 100 observer slots available for advance observer registration.
- If advance registration is full or has closed, same-day, in-person observer registration is also available. You can still register on the day of the meeting in person, starting at 10:15 a.m. for Wednesday Committee meetings, and 2:45 p.m. for Thursday Board meetings, on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Same-day, in-person registration begins at 10:15 a.m. the day of the Committee meeting and 2:45 p.m. on the day of the Board meeting in the lobby at 42 W. Madison (unless the location or time is otherwise indicated). Please be aware that same-day, in-person observer registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, and registrations will be taken as open seats are available.

3. How to Register:

- Online:** Visit www.cpsboe.org (recommended)
- Phone:** Call (773) 553-1600

Accommodations - Accessibility

All meeting locations are ADA and generally accessible in consideration of those with disabilities.

Individuals with a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity who require an accommodation, auxiliary aid, and/or other services to participate in a Board meeting must notify the Board Office at (773) 553-1600 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting to request the accommodation, auxiliary aid, and/or other service.

Sign language interpretation is available upon request without prior notice.



Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

24-0424-RS3 FINAL

Restrictions

Current or prospective vendors wishing to present products or services for purchase should not use the public participation portion of a Board meeting for this purpose. Hand-held posters and placards are not allowed in the Board Room.

Speaker Registration and Participation

1. Advance Speaker Registration Open Period:

- Unless otherwise noted in the notice for the Board meeting, the Advance Speaker Registration opens 48 hours before the meeting. This usually means registration opens at 10:30 a.m. on the Monday before a Wednesday Committee meeting and at 3:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before a Thursday Regular Board meeting.
- The Advance Registration Open Period will remain open for 24 hours.

2. How to Register:

- **Online:** Visit www.cpsboe.org (recommended)
- **Phone:** Call (773) 553-1600

3. Randomized Lottery for Speaker Selection:

In order to provide more equity of voice during the public participation segment, a randomized lottery will be conducted to select speakers for any meeting where the number of registered speakers exceeds the number of slots available.

- **Randomized Selection:** During a 24 hour registration period, anyone interested in speaking can sign up. After this time, a lottery will randomly select a set number of speakers from those who registered. For example, if 100 people register, the lottery might select 30 people to speak. This process gives everyone a fair chance to address the Board.
- **Number of Speakers:** The Board will allocate no more than 30 speaking slots to members of the general public to speak to the Board.
- **Notifications:** After the lottery, you will receive an email confirming whether or not you have been selected to speak. Instructions for participating in the meeting will also be provided.
- **Applicability:** The randomized lottery applies to all Board meetings where advanced registration is available. This system will not only apply to Board Meetings, but also to other meetings where advanced registration is available, such as Committee meetings and Hearings.

4. Participation:

Speakers who registered via the Advance Registration process will have the option to attend in person at the location of the Board meeting or via electronic/telephonic means.



Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

24-0424-RS3 FINAL

5. **Limitations on Speaking:** To maintain a fair chance for speakers to address the Board, individuals may not speak at back-to-back meetings and may not speak at more than one meeting per month, with the exception noted below if less than the allotted number of speakers register.
 - If an individual registers for back-to-back meetings and/or more than one meeting per month, they will not be included for that meeting's lottery. This ensures more opportunities for the public to equitably address the Board.
 - However, if less than the allotted number of speakers register for a meeting, the limitation on speaking at consecutive meetings and/or more than once within a month will not apply, and those previously ineligible to speak will be reinstated in the lottery and may be eligible to speak.
 - Speakers may not cede their time to another person.
6. **Speaker Remarks and Submissions:**
 - Each speaker is given two (2) minutes to present their remarks and materials to the Board. Speakers must end their presentation upon the request of the Board Secretary when their time is up, to allow the next speaker to begin.
 - To comply with Chicago Municipal Code Chapter 15-4-880, which prohibits obstructions in exit ways, aisles, and passageways of public spaces to ensure safe and timely evacuation, the following guidelines will be enforced:
 - i. A maximum of 10 persons may stand with a speaker (5 on each side of the podium), and they must remain within the designated floor markings along the glass partition. All other aisles, walkways, and exits must be kept clear at all times. Obstruction of these areas is prohibited and may impede emergency response.
 - All public presentations must be limited to issues of concern before the Board and/or related to the Chicago Public Schools.
 - Comments of a personal nature, unrelated to the operations of Board or CPS, directed towards individual Board members, employees of the Board, or any other individual are not permitted.
 - It is the meeting chair's prerogative to limit the discussion of any speaker to allow for broad and diverse public participation.
 - All speakers must adhere to the [Behavior Expectations](#) in the following section.
7. **Order of Speakers:** The Board Secretary may group speakers according to a particular topic and may call certain speakers out of numerical order so that all comments regarding a particular topic may be heard together.



24-0424-RS3 FINAL

To ensure fairness to all participants, speakers not present when their segment begins will not be called upon after that segment has concluded.

Special Considerations

1. Union Representatives and Elected Public Officials:

- Union representatives who are executive officers of Unions may address the board.
- Elected city, state, and federal public officials may request to speak by contacting the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs at IGA@cps.edu.
- Each union representative or elected public official is given five (5) minutes to present their remarks.
- Union representatives and elected public officials may not cede their time to another person.
- To ensure fairness to all participants, speakers not present when their segment begins will not be called upon after that segment has concluded.
- To comply with Chicago Municipal Code Chapter 15-4-880, which prohibits obstructions in exit ways, aisles, and passageways of public spaces to ensure safe and timely evacuation, the following guidelines will be enforced:
 - i. A maximum of 10 persons may stand with a speaker (5 on each side of the podium), and they must remain within the designated floor markings along the glass partition. All other aisles, walkways, and exits must be kept clear at all times. Obstruction of these areas is prohibited and may impede emergency response.

2. Interpreters:

- An interpreter will be provided for those speakers who wish to make their remarks in Spanish. and Spanish-language interpreters are available. If you need an interpreter for a different language, please notify the Board Office at least two (2) business days before the meeting.
- While speakers may choose to address the Board in Spanish, they will need to provide a written version of their statement the day prior to the meeting if they wish to have it translated into English during the meeting. Speakers who do not provide their statement in advance may still address the Board, but their statement will be translated and shared with Board Members at a later time.



Guidelines for Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

24-0424-RS3 FINAL

3. Behavior Expectations:

- The Board values and welcomes courteous, respectful, and civil behavior from all speakers and all persons attending a Board meeting. The Board expects speakers to limit statements to those relating to the operations of the Board or CPS, and refrain from comments of a personal nature, unrelated to the operations of the Board and CPS. It is the meeting chair's prerogative to limit the discussion of any speaker to allow for broad and diverse public participation.
- Profane language, unsolicited comments, and disruptive behavior are prohibited. Individuals who are disruptive may be given a warning and may also be removed from the meeting, if necessary. If any individual is removed from a meeting as a result of disruptive behavior, the individual may forfeit their right of reentry to future Board meetings.

Written Comments and Other Participation

1. Submitting Written Comments:

- Even if you are not selected to speak during Public Participation, you can submit written comments. Complete the Written Comments Form on the Board's website or send your comments by mail to 1 N. Dearborn, Suite 950, Chicago, IL 60602. Unless otherwise noted in the public notice for the Board meeting, written comments must be submitted between the posting of the Board meeting agenda and 5 p.m. the day after the Board meeting for consideration by Board members and inclusion in the meeting proceedings.

2. Media and Recordings:

- The Board records the public participation portion of each Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to edit any and all portions of the recording from each monthly meeting. These recordings are aired on local cable channels for the convenience of the public. Members of the public can copy any portion of the public participation or business portion of the meeting from the televised broadcast or from www.cpsboe.org.
- An area of the Board Room will be designated for members of the media who wish to cover the Board meeting. This number may be limited in order to accommodate as many public participants as possible. Guidelines and requirements for media access to Board meetings are issued by the Office of Communications.

3. Spanish Language Interpretation and Captioning:

- To enhance accessibility, the Board is committed to implementing Spanish interpretation for online viewers and Spanish captioning for archived content as soon as practically possible.

November 4, 2025

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION

MOTION ADOPTED/FAILED, that the Board hold a closed session to consider the following matters:

- (1) Discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

25-1104-MO2

November 4, 2025

MOTION RE: RECESS

MOTION ADOPTED/FAILED that the Board take a 15 minute Recess.

November 4, 2025

AMEND BOART REPORT 24-0125-EX4**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of The Chicago High School for the Arts Agreement (the "Contract School Agreement") with conditions for an additional two-year period. A new Contract School Agreement applicable to this renewal term will be negotiated. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written Contract School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the school operator within 120 days of the date of this Board Report. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

This October 2025 amendment is necessary to authorize the termination of the existing Contract School Agreement with The Chicago High School of the Arts at the end of the 2025-2026 school year by mutual consent of the parties. The Chicago High School of the Arts provided notice to the Office of Innovation and Incubation in September 2025 of its intent to not submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The Chicago High School of the Arts shall wind down and cease operations of its contract school effective as of July 1, 2026.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: The Chicago High School for the Arts
2714 W. Augusta Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-534-9710
Contact Person: Tina Boyer Brown, Executive Director

CONTRACT SCHOOL: The Chicago High School for the Arts
2714 W. Augusta Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-534-9710
Contact Person: Nestor Corona, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison Street, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Zabrina M. Evans, Executive Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Contract School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 07-1024-EX12) was for a term commencing July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2014, and authorized the operation of a contract school serving no more than 600 students in grades 9 through 12. The school was designated as a contract school pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b. The Contract School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2019 (authorized by Board Report 14-0226-EX11). The Contract School Agreement was subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2024, and serving no more than 640 students (authorized by Board Report 19-0123-EX10).

CONTRACT RENEWAL PROPOSAL: The Chicago High School for the Arts submitted a renewal proposal on July 18, 2023, to continue the operation of The Chicago High School for the Arts ("ChiArts") as a contract school. The contract school shall continue to be located at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard and shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 640 students.

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the contract school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial, and operational performance.

On August 25, 2025, the Chicago High School for the Arts provided written notice of its intent not to submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. In October 2025, the Chicago High School of the Arts notified all families of its intent to cease operations at the end of this school year.

The Office of Portfolio Management recommends accepting the Chicago High School of the Arts' decision not to submit a renewal application and to cease operations at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, by mutual consent of the parties. The Chicago High School of the Arts shall wind down and cease operations of the contract school effective July 1, 2026.

CONTRACT SCHOOL EVALUATION: After receiving the contract renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of ChiArts' 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 9, 2024, for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including ChiArts. 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, ChiArts be authorized to continue operating as a contract school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of ChiArts' agreement is being extended for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The following preconditions shall be required before the Board of Education of the City of Chicago enters into an agreement with The Chicago High School for the Arts:

- On or before June 30, 2024, the school must submit a complaint policy regarding its Students in Temporary Living Situations.
- On or before June 30, 2024, the school must update its website to list the process for addressing parent and community concerns.

The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and The Chicago High School for the Arts:

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the organization must receive a rating of "Meets Standards" or higher on the Document Timeliness indicator on the Financial and Compliance Scorecard generated by CPS.
- The school must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all applicable campuses 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 Language and Cultural Education (OLCE). Chicago Public Schools has designated OLCE to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all staff must complete the required CPS Title IX (Protecting Chicago's Children or equivalent) training in SafeSchools.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions, including any indemnities to be provided to the school operator, in the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Contract School Agreement. Authorize the Chief Operations Officer to execute any ancillary documents related to food services in connection with the operation of the school. Authorize the Chief Portfolio Officer of the Office of Portfolio Management to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of The Chicago High School of the Arts' decision not to apply to renew its Contract Agreement, and any other information as may be necessary due to the cessation of operations of the contract school.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of the Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget development. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY24 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: As a contract school operator, The Chicago High School for the Arts will continue to employ its own principal, teachers, and staff.

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:

Approved:

Alfonso Carmona
Acting Chief Education Officer

Dr. Macquiline King, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

Elizabeth K. Barton
Acting General Counsel

November 4, 2025

ESTABLISH CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AS A DISTRICT-MANAGED FINE & PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve the establishment of the Chicago High School of the Arts located at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard, effective July 1, 2026, as a district-managed school. This follows notice by the contractor to the Office of Innovation and Incubation in September 2025 of its intent not to submit a renewal application to extend its Contract School Agreement at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

DESCRIPTION:

Effective July 1, 2026, the contract school, Chicago High School for the Arts at 2714 W. Augusta Boulevard, will become a district-managed Fine & Performing Arts School, identified as a school serving approximately 640 students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

The Board may assign a formal school name prior to July 1, 2026, in accordance with the procedures for naming new schools identified in the Board's Policy on Naming and Renaming Schools (Board Report 03-0326-PO04) or as amended. Initially, the Chicago High School for the Arts will establish a transitional advisory body. A Local School Council will be established in a timely manner.

The school will be a citywide school. Students will be admitted in accordance with the Admissions Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment and Other GoCPS Schools and Programs (Board Report 22-0727-PO1).

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The incubation and transition of The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) from a contract school to a district-managed Fine & Performing Arts High School may incur costs of up to \$1.5 million, distributed across FY26 and FY27. Should the Conservatory continue operating in its current format, the District would allocate \$600,000 in FY26 to the Department of Arts Education to transition eight (8) full-time employees currently overseeing the Conservatory into Board-funded FTEs. Beginning in FY27, an annual recurring investment of \$2.5 million is recommended to sustain and expand the Conservatory, along with an additional \$3 million recurring investment to support programmatic and operational costs in addition to what it would cost to operate a Fine & Performing Arts High School, due to ChiArts' extended-day structure and specialized programmatic focus. These recurring centralized funds will be allocated directly to the Department of Arts Education to oversee the Conservatory's and Academic Arts implementation, operations, and expansion.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: CPS will work with employees and their union representation to determine how to support employees through this transition.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:

Alfonso Carmona
Acting Chief Education Officer

Macqueline King, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

Elizabeth K. Barton
Acting General Counsel

October 30, 2025

AMEND BOARD REPORT 25-0424-EX7
**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE EPIC ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT
 WITH CONDITIONS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the EPIC Academy Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions 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.

This October 2025 amendment is necessary to authorize the termination of the existing Charter Agreement with EPIC Academy Charter High School at the end of the 2025-2026 school year by mutual consent of the parties and to provide additional funding in FY26 to ensure the successful operation and completion of the 2025-2026 school year. EPIC Academy Charter High School notified the Office of Innovation and Incubation in August 2025 of its intent to close its charter school at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. EPIC Academy Charter High School shall wind down and cease operations of its charter school and voluntarily return its charter to the Board effective July 1, 2026.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: EPIC Academy, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation
 8255 S. Houston Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois, 60617
 Phone: 773-535-7930
 Contact: LeeAndra Khan, Executive Director

CHARTER SCHOOL: EPIC Academy Charter High School
 8255 S. Houston Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois, 60617
 Phone: 773-535-7930
 Contact Person: Dr. Kyla Mathews, Principal

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 09-1123- EX13) was for a term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2015 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 480 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 600 students (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX4). The charter and Charter School Agreement were renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2025 (authorized by Board Report 17-1206-EX11). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 22-0525-EX6: Approved the relocation of EPIC Academy Charter High School from the facility at 8255 S. Houston Avenue to an independent facility at the 8200 block of S. Shore Drive, beginning no earlier than fall of 2024.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: EPIC Academy submitted a renewal proposal on July 30, 2024 to continue the operation of EPIC Academy Charter High School ("EPIC"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 8255 S. Houston Avenue and shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 600 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 August 21, 2025, EPIC Academy Charter High School provided written notice of its intent to cease operations of its charter school at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. In September 2025, EPIC Academy Charter High School notified all families of the intent to cease operations of the charter school at the end of this school year.

The Office of Portfolio Management recommends terminating the Charter School Agreement with EPIC Academy Charter High School at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, by mutual consent of the parties. EPIC Academy Charter High School shall wind down and cease operations of the charter school and voluntarily return its charter to the Board, effective as of July 1, 2026.

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

RENEWAL TERM: The term of EPIC's charter and agreement is being extended for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. As indicated in this October 2025 amended Board Report, the agreement shall be terminated at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The charter for this school shall be returned to the Board effective as of July 1, 2026.

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 EPIC Academy Charter High School:

- 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 or more frequent basis throughout the term, the school must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in the Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). The school will notify staff in writing of

deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure.

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the school must submit additional documentation to verify the authenticity of Board member required training.
- 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 as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. Authorize the Chief Portfolio Officer of the Office of Portfolio Management to issue a letter notifying the Illinois State Board of Education of the termination of the Charter School Agreement, return of the charter to the Board, and any other information as may be necessary due to the cessation of operations of the charter school.

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 2025-2026 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.

The authorization to wind down the campus includes allocating approximately \$1,400,000 in additional FY26 funding to EPIC Academy, ensuring the school can successfully operate and complete all required activities for the 2025-2026 academic year.

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:

Signed by:

Conrad Timbers-Ausar

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Conrad Timbers-Ausar
Acting Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved:

Signed by:

Macqueline King

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Macqueline King, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

Initial

ELS

Signed by:

Elizabeth Barton

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Elizabeth K. Barton
Acting General Counsel