

May 25, 2022

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 17-1206-EX11**  
**AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE EPIC ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT  
 WITH CONDITIONS**

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

Authorize renewal of the EPIC Academy Charter High School Agreement (the "Charter School Agreement") with conditions for an additional seven-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 2022 amendment is necessary to authorize EPIC Academy Charter High School to relocate from the facility at 8255 S. Houston Avenue to an independent facility to be constructed at the 8200 block of S. Shore Drive, beginning no earlier than fall of 2024. EPIC Academy Charter High School must provide to the Office of Innovation and Incubation: (a) written notice by December 31, 2023 if the proposed effective date of the relocation is later than fall of 2024, and (b) written notice at least 90 days' notice prior to ceasing use of the current facility. In the event the proposed effective date of the relocation is later than January of 2025, EPIC Academy Charter High School shall additionally submit quarterly updates to the Office of Innovation and Incubation as to the status of the project and the proposed relocation date. Further, EPIC Academy Charter High School shall submit written communication to the Office of Innovation and Incubation on the exact address of the relocation site no later than six (6) months prior to the proposed effective date of the relocation. The Board approval for this location is contingent upon the subsequent approval of the facility by the CPS Facilities Department which shall include, without limitation, the receipt of all necessary zoning and occupancy permits and health and safety approvals for that site. 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.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** EPIC Academy, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation  
 8255 S. Houston Avenue (through at least the 2023-2024 school year)  
 Chicago, Illinois, 60617  
and 8200 block of S. Shore Drive  
 Chicago, IL, 60617 (no earlier than the 2024-2025 school year)  
 Phone: 773-535-7930  
 Contact: ~~Myetic Hamilton, Executive Director~~ LeeAndra Jamison,  
Executive Director

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** EPIC Academy Charter High School  
 8255 S. Houston Avenue (through at least the 2023-2024 school year)  
 Chicago, Illinois, 60617  
and 8200 block of S. Shore Drive  
 Chicago, IL, 60617 (no earlier than the 2024-2025 school year)  
 Phone: 773-535-7930  
 Contact Person: ~~Tawanna Patton, Principal~~ LeeAndra Jamison,  
Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of Innovation and Incubation  
 42 W. Madison Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chicago, IL 60602  
 Phone: 773-553-1530  
 Contact Person: ~~Mary K. Bradley, Executive Director~~ Sean Precious,  
Executive Director

**ORIGINAL AGREEMENT:** The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 09-1123-EX13) 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 480 students in grades 9 through 12. The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018, serving no more than 600 students (authorized by Board Report 15-0527-EX4).

**CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL:** EPIC Academy submitted a renewal proposal on July 31, 2017 to continue the operation of EPIC Academy Charter High School ("EPIC"). The charter school shall continue to be located at 8255 S. Houston Avenue and shall continue to serve grades 9 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 600 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.

In February 2022, EPIC Academy Charter High School submitted an application for amendment to request the relocation of its charter school to a new independent facility to be constructed at 8207-8237 S. Shore Drive, effective no earlier than fall of 2024. The Board approval for this location is contingent upon the subsequent approval of the facility by the CPS Facilities Department which shall include, without limitation, the receipt of all necessary zoning and occupancy permits and health and safety approvals for that site. A remote public hearing on the proposed relocation was held on May 11, 2022. The hearing was recorded and a summary report is available for review.

**CHARTER EVALUATION:** After receiving the charter renewal proposal, the Office of Innovation and Incubation conducted a comprehensive evaluation of EPIC'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 November 6, 2017 for all contract and charter schools going through renewal to receive public comments, including EPIC. 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, EPIC be authorized to continue operating as a charter school.

**RENEWAL TERM:** The term of EPIC's charter and agreement is being extended for a seven (7) year term commencing July 1, 2018 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 his designee in a formal Letter of Conditions and will be included as an attachment to the Charter School Agreement with EPIC Academy.

**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 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY18 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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*Bogdana Chkoumbova*  
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**Bogdana Chkoumbova**  
**Chief Education Officer**

**Approved:**

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*Pedro Martinez*  
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**Chief Executive Officer**

Approved as to legal form: 

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*Joseph T. Moriarty*  
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**Joseph T. Moriarty**  
**General Counsel**