

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Young Women's Leadership Charter School ("Young Women's") for an additional five-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.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Young Women's Leadership Charter School
2641 South Calumet Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: (312) 949-9400
Contact Person: Margaret Small, Co-Director

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 99-1215-EX2) is for a term commencing July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2005. The agreement authorizes the operation of single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 525 students in grades 6 through 12. 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: Young Women's Leadership Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on December 13, 2004, to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs. The school is currently located at 2641 South Calumet and serves 325 students in grades 7 through 12. The proposal requests no increase in maximum student enrollment.

CHARTER EVALUATION: The Renewal Evaluation Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated Young Women's renewal proposal as well as the school's past academic, financial, and operational performance. The committee also conducted a site visit of the charter school. During the last school year, Young Women's satisfied its academic accountability requirements in five of the nine areas reviewed. Young Women's has a high graduation rate (85.3%) and attendance rate (92.0%), and the school has extensive internship and mentoring programs. The committee recommends that Young Women's be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Young Women's Leadership charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2010.

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 State Board.

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 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. Young Women's plans to maintain a stable enrollment of 325 (100 middle school and 235 high school) students throughout its renewal term. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$2,035,625 in 2005-2006. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on November 10, 2004.

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 a 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 Eason-Watkins

Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:

Arne Duncan

Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:

John Malorca

John Malorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: *AM*

Ruth Moscovitch

Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel