

**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH
BRONZEVILLE LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School for an additional 5-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: Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School
8 West Root Street
Chicago, IL 60651
Phone: 773-535-1459
Contact Person: Ashleigh Plauche, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of New Schools
125 S. Clark, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(773) 553-1530
Contact Person: Nora Moreno Cargie, Chief of Staff

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 05-0126-EX12) was for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2011 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 496 students in grades K – 5th.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 1, 2010, to continue the operation of the Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades K-8 with a maximum student enrollment of 496 students.

Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School is authorized to operate a pre-kindergarten program in the same building as the charter school. The children enrolled in the pre-kindergarten will not be included in the enrollment of the charter school and the pre-kindergarten program will not be governed by the Charter School Agreement. To the extent the Board provides funding for the pre-kindergarten program, that program will be subject to a separate agreement with and separate funding authorized by the Office of Early Childhood Education. A material breach of any contract between the Board and Bronzeville Charter School for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

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

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School performance and operations. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, facilities surveys, financial and governance analyses, and site visit of the school in which teaching and learning, leadership and governance, learning community and services for ELL students and students with special needs were assessed. A public hearing was conducted on Monday, April 18, 2011 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School for an additional five years. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2006-2007 to 2009-2010, Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School received 6 out of 19 high ratings and 9 out of 19

middle ratings on their absolute student indicators found in the framework put forth by the district for assessing charter school pupil performance. From 2006-2007 to 2009-2010, Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School's student attendance averaged 93.2%. In 2009-2010, the percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite was 71%, an increase of 19.2 percentage points from 2006-2007. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2016.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: By September 1, 2011, Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School must submit detailed curriculum maps aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards or Common Core Standards for social studies and science.

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 written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Acting 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 2011-2012 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY12 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 5/34-13.1, 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:



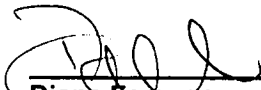
Nora Moreno Cargie
Chief of Staff

Respectfully Submitted:



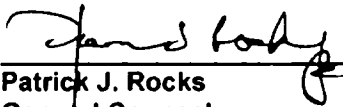
Terry Mazany
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Diana Ferguson
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel