

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH THE CHICAGO VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with the Chicago Virtual Charter School for a five-year period. The Charter School Agreement 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 agreement is stated below.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:**

Chicago Virtual Charter School  
225 N. Michigan, Suite 101  
Chicago, IL 60601-7757  
Phone (406) 599-0769  
Contact Person: Peter Stewart

**OVERSIGHT:** New Schools Development Department  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Phone (773) 553-1530  
Contact Person: Hosanna Mahaley Johnson

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A 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 Chicago Virtual Charter School proposal was submitted to the Chicago Board of Education on January 11, 2006. The mission of the Chicago Virtual Charter School is to provide a new and innovative public school education option for students in the Chicago Public Schools. By adding a powerful model of meaningful parent/student/ teacher involvement, the Chicago Virtual Charter School will provide high-quality, innovative, and effective individualized public school education to students who, for a variety of reasons, choose to be, or must be, educated in a virtual setting. Students will range from the academically challenged to the academically gifted, including difficult to reach populations such as expelled and homebound (medium and long-term) students. The school will open in the fall of 2006 serving up to 600 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. The cost of 600 students in 2006-07 will be approximately \$3,045,000. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on August 31, 2005.

Curriculum: Chicago Virtual Charter School will provide instruction to students via on-line courses. Depending on grade level, students will spend the majority of their school day online. Lessons are presented in a mix of print and multimedia to enhance the learning experience and address different learning styles. Parents or other responsible adults will guide students through their daily coursework in their own home or other small group setting. Teachers will review the student's daily assessments and provide individualized feedback to the student. The school will have a resource center located at 225 N. Michigan, Suite 101, Chicago IL 60601-7757 for its administrative offices and provide conference rooms for student/teacher meetings and administering student assessments.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing on the opening of Chicago Virtual Charter School as a Renaissance charter school was held on January 19, 2006 as required by statute. The hearing was recorded. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

**TERM:** The term of the Chicago Virtual Charter School and agreement shall commence on July 1, 2006 and end on June 30, 2011.

**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 Director of the 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 2006-2007 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY06 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 5/34-2.4b, 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.

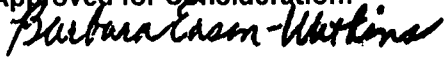
Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3.4b which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their 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 Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



---

John Maiorca  
Chief Financial Officer

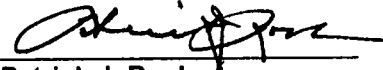
Approved:



---

Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form



---

Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel