MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2019

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

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

Subject: New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grants

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of $1,376,270 in New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund facilities grants to various charter schools authorized by various charter entities pursuant to New York State Finance Law section 97-sss.

Resolution

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

Resolved that the grants to the charter schools identified below, in the amounts and from the programs specified, be, and hereby are, approved with such conditions and restrictions as the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”) deems necessary and appropriate; and be it further

Resolved that funds awarded pursuant to this resolution but not spent by the awardees may be awarded by the Institute to any partial awardee or to the next highest scoring project(s) submitted through the request for proposals process.
New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grants:
Facility Grants (Totaling $1,376,270):

- Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls
  (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- Buffalo Collegiate Charter School
  (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- Charter School for Educational Excellence
  (Authorized by the New York State Board of Regents) $200,000
- Finn Academy: An Elmira Charter School
  (Authorized by SUNY) $176,270
- OnTECH Charter High School
  (Authorized by Board of Regents) $200,000
- University Preparatory Charter School For Young Men
  (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- Utica Academy of Science Charter School
  (Authorized by Board of Regents) $200,000

Background

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038 dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to the Charter Schools Committee to award grants to charter schools.

The New York State Legislature made funds available in the 2018/19 New York State Education Department budget for services and expenses related to the development, implementation and operation of charter schools. The New York State Division of the Budget made $2,060,167 available together with reappropriated funds to SUNY for distribution to charter schools ("SSF grants") authorized by all state authorizers including the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, the Board of Regents, and the Buffalo City Board of Education. Pursuant to Section 97-sss, these funds may be used for "discretionary financial support, including grants … to charter schools … for start-up costs and costs associated with the acquisition, renovation, financing or construction of charter school facilities."
On April 3, 2019, SUNY released a Request for Proposals (C003500) (the “RFP”) (copy on file in the Albany office of the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”)) to enable eligible charter school education corporation applicants to compete for funds for expenses associated with the acquisition, renovation, construction, or financing of certain charter school facilities not located in free public space or receiving rental assistance funding. The Institute set the maximum for a facility grant at $200,000. Pursuant to the grant program previously approved by the Board of Trustees on April 25, 2000 (Resolution 00-64), the Institute convened a review panel, and scored and ranked all proposals in the manner outlined in the RFP.

Should the Charter Schools Committee adopt this resolution, the Institute, working with SUNY, will be given the authority to enter into contracts with the grantees that set forth conditions under which the grant monies are to be disbursed as described in the RFP including, but not limited to, submission of budgets and other supporting documentation.