

May 27, 2015

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE ROWE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT**THE CHIEF INNOVATION AND INCUBATION OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize renewal of the Rowe Elementary Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") 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: Northwestern University Settlement Association, an IL not-for-profit corporation
1400 West Augusta Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60642
Phone: 773-278-7471
Contact Person: Ron Manderschied, President

CHARTER SCHOOL: Rowe Elementary Charter School
1424 North Cleaver Street
Chicago, Illinois 60642
and
1434 West Augusta Boulevard (Annex)
Chicago, Illinois 60642
Phone: 312-445-5870
Contact Person: Ana Martinez, Principal

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Jack Elsey, Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 09-1123-EX15) was for a term commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2015 and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 581 students in grades K through 8. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 10-0428-EX4: Approved the relocation of the charter school from 1454 West Superior Avenue to 1424 North Cleaver Street and the clarification of the relationship of any pre-kindergarten program to the charter school.
- Board Report 12-0328-EX5: Approved an increase in the maximum enrollment of the charter school by 169 students to 750 students.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Northwestern University Settlement Association submitted a renewal proposal on November 17, 2014 to continue the operation of Rowe Elementary Charter School (Rowe).

Also, in November 2014, Northwestern University Settlement Association submitted a material modification to (a) increase the maximum enrollment at the school to 900 students and (b) add additional facility space for the school at 1434 West Augusta Boulevard beginning in the fall of 2015. Board approval of this site shall be contingent upon the subsequent approval of the facility by the CPS Facility Department. A public hearing on the proposed changes was held on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

As a result, the charter school shall be located at 1424 North Cleaver Street and 1434 West Augusta Boulevard (annex) and shall serve grades K through 8 with a maximum enrollment of 900 students.

If Northwestern University Settlement Association 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 Northwestern University Settlement Association for the operation of a pre-kindergarten program or the charter school may be treated as a breach of the other contract.

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.

CHARTER EVALUATION: After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of Rowe's academic performance, financial viability, and legal and contract compliance. This evaluation included a review of the proposal, academic results, financial performance, governance documents, parental issues, facilities surveys, and special education documentation. A public hearing was held on May 20, 2015 for all charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Rowe. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, Rowe be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Rowe's charter and agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: No additional terms and conditions are included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Northwestern University Settlement Association.

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 Chief Innovation and Incubation Officer 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. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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 2015-2016 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, 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:



Jack Elsey
Chief Officer of Innovation and Incubation

Approved as to Legal Form: ~~X~~



James Bebley
General Counsel