

January 22, 2020

**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT  
WITH CONDITIONS**

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

Authorize renewal of the Youth Connection Charter School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions 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 Charter School 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/** Youth Connection Charter School, an IL not-for-profit corporation  
**CHARTER SCHOOL:** 10 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 11F4-2  
 Chicago, Illinois 60616  
 Phone: 312-328-0799  
 Contact Person: Shelia Venson, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602  
 Phone: 773-553-1530  
 Contact Person: Hal Woods, Executive Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 97-0723-EX9) was for a term commencing August 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 2002, and authorized the operation of a multi-campus charter school serving high school dropouts throughout Chicago. The Charter School Agreement also limited their enrollment to no more than 1,850 students for grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2007 serving no more than 3,200 students (authorized by Board Report 02-0424-EX02). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012 (authorized by Board Report 07-0627-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 serving no more than 4,004 students (authorized by Board Report 12-0328-EX14). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020 serving no more than 4,217 students (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX24). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently amended as follows:

- Board Report 15-0929-EX5: Ratified the voluntary suspension of educational services at the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for the 2015-2016 school year. The 191 seats that were once allocated to the YCCS Virtual High School Campus were temporarily redistributed across the following 15 campuses: Community Service West - Academy of Scholastic Achievement (20 seats), ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja (10 seats), Association House - El Cuarto Ano (5 seats), Austin Career Education Center (10 seats), Community Services West - Community Christian Academy (10 seats), YCCS Chatham Academy (23 seats), Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School (10 seats), Community Youth Development Institute (10 seats), Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School (5 seats), Innovations High School of Arts Integration (15 seats), Jane Addams (5 seats), Latino Youth Alternative High School (8 seats), Olive Harvey Middle College High School (10 seats), Sullivan House Alternative High School (30 seats) and West Town Academy Alternative High School (20 seats). The charter operator had to notify the Office of Innovation and Incubation (I&I) of its intention to reinstate its educational services at YCCS Virtual High School Campus for the 2016-2017 school year by submitting a material modification that proposes a new campus location and outlines the

educational and operational practices at the campus. Also ratified the approval for Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus to remain at its current location at 7847 S. Jeffery Boulevard until the charter operator provided I&I with all necessary zoning and occupancy permits and health and safety approvals for that campus to relocate to a new facility at 6620 S. King Drive.

- Board Report 16-0427-EX21: Authorized (a) the change in the name of the Association House – El Cuarto Ano Campus to the Association House High School Campus and (b) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2017-2018 school year. Also updated the location for Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus in the board report to 6620 S. King Drive.
- Board Report 17-0828-EX9: Authorized (a) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2018-2019 school year, (b) the change in the name of the Charles Hamilton Houston Alternative High School Campus to the Progressive Leadership Academy Campus, (c) the change in the name of the Ada S. McKinley – Lakeside Campus to the McKinley Lakeside Leadership Academy Campus, and (d) the increase in the at capacity enrollment of the Westside Holistic Leadership Academy Campus by 200 students to 435 students, thereby increasing the overall at capacity enrollment of the charter school to 4,417 students beginning in the fall of 2017.
- Board Report 18-0425-EX6: Authorized (a) an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2019-2020 school year and (b) the change in the name of the Westside Holistic Leadership Academy Campus to the West Campus.
- Board Report 19-0724-EX2: Authorized an extension of the suspension of the YCCS Virtual High School Campus for one additional year until the 2020-2021 school year.

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** Youth Connection Charter School submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2019 to continue the operation of Youth Connection Charter School under a unified mission. The charter school shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 4,417 students at the following locations:

Campus Name	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
Community Service West- Academy of Scholastic Achievement	4651 W. Madison Street	9-12	237
McKinley Lakeside Leadership Academy	2920 S. Wabash Avenue	9-12	204
ASPIRA - Antonia Pantoja	3121 N. Pulaski Avenue	9-12	192
Association House High School	1116 N. Kedzie Avenue, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	9-12	155
Austin Career Education Center	5352 W. Chicago Avenue	11-12	195
Community Services West - Community Christian Academy	1231 S. Pulaski Avenue	9-12	241
YCCS Chatham Academy	9035 S. Langley Avenue	9- 12	204

Progressive Leadership Academy	6620 S. King Drive	9-12	151
Community Youth Development Institute	7836 S. Union Street	10 -12	260
Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School	2739 W. Division Street & 2700 W. Haddon Avenue	9-12	184
Innovations High School of Arts Integration	17 N. State Street	9-12	366
Jane Addams	1814 S. Union Street	9-12	210
Latino Youth Alternative High School	2001 S. California Avenue	9-12	201
Olive Harvey Middle College High School	10001 S. Woodlawn Avenue	9-12	199
Sullivan House Alternative High School	8164 S. South Chicago Ave.	9-12	334
Truman Middle College High School	1145 W. Wilson Avenue	9-12	210
West Town Academy Alternative High School	500 N. Sacramento Boulevard	9-12	189
West	4909 W. Division Street	9- 12	435
Youth Connection Leadership	3424 S. State Street	9-12	250

Since Youth Connection Charter School has still not identified a site for the YCCS Virtual High School Campus, the Board is rescinding the authority to re-open that campus. The charter school's maximum enrollment shall remain at no more than 4,417 students.

The Charter School 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 Youth Connection Charter School'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 January 9, 2020 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including Youth Connection Charter School. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that, based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria, as well as the school's demonstration of intent to satisfy the "Additional Terms and Conditions" referred to herein below, Youth Connection Charter School be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of Youth Connection Charter School's charter and Charter School Agreement is being extended for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to the charter school by the Chief Executive Officer or her designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with Youth Connection Charter School.

**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 Executive 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. Authorize the General Counsel to further negotiate and execute any amendments to the Charter School Agreement as 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 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY20 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

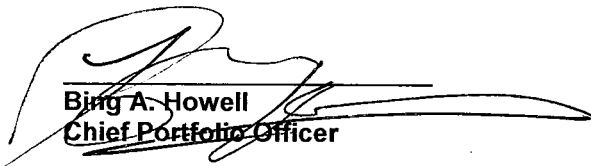
Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary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

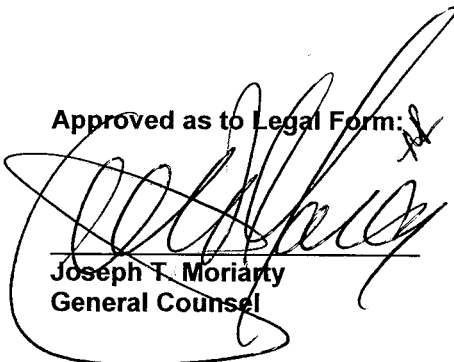
**Approved for Consideration:**

  
Bing A. Howell  
Chief Portfolio Officer

**Approved:**

  
Janice K. Jackson  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

  
Joseph T. Moriarty  
General Counsel