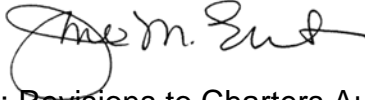





TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents
DATE: February 16, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revisions to the charters of the following five schools authorized by the Board of Regents:

1. West Buffalo Charter School
2. Mott Hall Charter School
3. Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School
4. Western New York Maritime Charter School
5. Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by New York State law.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the February 2016 Regents meeting.

Background Information

The Commissioner and Department staff recommend that the Board of Regents amend the charters of the above listed charter schools. Information about each revision request is provided below.

WEST BUFFALO CHARTER SCHOOL

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	West Buffalo Charter School
Board Chair	Dr. Arup Sen
District of Location	Buffalo City School District
Opening Date	August 2012
Current Charter Term	March 2015 – June 2020
Facility	Owned by the school
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	K-4 270 students
Mission	“Tomorrow’s future leaders are sitting in our classrooms today. With small class sizes, a rigorous curriculum aligned with the NYS Common Core Learning Standards, and high expectations, West Buffalo Charter School develops an exceptional foundation of literacy skills for all students in grades K-4. West Buffalo Charter School is a place where diversity is celebrated, individual differences are accepted, and student success is maximized.”
Proposed Revision	To expand grade levels from K-4 to K-8, with a corresponding increase in enrollment,¹ adding one grade level per year starting with the grade 5 in the 2016-2017 academic year. Additionally, to correct the School’s charter term.

On March 8, 2010, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the West Buffalo Charter School (“West Buffalo” or the “School”), located at 113 Lafayette Avenue, in the Buffalo City School District. The School opened for instruction in August, 2012, and has a current enrollment of 270 students in Grades K-4.

The School’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to expand grade levels from K-4 to K-8 over a period of four years. This change will enable the School to serve students continuously from Grade K through Grade 8, as requested by parents. The limited viable options for families in the Buffalo City School District is also a factor in parent demand for the expansion.

¹ See Table3

Table 2: West Buffalo Charter School Approved Enrollment

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total Approved Enrollment
Year 1 (2015-2016)	60	60	60	60	60	300
Year 2 (2016-2017)	60	60	60	60	60	300
Year 3 (2017-2018)	60	60	60	60	60	300
Year 4 (2018-2019)	60	60	60	60	60	300
Year 5 (2019-2020)	60	60	60	60	60	300

Table 3: West Buffalo Charter School Proposed Enrollment

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total Proposed Enrollment
Year 1 (2015-2016)	60	60	60	60	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300
Year 2 (2016-2017)	60	60	60	60	60	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	350
Year 3 2017-2018)	60	60	60	60	60	50	50	N/A	N/A	400
Year 4 (2018-2019)	60	60	60	60	60	50	50	50	N/A	450
Year 5 2019-2020)	60	60	60	60	60	50	50	50	50	500

West Buffalo Charter School far exceeded the Buffalo City School District for the percentage of students proficient in ELA and Mathematics in state assessments.

Table 4: West Buffalo Charter School Academic Achievement

	ELA					Mathematics				
	West Buffalo CS	Buffalo City SD	Variance ²	NYS	Variance	West Buffalo CS	Buffalo City SD	Variance	NYS	Variance
2014-2015: Grades K-4	31%	13%	+18	32%	-1%	32%	18%	+14%	43%	-11%
2013-2014: Grades K-3	23%	13%	+10%	31%	-8%	27%	16%	+11%	42%	-15%

West Buffalo Charter School’s demographics demonstrate that they were slightly below the district of location only in the enrollment of students with disabilities in the 2014-15 academic year. The school’s enrollment of economically disadvantaged students and limited English proficient students exceed the district of location.

Table 5: West Buffalo Charter School Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	West Buffalo	Buffalo City SD	Variance	West Buffalo	Buffalo City SD	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	86%	84%	+2.3%	88%	85%	+2.8%
Limited English Proficient ³	27%	15%	+11.6%	25%	17%	+8.4%
Students with Disabilities ⁴	23%	22%	-.6%	20%	24%	-4.2%

² Variance is defined as the percent difference of subgroup enrollment between the charter school and district of location.

³ Includes ELL students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

⁴ Includes SWD students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

During the February 2015 meeting, the Board approved a charter through June 30, 2020. However, Education Law §2851(2)(p) prohibits a charter term longer than five years. The Charter Schools Office proposes a technical change to the renewal charter term as follows: the School will be granted a first renewal charter term from March 9, 2015 to June 30, 2015, and a second renewal charter term from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020.

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the Buffalo City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision on December 16, 2015. Fifteen individuals attended the hearing. No comments were made in support or in opposition.

MOTT HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

Table1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Mott Hall Charter School
Board Chair	Sarah Calderon
District of Location	NYC CSD 9
Opening Date	August 2012
Current Charter Term	August 2012 - June 2017
Facility	1260 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY Co-located with PS 63
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Grades 6-8 248 students
Mission	“The mission of the Mott Hall Charter School is to prepare our scholars in mind, body, and character to succeed in top high schools, colleges, and careers by becoming inquisitive, open-minded, and compassionate citizens of the world. We accomplish this through a whole child approach including the International Baccalaureate and AVID career and college readiness programs, enhanced counseling and character development, 21 st century technology infusion, enrichment, and our high school placement program.”
Proposed Revision	The Board requests to move the school from CSD 9 to CSD 7 in order to move from their temporary co-location space into a private facility with a long-term lease that will accommodate the school at full growth.

On December 14, 2010, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Mott Hall Charter School (“Mott Hall” or the “School”), located at 1260 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY, in the NYC CSD 9. The School opened for instruction in 2012 and has a current enrollment of 248 students in grades 6-8. They are currently approved to serve a maximum of 315 students.

The school is in its fourth year and is in a co-located NYC DOE site. Due to the space limitations, the site was meant to be a temporary location. The school has obtained a private facility, and is requesting that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to move from CSD 9 to CSD 7. The new site is located at 222 Alexander Avenue two miles from the current facility, close to public transportation. This change will enable the School to implement their program

fully and be able to serve their maximum approved enrollment of 315 students in the fifth year of operation.

Table 2: Mott Hall Charter School Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2012- 2013	Year 2 2013- 2014	Year 3 2014- 2015	Year 4 2015- 2016	Year 5 2016- 2017
Grade Configuration	6	6-7	6-8	6-8	6-8
Total Approved Enrollment	110	215	315	315	315

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the New York City Department of Education held a public hearing about the proposed revision on February 1, 2016. No members of the public attended the hearing.

BUFFALO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School
Board Chair	Murat Demirbas
District of Location	Buffalo City School District
Opening Date	September 2004
Current Charter Term	July 2015 – June 2020
Facility	Owned by the school
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	7-12 400 students
Mission	<p>“The mission of the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School (BASCS) is to fulfill the high demands of students in Buffalo from grades 7 to 12, their parents and the community as a whole by addressing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing an excellent academic educational plan with emphasis on math, science, and technology while providing the opportunity for students to excel in any field of study. 2. Providing a rigorous, innovative, challenging and enhanced curriculum focused on preparing students’ per individual basis for college from a community who are not served successfully by public education and cannot afford the private education services. 3. Preparing students to become responsible, educated citizens who have the skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a diverse, multicultural, globally oriented environment and who are ready to carry the torch of knowledge, freedom, and prosperity. 4. Creating a partnership and participation environment among the student – teacher- - parent triad that will provide our youth with the support necessary to reach their highest potential – intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.
Proposed Revision	Expand grade levels from 7-12 to 5-12 over two years, adding 5th grade in 2016-2017 and 6th grade in 2017-2018 with a corresponding increase in enrollment,⁵.

⁵ See Table3

On January 12, 2004 the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School (“BASCS” or the “School”), located at 19 Franklin Street in the Buffalo City School District. The School opened for instruction in September, 2004, and has a current enrollment of 325 students in Grades 7-12.

The School’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to expand grade levels from 7-12 to 5-12 over a period of two years. This change will enable the school to serve students continuously from Grade 5 through Grade 12, as requested by parents. The limited viable options for families in the Buffalo City School District are also a major factor.

Table 2: Buffalo Academy of Science Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2015- 2016	Year 2 2016- 2017	Year 3 2017- 2018	Year 4 2018- 2019	Year 5 2019- 2020
Grade Configuration	7-12	7-12	7-12	7-12	7-12
Total Approved Enrollment	400	400	400	400	400

Table 3: Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School Proposed Enrollment

	Year 1 2015- 2016	Year 2 2016- 2017	Year 3 2017- 2018	Year 4 2018- 2019	Year 5 2019- 2020
Grade Configuration	7-12	5, 7-12	5-12	5-12	5-12
Total Proposed Enrollment	400	460	520	520	520

Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School far exceeds the Buffalo City School District in middle school math outcomes, and is on par with the district in middle school ELA outcomes. High school outcomes in ELA and Math reflect positive trends and the school's graduation rate exceeds the state accountability graduation target of 80%.

