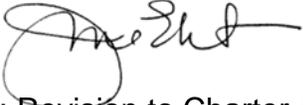




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Jhone M. Ebert   
**SUBJECT:** Charter Schools: Revision to Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents

**DATE:** December 7, 2015



**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter for the Harlem Hebrew Language Academy 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 December 2015 Regents meeting.

#### **Background Information**

The Board of Trustees of the Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School ("HHLA" or "the School") requests to amend the School's charter to enter into an agreement with National Center for Hebrew Language Charter School Excellence and Development, Inc. d/b/a Hebrew Charter School Center, for the provision of comprehensive management services to the School.

Name of Charter School	Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School
Board Chair	Sara Berman
District of Location	New York City CSD 3
Opening Date	August 2013
Current Charter Term	August 26, 2013– June 30, 2018
Facility	Leased space at 147 St. Nicholas Avenue, NY, NY 10026
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Currently serving 297 students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 (growing up to 446 students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 in 2017-2018)
Mission	<i>“Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School will provide its students with the academic and personal foundation necessary to successfully pursue advanced studies and achieve continued personal growth as ethical and informed global citizens. In order to accomplish this, Harlem Hebrew will offer an academically rigorous K-5 curriculum which includes intensive instruction in the Hebrew language. Students in a diverse student body will also develop a strong sense of social and civic responsibility through the integration of service learning and community service across the curriculum.”</i>
Proposed Revision	<b>Seeks to adopt a formal agreement with National Center for Hebrew Language Charter School Excellence and Development, Inc. d/b/a Hebrew Charter School Center to provide comprehensive management services to the School, commencing in the 2015-2016 school year.</b>

The Hebrew Charter School Center (“HCSC”) is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in New York City, created in 2009, with the mission to build a movement of academically rigorous dual-language charter schools across America that teach children of all backgrounds to become fluent and literate in Modern Hebrew and prepare them to be productive global citizens.

HCSC has informally supported HHLA since the School’s inception. Support has included training for school staff in a wide variety of areas (Reader’s & Writer’s Workshop Model, Proficiency Approach to Hebrew language acquisition, classroom management, Israel studies, among others); coaching of school leaders (principal, directors of curriculum and instruction); provision of data systems; data analysis; and recruitment of key staff. The formal agreement to provide comprehensive services includes a continuation of the services previously provided as well as operational, financial management and related areas of support.

An evaluation of the services provided by HCSC will be completed by the School's Board of Trustees annually. Evaluations will be on-going through-out the charter term with a formal written evaluation of HCSC's performance prepared on an annual basis.

The fee for comprehensive management services is established in the agreement equal to a percentage of Gross Revenues. Gross Revenues shall be defined as all such funding provided by the State, federal, and local government (if applicable) to Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School but shall exclude any private grant funding, competitive government grants or other charitable contribution awarded to the School as well as any facilities rental reimbursement monies the School may receive from the New York City Department of Education. The fee structure is as follows:

**Fee Structure**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Percentage of Gross Revenue</b>
2015-16	2.5%
2016-17	3.75%
2017-18	5%

In compliance with the public hearing requirements, a public hearing about the proposed adoption of a management agreement with National Center for Hebrew Language Charter School Excellence and Development, Inc. d/b/a Hebrew Charter School Center was held on October 22, 2015 at the school. There were four attendees present with two individuals speaking in support of the revision. No opposition was raised.

**Recommendation**

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 Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

**Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents action is effective immediately.