



## **MEMORANDUM**

**March 17, 2022**

**To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee**

**From: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair, Charter Schools Committee**

**Subject: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of Harbor Science and Arts Charter School (Manhattan)**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of a five-year, full-term charter renewal with conditions for Harbor Science and Arts Charter School pursuant to New York Education Law § 2851(4).

### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Charter Schools Committee adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Charter Schools Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees, as required by Subdivision 2851(4)(e), has considered, prior to approval of the application for charter renewal of Harbor Science and Arts Charter School (the "Education Corporation"), the means by which the Education Corporation will meet or exceed the enrollment and retention targets of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch program as set forth in the application, which targets were prescribed by the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") on behalf of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Education Corporation's application for charter renewal be, and hereby is, approved to the extent and as limited and restricted herein, for a full term through and including July 31, 2027, subject to the following conditions:

- The Education Corporation must meet or exceed three out of six key accountability plan measures for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade as identified by the Institute and set forth in the charter agreement for English language arts and mathematics in at least three years of the accountability period;
- Beginning in the 2022/23 school year, the Education Corporation must report to the Institute each school year its progress implementing a strategic plan that focuses on improving performance for all student groups;
- Beginning in the 2022/23 school year, the Education Corporation must engage an external consultant(s) to conduct an annual evaluation of the Education Corporation's academic program using the benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies (defined below) (or an alternative framework approved by the Institute) and report findings by July 31 each year to the Education Corporation's board of trustees and the Institute;
- Beginning in the 2022/23 school year, the Education Corporation must maintain a minimum enrollment of no less than 80 percent of the enrollment set forth in the charter agreement for each school year; and,
- By December 31, 2022, all Education Corporation trustees must complete governance training conducted by an external consultant(s) that is accepted and approved in advance by the Institute. The training shall include, at a minimum, roles and responsibilities of a charter school education corporation board of trustees, school leader evaluation, and stakeholder communication;

and, be it further

Resolved that: 1) the Education Corporation's school as described in its application for charter renewal meets the requirements of the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended) and applicable laws, rules, and regulations; 2) the Education Corporation, as limited and restricted, can demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and, 3) so approving the renewal application and renewing the charter, as limited and restricted, is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in Education Law § 2850(2); and, be it further

Resolved that the Institute, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, be, and hereby is, directed to: 1) enter into a proposed renewal charter with the Education Corporation in accordance with this resolution, which proposed charter shall include such assurances and terms as the Institute shall deem necessary and appropriate; and, 2) thereafter, submit the proposed charter to the New York State Board of Regents for review, comment, and potential approval.

### **Background**

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended) permits the Board of Trustees to renew the charters of education corporations it has authorized and to renew such corporations' authority to operate charter schools. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to renew charters to the Charter Schools Committee.

Pursuant to the *Policies for the Renewal of Not-for-Profit Charter School Education Corporations and Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York* (the "SUNY Renewal Policies") (last amended September 4, 2013 and available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/wp-content/uploads/SUNY-Renewal-Policies.pdf>), the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") generally conducts a renewal site visit; reviews the information in the renewal application as well as other relevant information such as assessment data and site visit reports; interviews education corporation trustees and staff; and produces a draft renewal report containing its findings and preliminary recommendation. The draft renewal report also contains an evaluation of the performance of an education corporation's charter over the charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies (available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/>)

[resource-center/school-leaders/accountability/renewal-regulations-benchmarks/](#)). The education corporation receives a copy of the draft renewal report and is given an opportunity to comment on it before it is finalized. The Institute makes final renewal reports available in its Albany office and at: <http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/meetingNotices.cfm>. Copies of applications for charter renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute's Renewal Report for Harbor Science and Arts Charter School (the "Education Corporation"), which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, the Institute, pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies, conducted a renewal review of the Education Corporation. As a result of this review, the Institute recommends that the Education Corporation's application for subsequent charter renewal be granted for a full term of five years with conditions. If this resolution is approved, the Education Corporation's charter will be renewed through July 31, 2027.

For the education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the charter is located regarding the receipt of an application for charter renewal. As of March 9, 2022, no comments were received.