Table 4: Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School Academic Achievement

Middle School

All Students	ELA					Math				
	Buffalo Academy CS	Buffalo City SD	Variance ⁶ to Buffalo City SD	NYS	Variance to NYS	Buffalo Academy CS	Buffalo City SD	Variance to Buffalo City SD	NYS	Variance to NYS
2014-2015	11%	12%	-1%	33%	-22%	26%	11%	+15%	30%	-4%
2013-2014	16%	13%	+3%	32%	-16%	20%	11%	+9%	36%	-16%

High School Data

HIGH SCHOOL NYS COHORT ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES (4-Year Outcome)		
BUFFALO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL		All Students
Regents English/ELA	2013-14	96%
	2014-15	94%
Regents Mathematics	2013-14	87%
	2014-15	94%

⁶ Variance is defined as the percent difference of subgroup enrollment between the charter school and district of location.

**High School Graduation Rate
(4-Year Outcome)**

	All Students				
	2007 Cohort	2008 Cohort	2009 Cohort	2010 Cohort	2011 Cohort
4Yr	74%	83%	91%	94%	88%
5Yr	92%	88%	93%	98%	88%

Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School’s demographics demonstrate that they are exceeding the district of location only in the enrollment of economically disadvantaged students. The school’s enrollment of limited English proficient students and students with disabilities are not proportional to the district of location.

Table 5: Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	BASCS	Buffalo City SD	Variance	BASCS	Buffalo City SD	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	91%	69%	+22.3%	78%	73%	+4.7%
Limited English Proficient ⁷	6%	14%	-8%	9%	15%	-5.6%
Students with Disabilities ⁸	13%	20%	-6.2%	2%	19%	-17.8%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the Buffalo City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision on January 27, 2016. One individual commented in favor of the proposed revision to expand the School to add grades five and six. No comments were made in opposition.

⁷ Includes ELL students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

⁸ Includes SWD students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

WESTERN NEW YORK MARITIME CHARTER SCHOOL

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Western New York Maritime Charter School
Board Chair	Angelo Conorozzo
District of Location	Buffalo City School District
Opening Date	September 2004
Current Charter Term	July 2015 – June 2020
Facility	Leased by the school
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	9-12 325 students
Mission	<p>"The mission of Western New York Maritime Charter School is to develop all Cadets in mind, body and character, to prepare them for further education, and to prepare them to be effective leaders and responsible citizens. Inherent in this mission are four cornerstones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Excellence: To provide Cadets with educational challenges and experiences that prepare them to be successful in the information age, and in further study at the college level. • Character Development: To instill in Cadets the highest sense of morality and ethics, with emphasis on intellectual honesty, integrity, discipline, honor, service to others and to the community. • Physical Development: To enhance Cadets' health, self-confidence, and physical abilities, and to instill a lifelong appreciation of wellness and a healthy lifestyle. • Leadership Development: To provide Cadets a distinct military structure in the best maritime tradition to enhance their sense of personal responsibility, self-discipline and citizenship."
Proposed Revision	Expand grade levels from 9-12 to 7-12 over two years, starting with grade 7 in the 2016-2017 academic year, with a corresponding increase in enrollment,⁹.

⁹ See Table3

On January 12, 2004, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Western New York Maritime Charter School (“Maritime” or the “School”), located at 266 Genesee Street in the Buffalo City School District. The School opened for instruction in September, 2004 and has a current enrollment of 325 students in Grades 9-12.

The School’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to expand grade levels from 9-12 to 7-12 over a period of two years. This change will enable the school to serve students continuously from Grade 7 through Grade 12, as requested by parents.

Table 2: Western New York Maritime Charter School Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2015-2016	Year 2 2016- 2017	Year 3 2017- 2018	Year 4 2018- 2019	Year 5 2019- 2020
Grade Configuration	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
Total Approved Enrollment	325	325	325	325	325

Table 3: Western New York Maritime Charter School Proposed Enrollment

	Year 1 2015- 2016	Year 2 2016-2017	Year 3 2017-2018	Year 4 2018-2019	Year 5 2019-2020
Grade Configuration	9-12	7, 9-12	7-12	7-12	7-12
Total Proposed Enrollment	325	394	443	435	425

Western New York Maritime Charter School’s high school outcomes in ELA and Math reflect positive trends and the school’s graduation rate exceeds the state accountability graduation target of 80%.

Table 4: Western New York Maritime Charter School Academic Achievement

WESTERN NY MARITIME CHARTER SCHOOL		All Students
Regents English/ELA	2013-14	81%
	2014-15	95%
Regents Mathematics	2013-14	88%
	2014-15	95%

Cohort Graduation Rate - All Students

	2007 Cohort	2008 Cohort	2009 Cohort	2010 Cohort	2011 Cohort
5Yr	78%	71%	76%	86%	97%
4Yr	83%	84%	78%	90%	97%

Western New York Maritime’s demographics demonstrate that they are below the district of location in the enrollment of limited English proficient students, although they are trending towards compliance. They far exceed the district percentages of economically disadvantaged students, and are on par with the district in the enrollment of students with disabilities.

Table 5: Western New York Maritime Charter School Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	West ern NY Maritime	Buffalo City SD	Variance ¹⁰	West ern NY maritime	Buffalo City SD	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	85%	65%	+20.4%	83%	70%	+12.3%
Limited English Proficient ¹¹	3%	14%	-10.6%	7%	15%	-7.9%
Students with Disabilities ¹²	18%	18%	-.2%	18%	18%	-.3%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the Buffalo City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision on January 27, 2016. Twenty three people attended the hearing. Two comments were made in favor of the proposed revision citing the need for rigor in grades prior to high school at Western New York Maritime Charter School. No comments were made in opposition.

¹⁰ Variance is defined as the percent difference of subgroup enrollment between the charter school and district of location.

¹¹ Includes ELL students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

¹² Includes SWD students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

LAUNCH EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING CHARTER SCHOOL

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School
Board Chair	Jonathan Harber
District of Location	NYC CSD 16
Opening Date	August 2012
Current Charter Term	August 2012 – June 2017
Facility	1580 Dean St. 3 rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11213 Co-located with a NYC DOE elementary school
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Grades 6-8 271 students
Mission	“Launch students will develop the academic skills and strength of character necessary to thrive in college, contribute to their communities, and excel in their careers.”
Proposed Revision	The Board requests to decrease the maximum approved enrollment of 461 students to 271 students. They also request to change the approved grade span of sixth through tenth grade to grades six through eight.¹³

On December 14, 2010, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School (“Launch” or the “School”), located at 1580 Dean St. 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11213, in the New York City CSD 16. The School opened for instruction in 2012, and has a current enrollment of 299 students in Grades 6-8.

The School’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve two material revisions to its charter. The School proposes to change the approved enrollment size from 461 to 271 students and the approved grade span of sixth through tenth, to sixth through eighth. These changes will enable the School to focus on meeting the needs of students who arrive at the School performing significantly below grade level as evidenced by state assessments.

¹³ See Table 3.

Table 2: Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School Approved Enrollment

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Grade Configuration	6	6-7	6-8	6-9	6-10
Total Approved Enrollment	100	190	271	371	461

Table 3: Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School Proposed Enrollment

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Grade Configuration	6	6-7	6-8	6-8	6-8
Total Proposed Enrollment	100	190	271	271	271

Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School’s demographics are above or comparable to the demographics of the district of location.

Table 4: Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2013-2014			2014-2015		
	Launch Charter School	CSD 16	Variance ¹⁴	Launch Charter School	CSD 16	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	88%	80%	+7.6%	84%	77%	+7.4%
Limited English Proficient¹⁵	5%	7%	+2.8%	4%	7%	-2.4%
Students with Disabilities¹⁶	24%	21%	+3.0%	27%	23%	+3.8%

¹⁴ Variance is defined as the percent difference of subgroup enrollment between the charter school and district of location.

¹⁵ Includes ELL students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter Schools Act, the New York City Department of Education, held a public hearing about the proposed revision on January 25, 2016. One individual, the Principal of the school, attended the hearing and spoke in favor of the revision.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **West Buffalo Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **Mott Hall Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for the **Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

¹⁶ Includes SWD students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for the **Western New York Maritime Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for West Buffalo Charter School will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for Mott Hall Charter School will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for Western New York Maritime Charter School will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School will become effective immediately.

Attachments.