

May 28, 2014

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 10-0526-EX08**  
**APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
 GALAPAGOS CHARTER SCHOOL**

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

Approve the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with Galapagos 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.

This May 2014 amendment is necessary to amend the written Charter School Agreement with Galapagos Charter School to incorporate revisions to its Accountability Plan. The authority granted herein shall automatically rescind in the event a written amendment to the Charter School Agreement is not executed by the Board and the Charter School's governing board within 120 days of the date of this amended Board Report.

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Galapagos Charter School  
 3814 W. Iowa Street  
 Chicago, IL 60651  
 Phone: 773-384-9400  
 Contact Person: Michael Lane, Principal

**OVERSIGHT:** ~~Office of New Schools~~ Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Chicago, IL 60603  
 (773) 553-1530  
 Contact Person: ~~Jaime Guzman, Acting Executive Officer~~  
Jack Elsey, Chief Officer

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 05-0126-EX9) was for a term commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 378 students in grades K – 8.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Galapagos Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on September 14, 2009, to continue the operation of the Galapagos Charter School under a unified mission. The Charter School shall serve grades K - 8 with a maximum student enrollment of 350 students.

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 Galapagos's 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 May 10, 2010 to receive public comment on the application to renew the Charter School Agreement with Galapagos Charter School for an additional five years. In addition, the Office of New Schools evaluated the school's student performance. From 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, Galapagos Charter School received 7 out of 19 high ratings and 12 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 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, Galapagos's student attendance averaged 94.8%. In 2009, the

percentage of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the ISAT Composite was 65.0%, an increase of 21.3 percentage points from 2005-2006. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Galapagos Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

In April 2014 Galapagos Charter School proposed amending its existing Charter School Agreement to incorporate revisions to its Accountability Plan. The school's Accountability Plan for SY 2014-2015, based on data collected during SY 2013-2014, will be revised to align with the School Quality Rating Policy approved by the Board in August 2013 (13-0828-PO5). The execution of this amendment to the Charter School Agreement will further the goal of uniformity in performance measurement, accountability and other terms and conditions among all charter schools.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Galapagos Charter School's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2015.

**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 and amendment, 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 and amendment. Authorize the ~~Acting Executive Officer~~ Senior Director of the Office of New Schools Innovation and Incubation 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 ~~2010-2011~~ 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 ~~FY11~~FY14 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. ~~The cost of this enrollment will be approximately \$ 1,755,579.00 in 2010-2011.~~

**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)~~ May 25, 2011 (11-0525-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

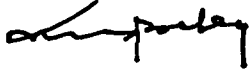
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
Jack Elsey  
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

**Approved:**

  
Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:** 

  
James Bebley  
General Counsel