

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL
AGREEMENT
WITH THE BRONZEVILLE LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with the Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School for a five year period. 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 following final approval from the Chief Executive Officer as detailed below. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School
8 West Root Street
Chicago, IL 60651
508-626-0901 x 22
Contact Person: Mark Culliton

OVERSIGHT: Charter Schools Office
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-1535
Contact Person: Genita C. Robinson, Director

DESCRIPTION: The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 *et seq*) provides that up to 30 charter schools may be operated in the City of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL: The Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School proposal was submitted by Chicago Lighthouse Charter School, Inc., NFP and received by the Board on November 22, 2004. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2006 serving 340 students in PK through 5th grades. In successive years, the school will serve up to 496 students in PK through 8th grade. The cost of 340 students in 2006-07 will be approximately \$1,725,500. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on November 10, 2004. The school will be located at 8 West Root Street. A public hearing, as required by statute, was held on January 6, 2005. An additional public hearing was held on January 19, 2005, at the Chicago Urban League.

CONTINGENT APPROVAL: This granting of a charter by the Board and the entering into a charter school agreement is contingent upon a final review of this charter application to be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer on or before October 31, 2005, which review will be conducted to determine the need for this charter school based on demographics and student demands.

TERM: Upon final review of this Charter proposal and approval from the Chief Executive Officer, the term of the Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2006 and end June 30, 2011.

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

AFFIRMATIVE

ACTION STATUS: Not applicable.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to conduct a final review of this charter proposal and make a final determination on the granting of this charter based on demographics and need. 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 actions 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 as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY05 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.

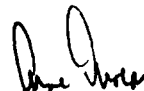
Contingent Liability – The Agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed to be a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:



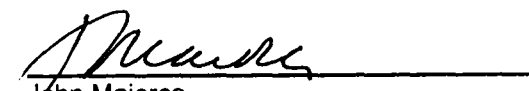
Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approve as to Legal Form: 


Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel