

June 25, 2014

**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH  
21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY URBAN SCHOOLS, INC. (ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL)****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize the renewal of the Charter School Agreement with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc. 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.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc.  
833 W. Jackson Blvd, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60607  
Phone: 866-625-7107  
Contact Person: Claire Hartfield

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** Alain Locke Charter School  
3141 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone: (773) 265-7230  
Contact Person: Patrick Love, Principal

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

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-1217-EX2) was for a term commencing July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 2004, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 750 students in grades K through 12. 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-EX2). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2014 (authorized by Board Report 09-0422-EX5) serving no more than 617 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 10-1215-EX3: Approved the correction of the name of the Alain Locke Charter Academy Charter School to the Alain Locke Charter School.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc. submitted a renewal proposal on September 3, 2013 to continue the operation of Alain Locke Charter School (Alain Locke). The charter school shall be located at 3141 W. Jackson Boulevard and shall serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 617 students.

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

If 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc. 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc. for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of New Schools within the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Alain Locke's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial analysis, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on June 23, 2014 to receive public comments on the renewal for Alain Locke. The committee recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Alain Locke be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Alain Locke's charter and agreement is being renewed for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2019.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** No additional terms and conditions are included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Schools, Inc.

**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 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 Council is not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 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 FY14 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

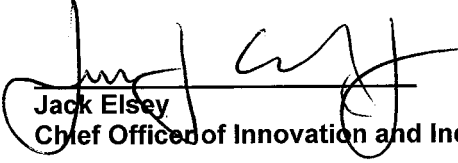
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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 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:

  
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Jack Elsey  
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Approved:

  
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Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

  
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James Bebley  
General Counsel