

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
L.E.A.R.N. CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING :

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with L.E.A.R.N Charter School 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: L.E.A.R.N. Charter School
1132 South Homan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60624
Phone: (773) 826-6330
Contact Person: Courtney Francis

OVERSIGHT: Department of New School Support
125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-1535
Contact Person: Beatriz Rendon, Executive Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 01-0627-EX7) is for a term commencing July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2006. The agreement authorizes the operation of a single facility charter school with enrollment not to exceed 400 students in grades Kindergarten through eighth. 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: L.E.A.R.N. submitted a renewal proposal on November 22, 2005, to continue the operation of the school under the same mission and educational programs. The school is currently located at 1132 South Homan Avenue and serves 334 students in grades Pre-kindergarten through eighth. The proposal requests an increase in maximum student enrollment to permit up to approximately 450 students. The school would grow gradually to that level, adding 15-30 students each year. In 2006-2007, the cost of 30 additional students would be approximately \$177,750.00.

CHARTER EVALUATION: The Renewal Evaluation Committee ("Committee") has reviewed and evaluated L.E.A.R.N.'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, L.E.A.R.N. satisfied its academic accountability requirements in eight of the eight areas reviewed. On the ITBS Reading, 77.3% of L.E.A.R.N. students performed at or above national norms. 87.9% of L.E.A.R.N. students have ITBS Math scores at or above national norms. On the ISAT, 80.95% of L.E.A.R.N. students met or exceeded state standards. Finally, the school has a high attendance rate of 95.8%. The committee recommends that L.E.A.R.N. be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of L.E.A.R.N.'s charter status is being extended for five (5) years commencing July 1, 2006 and ending 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 Executive Director of the Department of New School Support 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 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. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$2,198,175.00 in 2006-2007. These budget figures are based on the revised per pupil funding amounts released on August 31, 2005.

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.

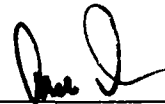
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3) as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved:



Barbara J. Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel