

May 25, 2022

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE ALAIN LOCKE CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS

Whereas, the Charter School Agreement with Alain Locke Charter School that expired on June 30, 2021 included an accountability plan that did not align with any other school's accountability system under CPS's care, and did not align with CPS's national model of common accountability;

Whereas, Alain Locke Charter School is the only school in the district that has not adopted CPS's national model of common accountability;

Whereas, On October 13, 2020, Alain Locke Charter School submitted a charter renewal proposal to continue operations;

Whereas, on January 7, 2021, it was communicated to the designees of Alain Locke Charter School that recommendation to the Board for its renewal will be based on Alain Locke Charter School's agreement to include in the Charter School Agreement an updated accountability plan to which all district and charter schools are held, aligned to the accountability system to which all schools within CPS are held;

Whereas, on January 27, 2021, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago authorized the renewal of the Alain Locke Charter School with conditions for a five-year term pursuant to Board Report 21-0127-EX3;

Whereas, the Board Report authorizing the charter renewal with Alain Locke Charter School specified that the Charter School Agreement shall incorporate an accountability plan in which the charter school will be evaluated by the Board each year based on numerous factors related to its academic, financial, and operational performance;

Whereas, on July 8, 2021, a proposed Charter School Agreement was provided to Alain Locke Charter School;

Whereas, on August 2, 2021, Alain Locke Charter School issued a letter, in essence, refusing to engage in negotiations of the Charter School Agreement citing that the proposed agreement is "unnecessary and [is] inconsistent with the intent of the Parties who signed the original charter and with the current Charter School Law." Further, Alain Locke Charter School held the position that should the parties not come to an agreement on the updated accountability plan, the accountability plan of the expired contract shall remain in effect;

Whereas, on November 16, 2021, a meeting was held between representatives of the Board and with Alain Locke Charter School. Representatives of the Board communicated that Alain Locke would be required to adopt an accountability plan that would hold Alain Locke to the same standards with the same data points as all other schools operated or authorized by Chicago Public Schools;

Whereas, on December 16, 2021, purporting to be negotiating in good faith, Alain Locke Charter School offered its best and final modifications to the standard accountability plan that mirrored their expired accountability plan, and in fact departed drastically from the standard accountability plan accepted by all schools in the district;

Whereas, Alain Locke Charter School's previous Charter Agreement expired on June 30, 2021, and Alain Locke has been operating for approximately 8 months without a charter agreement;

Whereas, Alain Locke Charter School is refusing to agree to an accountability plan reflective of current values and best practices for the benefit of students collectively served by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and Alain Locke;

Whereas, Alain Locke Charter School is currently operating without a valid Charter Agreement in place;

It is therefore

RESOLVED that the renewal term for Alain Locke Charter School shall be reduced to a 2-year term commencing on July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023, and it is further

RESOLVED that any future authorization to renew Alain Locke Charter School beyond June 30, 2023 shall require Alain Locke's assent to a common accountability plan set forth by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago.