

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
THE ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING TECHNICAL CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical (ACE Tech) Charter School for an additional three-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: Architecture, Construction and Engineering Technical Charter School
5410 S. State Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone : 773-548-8705
Contact Person: Geri Harston, Executive Director

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 04-0225-EX4) 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 500 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter school was located at 3901 S. State Street.

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: ACE Tech Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 5, 2008, to continue the operation of the ACE Tech Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades 9-12 with a maximum student enrollment of 500 students.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of ACE Tech'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 March 24, 2009 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with ACE Tech Charter School. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2004-2005 to 2007-2008, the charter school's attendance rate averaged 88.9%. In 2007-2008, 12.1% of 11th grade students met or exceeded state standards on the PSAE Composite. In addition, the school's average ACT Composite for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 averaged 15.8. In 2007-2008, 55.3% of its students completed high school in four years. From 2005 to 2008, ACE Tech received 5 out of 16 high ratings and 7 out of 16 middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria and subject to inclusion in the Charter School Agreement of additional terms and conditions which were communicated to the Charter School on approximately February 20, 2009, ACE Tech Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school for a shortened three (3) year term.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of ACE Tech Charter School's charter status is being extended for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012. 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 \$ 3,712,000.00 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:



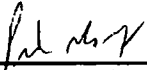
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



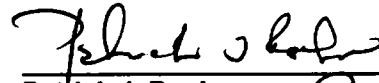
Ron Huberman
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel