

**APPROVE THE GRANTING OF A CHARTER AND ENTERING INTO A CHARTER SCHOOL  
AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTESSORI NETWORK, INC., AN ILLINOIS NOT FOR PROFIT  
CORPORATION**

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

Approve the granting of a charter and entering into a Charter School Agreement with The Montessori Network, Inc., for a five-year period. This approval is contingent upon final approval from the Board's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") as detailed below. The Charter School Agreement is currently being 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 the CEO files a report with the Secretary of the Board indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the charter school proposal and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The agreement authorized herein will only take effect upon certification by the Illinois State Board of Education. Information pertinent to this agreement is stated below.

**SCHOOL OPERATOR:** The Montessori Network, Inc.  
5248 N. Wayne  
Chicago, Illinois 60640  
Phone: 773-808-1921  
Contact: Rita Nolan, Executive Director

**CHARTER SCHOOL:** The Montessori School of Englewood Charter  
7033 S. Honore (Independent Facility)  
Chicago, Illinois 60636  
Phone: 773-808-1921  
Contact: Rita Nolan, Executive Director

**OVERSIGHT:** Office of New Schools  
125 S. Clark, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
773-553-1530  
Contact Person: Nora Moreno Cargie, Chief of Staff

**DESCRIPTION:** The Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-1 et seq., as amended) provides that up to 70 charter schools may be operated in the city of Chicago. Proposals to operate charter schools are submitted to the Board for evaluation pursuant to the standards set forth in 105 ILCS 5/27A-8, and the Board convenes a public meeting to obtain information to assist in its decision to grant or deny each proposal and report its action to the Illinois State Board of Education. The State Board determines whether the approved charter school proposal and the proposed contract satisfy the provisions of the Charter Schools Law and, if so, certifies the charter school.

**CHARTER APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** The Montessori School of Englewood Charter (the Montessori School) proposal was submitted by The Montessori Network, Inc. and received by the Board in August 2010. The Montessori School's mission is to prepare a new generation of students for lifelong academic, personal, and professional success through a rigorous, tuition-free K-6 Montessori education. The Montessori Method will encourage them to graduate from high school and college, fostering aspiration to excellence and cultivating personal commitment to a peaceful and sustainable global community. The Montessori classroom maximizes the development and capabilities of the individual student through a combination of instructional strategies: developmentally based hands-on materials and instructional methods, multi-sensory education, project-based learning, Socratic dialogue, individualized instruction, student choice, social justice education, a focus on relationships, and culturally responsive teaching. The Montessori School will ignite the minds and illuminate the hearts of its students. The school is slated to open in the fall of 2012 serving 90 students in grades K-2. At capacity, the school will serve 240 students in grades K-6. The school will be located at 7033 S. Honore. Public hearings on charter school submissions submitted in 2010, as required by statute, were held on December 13, 2010, January 18, 2011, and February 17, 2011.

The school operator originally applied for approval to operate grades K-8 with up to 540 students, but the facility selected by the school operator could not support that program size; therefore, the school is authorized to only operate through grade 6 at this time. In the event the school operator identifies another site with a larger capacity, it may apply to amend its charter to add grades 7-8. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the Office of New Schools no later than July 1, 2016.

**CONTINGENT APPROVAL:** The granting of a charter by the Board and the entering into a Charter School Agreement is contingent upon the school operator meeting benchmarks detailed by the Office of New Schools including, but not limited to, obtaining the financing for, and the completion of, the renovations to the independent facility at the school site. These benchmarks will be communicated to the school operator in a formal Letter of Conditions with all deadlines to be met by January 15, 2012. The Office of New Schools will oversee the enforcement of these deadlines; failure to meet these deadlines may, at the option of the Board, result in the rescission of the authority granted herein and the denial of the charter school proposal. A final review of the charter school proposal will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer or his designee will file a report indicating the CEO's final approval or denial of the charter school proposal and satisfactory resolution of all material issues related to the formation of the school. The report will be filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before February 15, 2012. This final review will be conducted to determine compliance with the terms indicated above.

**TERM:** The term of the Montessori School charter and agreement shall commence July 1, 2012 and end June 30, 2017.

**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, which shall reflect resolution of any and all outstanding issues between the Board and the governing body of the charter school including, but not limited to: site location, enrollment, educational program, financial controls and practices, academic accountability and evaluations. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the written Charter School Agreement. Authorize the Executive Officer of the Office of New Schools 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.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget. Since the School Code of Illinois prohibits the incurring of any liability unless an appropriation has been previously made, expenditures beyond FY12 are deemed to be contingent liabilities only, subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. If The Montessori Network, Inc. does not receive funding from Renaissance Schools Fund, the Board shall provide a one-time payment to the school for planning positions in an amount not to exceed \$170,000.00.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

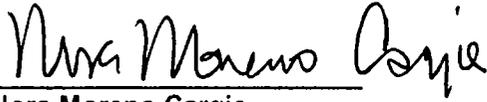
Inspector General - Each Party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary 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, 2006 (96-0626-P03), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics — The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

**Approved for Consideration:**



**Nora Moreno Cargie**  
Chief of Staff

**Respectfully submitted:**



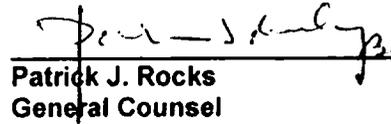
**Terry Mazany**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**



**Diana S. Ferguson**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel