

January 25, 2024

**AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE NOBLE NETWORK OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AGREEMENT
WITH CONDITIONS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Authorize renewal of the Noble Network of Charter Schools (the “Charter School Agreement”) with conditions for an additional four-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. The Renewal and any related contracts must be executed by the current contract's expiration date in order for first-quarter funding to be released for the new contract term. Information pertinent to this renewal is stated below.

SCHOOL OPERATOR: Noble Network of Charter Schools
One North State Street, 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 604-2123
Contact Person: Miquel Lewis, Board Chair

CHARTER SCHOOL: Noble Network of Charter Schools
One North State Street, 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 604-2123
Contact Person: Constance Jones, CEO

OVERSIGHT: Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Phone: 773-553-1530
Contact Person: Zabrina M. Evans, Executive Director

ORIGINAL AGREEMENT: The original Charter School Agreement (authorized by Board Report 98-0429-EX12) was for a term commencing July 2, 1998 (with the charter school opening in the fall of 1999) and ending June 30, 2004, and authorized the operation of a charter school serving no more than 500 students in grades 9 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-EX3). The charter and Charter School Agreement were further renewed for a term commencing on July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2014, serving no more than 4,796 students in grades K through 12 (authorized by Board Report 08-1217-EX7). The charter and Charter School Agreement were then renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2019, serving no more than 12,975 students in grades 6 through 12 (authorized by Board Report 14-0226-EX9). The charter and Charter School Agreement were subsequently renewed for a term commencing July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2024, serving no more than 15,100 students (authorized by Board Report 19-0123-EX9).

CHARTER RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Noble Network of Charter Schools submitted a renewal proposal on July 27, 2023, to continue the operation of Noble Network of Charter Schools. The charter schools shall continue to be located according to the chart below and shall continue to serve grades 6 through 12 with a maximum enrollment of 15,100 students:

Name	Year Opened	Address	At Capacity Grades	At Capacity Enrollment
Noble Street College Preparatory Campus	1999	1010 N. Noble Street	9-12	700
Pritzker College Preparatory Campus	2006	4131 W. Cortland Street	9-12	1050
Rauner College Preparatory Campus	2006	1337 W. Ohio Street	9-12	690
Golder College Preparatory Campus	2007	1454 W. Superior Street	9-12	710
Rowe–Clark Math and Science Academy Campus	2007	3645 W. Chicago Avenue	9-12	600
UIC College Preparatory Campus	2008	1231 S. Damen Avenue	9-12	1209
Gary Comer College Preparatory Campus	2008	7131 S. South Chicago Avenue & 1010 E.72nd Street	6-12	1250
Chicago Bulls College Preparatory Campus	2009	2040 W. Adams Street	9-12	1300
Muchin College Preparatory Campus	2009	1 N. State Street	9-12	990
John and Eunice Johnson College Preparatory Campus	2010	6350 S. Stewart Avenue	9-12	925
Hansberry College Preparatory Campus	2012	8710-56 S. Aberdeen Street	9-12	750

DRW College Preparatory Campus	2012	931 S. Homan Avenue	9-12	580
Butler College Preparatory Campus	2013	821 E. 103rd Street	9-12	700
Baker College Preparatory Campus	2013	2710 E. 89th Street	9-12	450
ITW David Speer Academy Campus	2014	5321 W. Grand Avenue	9-12	1296
The Noble Academy Campus	2014	1443 N. Ogden Avenue	9-12	800
Mansueto High School Campus	2016	2911 W. 47th Street	9-12	1100

The agreement will incorporate an accountability plan in which the Board evaluates the charter school 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 Noble Network of Charter Schools' 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, 2024 for all contract and charter schools going through renewals to receive public comments, including Noble Network of Charter Schools. The Office of Innovation and Incubation recommends that the Noble Network of Charter Schools be authorized to continue operating as a charter school based on the school's performance on these and other accountability criteria.

RENEWAL TERM: The term of Noble Network of Charter Schools' charter and agreement is being extended for a four (4) year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2028.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The following conditions shall be incorporated into the Charter Agreement between the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and the Noble Network of Charter Schools:

- All campuses must demonstrate progress toward implementing the Recommendations codified in the Special Education Renewal Site Visit Report by the Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS).
- On an annual basis throughout the term, all applicable campuses must meet state and federal rules governing English Learners as demonstrated by a rating of Partial or higher on formal compliance reports from the Office of Language and Cultural Education (OLCE). Chicago Public Schools has designated OLCE to conduct school visits and determine school compliance with state and federal rules regarding English Learner programs.

- On an annual basis throughout the term, the network must provide a summary of discipline practices, including staff training and multi-tiered interventions and restorative strategies implemented, and an end-of-year update on the progress and results of its discipline practices, with a demonstrated reduction in in-school and out-of-school suspensions.
- On an annual or more frequent basis throughout the term, the network must ensure the accuracy of teachers reported as licensed in the Employee Roster by validating it with the ISBE Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). The network will notify staff in writing of deficiencies and pending licensure renewal deadlines, as needed. On an annual basis throughout the term, the network must demonstrate compliance with the requirement of 75% teacher licensure.
- On a bi-annual basis throughout the term, each applicable campus must submit a facility deficiency repair plan to communicate the status of the facility and ADA issues identified in the Facilities Assessment Reports.

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. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement and amendment. 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 required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

LSC REVIEW: Approval of the Local School Council is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2024-25 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY24 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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Alfonso Carmona
Chief Portfolio Officer

Approved:


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Pedro Martinez
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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel