

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
NAMASTE CHARTER SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Namaste 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:** Namaste Charter School  
3737 South Paulina Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-715-9558  
Contact Person: Allison Slade, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(773) 553-1530  
Contact Person: Josh Edelman, Executive Officer

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 03-1217-EX02) was for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2009 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 294 students in grades K – 5. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 07-0822-EX3: Approved the relocation of the school to 3737 South Paulina Avenue.

The agreement incorporates an accountability plan where the school is evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial and operational performance.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** The Namaste Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 5, 2008, to continue the operation of the Namaste Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades K – 8th with a maximum student enrollment of 450 students.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Namaste's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visit of the school in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, learning community, and services provided to English Language Learners and students with special needs were assessed. A public hearing was conducted on December 4, 2008 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Namaste Charter School for an additional five years. From 2004-2005 to 2006-2008, Namaste Charter School's attendance rate averaged to 95.4%. From 2006-2007 to 2007-2008, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite increased by 22.3 percentage points (from 66.7% to 89.0%). The charter school also met Adequate Yearly Progress targets in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Looking across all of the school performance indicators, Namaste Charter School can be categorized as "meeting pupil performance standards" using the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2004-2005 to 2007-2008, Namaste received 9 out of 13 high ratings and 4 out of 13 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found

in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Namaste Charter School's charter status is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2014. The renewal agreement will incorporate specific conditions to be fulfilled by the charter holder and the specific timeframes in which they must be fulfilled.

**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 Officer of the Office of New 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 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY10 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$1,834,266.00 in 2009-2010.

**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 June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

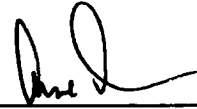
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Approved:**



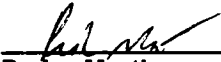
**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully Submitted:**



**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Pedro Martinez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel

