

November 16, 2005

AMEND BOARD REPORT 04-0225-EX3
**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
NOBLE STREET CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Noble Street Charter 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.

This November 2005 amendment is necessary to (a) authorize the Noble Street Charter School to establish two new campuses located at 4131 W. Cortland Ave. and 1337 W. Ohio Street (b) increase the enrollment cap by 1198 students to 1698 students, and (c) authorize changing the name of the charter school holder from Noble Street Charter School to Noble Network of Charter Schools. All campuses will operate under the name "Noble Street Charter School."

CHARTER SCHOOL**Contact Information:**

~~Noble Street Charter School~~ Noble Network of Charter Schools
1010 N. Noble St.
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (773) 862-1449
Contact Person: ~~Mike~~ Michael Milkie, Head of School

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 98-0429-EX12) is for a term commencing July 2, 1998 (with the charter school opening for the 1999/2000 school year) and ending June 30, 2004. The agreement authorizes the operation of single facility Charter School located at 1010 N. Noble with current enrollment not to exceed 500 students in grades 9 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: Noble Street Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on December 8, 2003 to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs at the same location. The proposal requests no increase in maximum student enrollment.

On August 19, 2005, Noble Street Charter School submitted a Renaissance proposal to (a) establish two new campuses located at 4131 W. Cortland Ave. and at 1337 W. Ohio Street, (b) increase the enrollment cap by 1198 students, and (c) authorize changing the name of the charter school holder from Noble Street Charter School to Noble Network of Charter Schools. The original campus will be known as Noble Street Charter School – Noble Campus. The two new campuses will be, respectively, Noble Street Charter School –Cortland Campus and Noble Street Charter School – Ohio Campus. The 2 new campuses will open in the fall of 2006. Both campuses will open with approximately 175 students each in grade 9 and at full capacity will grow to serve 599 students at each campus in grades 9-12. At full capacity the 2 campuses will serve a total of 1198 students. Public hearings were held on October 3, 2005 and on November 9, 2005. At these hearings and in the review, Noble Street established the following recent results. On the 2004 PSAE, 56% of Noble Street's 11th grade students met or exceeded standards in Reading and 37% in Math. On the 2005, PSAE, 54% of Noble Street's 11th grade students met or exceeded standards in Reading and 51% in Math. In 2005, Noble Street had the highest ACT scores of any non-selective high school with an 18.7 composite score. Noble Street Charter School will operate a total of 3 campuses in 2006-2007 and their enrollment cap for all three campuses will be 1698

students. The cost of 350 students in 2006-07 will be approximately \$2,441,250. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on August 31, 2005.

CHARTER EVALUATION: The Charter School's Office Review Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated Noble Street's renewal proposal as well as the school's past academic, financial and operational performance. During the last school year, Noble Street satisfied its academic accountability requirements in five of the six areas reviewed. On the PSAE, 38.5% of Noble's 11th graders met or exceeded state standards. Noble performed better than CPS neighborhood schools on 4 of the 5 student performance measures reviewed, despite a dip in PSAE scores of 6.8% from the previous year. Finally, the school has high attendance (94%) and graduation (89.9%) rates and a low mobility rate. The school is also very well managed. The committee recommends, based on these accountability measures and results, that Noble Street be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Noble Street's charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2009.

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 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 General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any Amendments to the Agreement required by the Illinois State Board of Education. 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.

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 2004-2005 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY04 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. Noble Street plans to maintain a stable enrollment of 475 students throughout its renewal term. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$2,565,000 each year.

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:



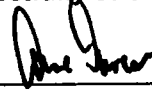
Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



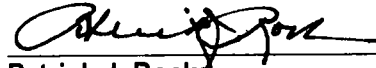
John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel