

TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: John B. King, Jr.

SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Proposed Revision to the Initial Charter for the Riverton Street Charter School

DATE: July 14, 2010

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goals 1 and 2

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the initial charter for Riverton Street Charter School (New York City)?

Background Information

We received a request from the Chancellor of the city school district of the City of New York to approve a proposed revision to the initial charter of the Riverton Street Charter School ("the School"). The School seeks to add National Heritage Academies, Inc. (NHA) as its management partner; and, to change its grade configuration and annual projected enrollment throughout the charter term. The proposed revision seeks to modify the Year 1 (2010-2011) grade span from grades K and 1 to grades K through 3, which will increase Year 1 enrollment from 100 to 196 students. The proposed revision seeks to increase enrollment each year of its initial charter as outlined in Attachment 1.

NHA is a Michigan-based, for-profit management company that provides educational programs to 61 other charter schools. In its partnership with Riverton Street Charter School, NHA would provide: implementation and administration of the educational program; management of all personnel functions, including professional development for the School's administrator and all instructional personnel and the personnel functions; in consultation with the Board, leasing a facility for use by the School, which facility shall be subleased to the Board; all aspects of the business administration of the School, including the maintenance of its federal income tax exemption status; food, transportation and health services for the School; marketing and development for the

School; fulfillment of payment and performance obligations that are identified as obligations of the Tenant under the lease between NHA and the School; and, any other function necessary or expedient for the administration of the School.

Currently, NHA manages five charter schools in New York, approved by the Board of Regents (for performance data, see Attachment II), which are the following (name – date of charter – location):

Southside Academy Charter School – December 2001 – Syracuse, NY

Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School – March 2002 – Brooklyn, NY

Buffalo United Charter School – September 2002 – Buffalo, NY

Brooklyn Scholars Charter School – February 2009 – Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn Dreams Charter School – January 2010 – Brooklyn, NY

The New York City Department of Education held a public hearing in Community School District 29 on May 24, 2010 regarding the proposed revision to the charter. Forty-two people attended the hearing. Three people spoke in support of the proposed revision. No additional comments or summaries were provided.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approves the revision to the initial charter of Riverton Street Charter School as proposed by the Chancellor of the city school district of the City of New York, and the provisional charter is amended accordingly.

Reasons for Recommendation

Current Enrollment
Riverton Street

