

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
NOBLE NETWORK OF CHARTER SCHOOLS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Noble Network of Charter Schools 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. The authority to open the three (3) new campuses for which sites have not yet been identified and the corresponding increase in the maximum enrollment is contingent upon Board approval of the sites via an amended Board Report.

CHARTER SCHOOL: Noble Network of Charter Schools
1010 North Noble Street
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (773) 862-1449
Contact Person: Michael Milkie, Superintendent

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

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 98-0429-EX12) was for a term commencing July 2, 1998 (with the charter school opening for the 1999 – 2000 school year) and ending June 30, 2004 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 500 students in grades 9 – 12. The charter school was located at 1010 North Noble Street. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2009 (authorized by Board Report 04-0225-EX3). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 05-1116-EX8: Approved the establishment of 2 new campuses located at 4131 West Cortland Avenue (Cortland Campus) and 1337 West Ohio Street (Ohio Campus) and an increase of the enrollment cap to 1698. Also approved the change in charter school holder from Noble Street Charter School to Noble Network of Charter Schools.
- Board Report 06-0927-EX4: Approved the name change for the Cortland Campus to the Pritzker Campus and for the Ohio Campus to the Rauner Campus.
- Board Report 06-1115-EX5: Approved the establishment of 2 new high school campuses and to increase the overall at capacity enrollment by 1,198. The Brown Campus is located at 1460 West Superior Street and will serve a maximum student enrollment of 599 students in grades 9-12. The Maroon Campus is located at 3645 West Chicago Avenue and will serve a maximum student enrollment of 599 students in grades 9-12. The Noble Network of Charter Schools enrollment cap increased to 2,896 students.
- Board Report 07-0627-EX5: Approved the name change for the Brown Campus to the Golder College Prep Campus and the Maroon Campus to the Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy Campus.
- Board Report 07-1024-EX5: Approved the establishment of 2 new high school campuses and to increase the enrollment cap by 100 students to 2996 for the 2007 – 2008 school year and by 1200

students for the 2008 – 2009 school year. The Comer Campus is located at 7200 South Ingleside and will serve a maximum student enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12. The UIC Campus is located at 2350 West Ogden Avenue and will serve a maximum enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12. The Noble Network of Charter Schools enrollment cap increased to 4196.

- Board Report 08-0326-EX8: Approved the change in location for the UIC Campus from 2350 West Ogden Avenue to 1231 South Damen Avenue.
- Board Report 08-1022-EX11: Approved the establishment of 3 new campuses in the fall of 2009 and to increase their overall at capacity enrollment by 1800 to 5996 for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The Chicago Bulls College Prep Campus will be located at a site to be determined and will serve a maximum enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12. The Muchin College Prep Campus will be located at 1 N. State, Chicago, IL 60602 and will serve a maximum enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12. The Bain NUSH Grammar School will be located at a site to be determined and will serve a maximum enrollment of 600 students in grades K-8. Also approved was the establishment of 1 new campus in the fall of 2010 with an additional increase of the at capacity enrollment by 600 to a new total of 6596 for the 2010 – 2011 school year. The Osborn College Prep Campus will be located at a site to be determined and will serve a maximum enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12. In addition the name change for the Comer Campus was approved. The campus will now be known as the Gary Comer College Prep Campus.

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 Noble Network of Charter Schools (Noble Street) submitted a renewal proposal on September 5, 2008, to continue the operation of the Noble Street Charter Schools under a unified mission. Noble Street has since modified its renewal proposal to include commitments to operate the eleven (11) campuses unified through the use of uniform assessment plans and performance standards, curriculum and school calendar alignment, as well as standard governance, operational, employment, educational and admissions policies. The Charter School shall serve grades K - 12 with a maximum student enrollment of 4796 students and 6596 upon subsequent Board approval of the location of the three (3) campuses with sites to be determined.

Campus Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	2008 - 2009 Enrollment	At Capacity Enrollment
Noble Campus	1999	1010 N. Noble	9-12	513	600
Pritzker College Prep Campus	2006	4131 W. Cortland	9-12	436	599
Rauner College Prep Campus	2006	1337 W. Ohio	9-12	401	599
Golder College Prep Campus	2007	1460 W. Superior	9-12	316	599
Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy Campus	2007	3645 W. Chicago	9-12	297	599
UIC Campus	2008	1231 S. Damen	9-12	185	600
Gary Comer College Prep Campus	2008	7200 S. Ingleside	9-12	165	600
Bain NUSH Grammar School Campus	2009	TBD	K-8	200 (in 09 – 10)	600

Chicago Bulls College Prep Campus	2009	TBD	9-12	200 (in 09 - 10)	600
Muchin College Prep Campus	2009	1 N State	9-12	200 (in 09 - 10)	600
Osborn College Prep Campus	2010	TBD	9-12	150 (in 10 - 11)	600

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Noble Street's performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial analysis, and academic site visits of the seven campuses in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, learning communities 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 Noble Network of Charter Schools for an additional five years. There was no public testimony, oral or written, from anyone in opposition of the renewal of Noble Network of Charter Schools. Since 2004-2005, the charter school's attendance rate has exceeded 94%. In 2007-2008, zero percent of students at the Noble Street campuses dropped out of school. While Noble Street experienced a slight decline in the percent of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the PSAE Composite, Noble Street's average ACT Composite score has stayed above an 18. In 2007-2008, Noble Street's graduation rate (88.2%) ranked in the top 20 percent of district high schools. From 2004-2005 to 2007-2008, Noble Street received 37 out of 49 high ratings and 10 out of 49 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. The percentage of high ratings has increased over time. Looking across all of the school performance indicators, Noble Street Charter School can be categorized as "Making Reasonable Progress" toward achieving pupil performance standards using the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of the Noble Network of Charter Schools' charter agreement 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 \$37,134,488.00 in 2009-2010. If the Noble Network of Charter Schools applies to the Renaissance Schools Fund for funding for the new campuses and is not approved for funding, the Board shall provide a one-time payment to each campus for planning positions in an amount not to exceed \$170,000.

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:



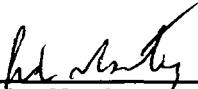
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



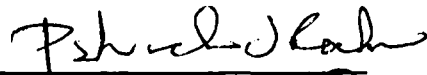
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel