

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
NORTH LAWDALE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School for an additional 5-year period. A new Charter School Agreement applicable to this renewal term is currently being 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.

CHARTER SCHOOL: North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School
1616 S. Spaulding
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: (773) 542-1490
Contact Person: John Horan, Dean of Students

OVERSIGHT: Charter Schools Office
125 S. Clark, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-1535
Contact Person: Greg Richmond, Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX2) is for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2003. The agreement authorizes the operation of a single facility Charter High School serving no more than 400 students. The school is located at 1616 S. Spaulding where it shares a building with the Howland Elementary School. The Agreement incorporates an accountability plan whereby the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School submitted a renewal proposal on December 16, 2002 to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs at the same location. The proposal requests no increase in the maximum student enrollment.

CHARTER EVALUATION: The Charter School's Office Review Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated North Lawndale's renewal proposal as well as the school's past academic, financial and operational performance. The Committee determined that the school has a complex and mixed performance situation that, in the final analysis, merits renewal. While only 8% of North Lawndale's freshmen and sophomores are reading at national norms, the school produced significantly more than a year of growth (1.32 years) for these students in 2002. In addition, while only 15% of North Lawndale's juniors met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE, the percentage would not place the school on probation under the CPS accountability system. Finally, the school has high attendance (91%) and graduation (86%) rates and a low mobility rate. The school is also very well managed. The charter school performed better than CPS neighborhood schools on 4 of the 6 student performance measures reviewed. Consequently the committee recommends, based on these accountability measures and results, that North Lawndale be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of North Lawndale's charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2008.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the General Counsel to include relevant terms and conditions in the written Charter School Agreement which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the

Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, funding, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Director of Charter Schools 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 Agreement required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2003-2004 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY03 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 July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

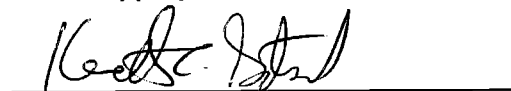
Approved:


 Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
 Chief Education Officer

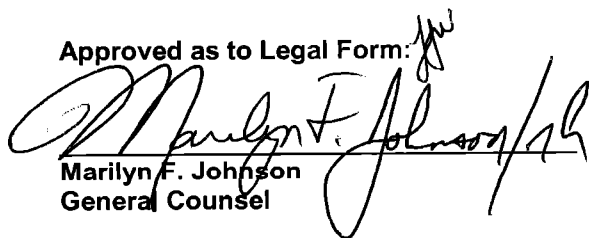
Respectfully submitted:


 Arne Duncan
 Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


 Kenneth C. Gotsch
 Chief Fiscal Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:


 Marilyn F. Johnson
 General Counsel