



## **MEMORANDUM**

**December 18, 2019**

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

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

**Subject: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of  
Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools (Bronx)**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of a five-year, full-term charter renewal for Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools and its authority to operate Atmosphere Academy Public Charter School, with grades six through eight only as set forth in an amended renewal application, 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 amended application for charter renewal of Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation") and its authority to operate Atmosphere Academy Public Charter School (the "School"), located in the Bronx, 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 amended application for charter renewal, be, and hereby is, approved for a full term of five years; and, be it further

Resolved that: 1) the School as described in the amended 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 can demonstrate the ability to operate the School in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and, 3) approving the amended renewal application and renewing the charter 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, acting for 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 to submit the proposed charter to the New York State Board of Regents for its 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. 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: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/wp-content/uploads/SUNY-Renewal-Policies.pdf>), the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") 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 school over the

charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies. 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 renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute's Renewal Report for Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation"), which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, the Institute conducted a renewal review of the Education Corporation and its school, Atmosphere Academy Public Charter School (the "School"), pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies. As a result of this review, the Institute recommends that the Education Corporation's amended application for initial charter renewal of the School should be granted for a full term of five years without conditions. The Education Corporation previously amended its original renewal application, which added a high school program, to have the School remain a middle school program. If this resolution is approved, the Education Corporation's charter will be renewed through July 31, 2025.

For the education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the education corporation is located regarding the receipt of an application for charter renewal. As of December 10, 2019, no comments were received.