

**CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR CHARTER AND CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT  
SUBMITTED BY GREAT LAKES ACADEMY, INC., AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

Consideration of a proposal for charter and Charter School Agreement submitted by Great Lakes Academy, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. If approved, the term of the Charter School Agreement would be for a five-year period, beginning July 1, 2014. 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 by June 30, 2014. The agreement presented for consideration herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this matter is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** Great Lakes Academy, Inc.  
415 E. North Water Street, Apartment 604W  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5613  
Phone: 773-599-3614  
Contact: Katherine Myers, Executive Director

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Great Lakes Academy Charter School  
Location To Be Determined  
Phone: 773-599-3614  
Contact: Katherine Myers, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
125 S. Clark, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 charter schools may be operated in the City of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

**CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** The Great Lakes Academy Charter School (Great Lakes Academy) proposal was submitted by Great Lakes Academy, Inc. and received by the Board in two tiers: a Tier 1 proposal was due in September 2013, and a Tier 2 proposal completed the proposal in accordance with the Charter Schools Law in December 2013. Great Lakes Academy's mission is to prepare K-8 students to excel in high school and college, and live a life of great opportunity through rigorous academics and development of character. Great Lakes Academy's school model draws from the best practices at the highest performing schools serving low-income, urban students across the country, focusing on recruiting, hiring, coaching, and retaining outstanding classroom teachers; building a fiercely positive school culture that holds staff and students to high expectations through positive reinforcement; a focus on foundational literacy and mathematics instruction; an extended school day; and promoting a safe and secure school environment with clear directions and structures. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2014 serving a maximum of 128 students in grades K-1. The school will add grades in subsequent years with an at capacity enrollment of 576 students in grades K-8. The school will be located at a location to be determined. A community meeting and a public hearing on charter school submissions submitted in 2013 were held on December 16, 2013 and January 7, 2014, respectively.

If approved, the identification of a facility will be required to be submitted to the Board for consideration.

**TERM:** If approved, the term of the Great Lakes Academy charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2019.

**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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Senior Director 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 Council is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY15 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

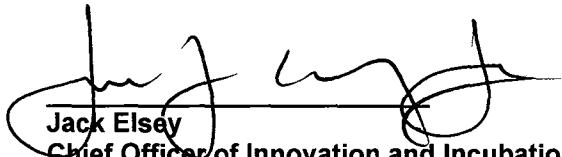
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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, 2006 (96-0626-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics — The Board's Ethics Code adopted May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Submitted for Consideration:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Elsey  
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Submitted for Consideration:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Bebley  
General Counsel