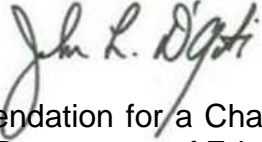





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Revision Recommendation for a Charter School Authorized by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor

DATE: July 2, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision for the following charter school authorized by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law (the New York Charter Schools Act):

1. **Bronx Lighthouse Charter School** (revision reflecting the dissolution of the relationship with the Charter Management Organization Lighthouse Academies, Inc., and change of the school name to Pharos Academy Charter School).

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its July 2020 meeting.

Handling of Charter School Revisions

Section 2852 of Article 56 of the Education Law allows the following actions when a charter revision is recommended by another charter entity (the New York City Department of Education Chancellor, the State University of New York Trustees, and/or the Buffalo Board of Education) to the Board of Regents:

5-a. Upon receipt of a proposed charter submitted by a charter entity, the board of regents shall review such proposed charter in accordance with the standards set forth in subdivision two of this section, and any other applicable specifications required by this article. The board of regents shall either (a) approve and issue the charter as proposed by the charter entity or (b) return the proposed charter to the charter entity for reconsideration

with the written comments and recommendations of the board of regents. If the board of regents fails to act on such proposed charter within ninety days of its submission to the board of regents in accordance with the previous sentence, the proposed charter shall be deemed to have been approved and issued by the board of regents at the expiration of such period.

5-b. If the board of regents returns a proposed charter to the charter entity pursuant to the provisions of subdivision five-a of this section, such charter entity shall reconsider the proposed charter, taking into consideration the comments and recommendation of the board of regents. Thereafter, the charter entity shall resubmit the proposed charter to the board of regents with modifications, provided that the applicant consents in writing to such modifications, resubmit the proposed charter to the board of regents without modifications, or abandon the proposed charter. The board of regents shall review each such resubmitted proposed charter in accordance with the provisions of subdivision five-a of this section; provided, however, that it shall be the duty of the board of regents to approve and issue a proposed charter resubmitted by the charter entity described in paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-one of this article within thirty days of the resubmission of such proposed charter or such proposed charter shall be deemed approved and issued at the expiration of such period.

In summary, pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law, the Regents are required to take one of the following actions:

1. Adopt the charter entity's recommendation, and the revision will go into effect;
2. Vote to return the NYC DOE Chancellor's recommendation for reconsideration with written comments and recommendations. The rationale should be consistent with Education Law 2852(2) as outlined below; or
3. Take no action, and the revision will automatically go into effect "via operation of law" within 90 days of receipt of the recommendation by the charter entity.

Unlike actions for Board of Regents-authorized charter schools, the Regents do not have the option to vote "no," and they are unable to modify the proposal for consideration.

Procedural History

The New York City Department of Education Chancellor made the revision recommendations being presented to the Board of Regents for approval and issuance as required by Article 56 of the Education Law and 8 NYCRR 119.7.

Background Information

Statutory Requirements Pertaining to Regents Decision Making

Article 56 of the Education Law created charter schools to:

- (a) Improve student learning and achievement;
- (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are at-risk of academic failure;
- (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;

- (d) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, school administrators and other school personnel;
- (e) Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system; and
- (f) Provide schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems by holding the schools established under this article accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results.

The Board of Regents is bound by law, regulation, and Regents-endorsed internal policies regarding the criteria that can be considered when making decisions pertaining to the authorization of new charter schools, charter school renewals, and charter school revisions. Those criteria are set forth in Section 2852(2) of the Education Law:

- (a) Does the charter school described in the application meet the requirements set out in applicable laws, rules and regulations?
- (b) Does the charter school demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner?
- (c) Will approving the charter school action make it likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes of the law? and
- (d) In a school district where the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the base year is greater than five percent of the total public school enrollment of the school district in the base year (i) would granting the application have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the proposed charter school or (ii) did the school district in which the charter school will be located consent?

The Board of Regents endorsed the Charter School Performance Framework—with its ten academic, organizational, and legal domains—to operationalize the criteria that can be considered when making decisions about the authorization of new charter schools, charter school renewals, and charter school revisions as set forth in Section 2852(2) of the Education Law. Comprehensive data for these benchmark standards is included in all charter school Regents items and summary documents and is discussed at the Regents meeting itself.

Related Regents Items

Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

[Initial Charter May 2004](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/Summaries/0504Summary.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/Summaries/0504Summary.htm>)

[First Renewal April 2009](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409emsca6.htm)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409emsca6.htm>)

[Second Renewal March 2014](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2_1.pdf)

(https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2_1.pdf)

[Third Renewal March 2016](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a5.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a5.pdf>)

[Fourth Renewal March 2019](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/319p12a2.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/319p12a2.pdf>)

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Regents take the following action:

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 amend 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 amend the charter will 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 **Bronx Lighthouse Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the above-named charter school name change will become effective nunc pro tunc on July 1, 2020.

The Regents action for the for the above-named dissolution of the relationship with the Charter Management Organization Lighthouse Academies, Inc., will become effective August 1, 2020.

Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

Charter School Summary

Name of Charter School	Bronx Lighthouse Charter School
Board Chair	Javier Lopez-Molina
District of Location	NYC CSD 12 (the Bronx)
Opening Date	Fall 2004
Charter Term(s)	Initial: May 17, 2004 – May 18, 2009 First Renewal: May 18, 2009 – May 17, 2014 Second Renewal: May 18, 2014 – June 30, 2016 Third Renewal: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019 Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022
Current Term Authorized Grades/Approved Enrollment	Grade K – Grade 12/678 students
Comprehensive Management Service Provider	Lighthouse Academies, Inc.
Facilities	1001 Intervale Avenue, Bronx – Public Space 1005 Intervale Avenue, Bronx – Private Space
Mission Statement	<i>Bronx Lighthouse Charter School has a singular mission to prepare students from the Bronx for college, career, and life.</i>
Key Design Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformative Instruction • College and Career Readiness • Socio- Emotional Learning and Restorative Approaches • Teacher Development • More Time on Task
Requested Revisions	Cease the relationship with Lighthouse Academies, Inc.; change the name of the school to “Pharos Academy Charter School
Timeline for Revision Implementation	The charter school name change will become effective nunc pro tunc on July 1, 2020. The dissolution of the relationship with the Charter Management Organization Lighthouse Academies, Inc., will become effective August 1, 2020.

The requested revisions will have no bearing on the number of students being served by this charter school, which will not change, nor will it impact the number of charters available for issuance in New York City or the State. If the revision is granted by the Board of Regents, the school will begin partnering with organizations they have already identified to provide organizational scaffolding for the school as it transitions from a network to an independent charter. The school already brought academic services in-house a few years ago, and the result was increased academic performance for the students of this school. The goal of this proposed revision is to increase and foster local voice for the students, families, and communities served by this school.

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to Bronx Lighthouse Charter School in May 2004. Bronx Lighthouse opened for instruction in September 2004, initially serving 141 students in Grades K through 2. Bronx Lighthouse Charter School’s charter was subsequently renewed by the Board of Regents in 2009, 2014, 2016, and 2019.

The charter school’s Board of Trustees requests that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to reflect that the charter school is ending its relationship with Lighthouse Academies, Inc., and will transition all applicable responsibilities to the charter school Board of Trustees and staff. The charter school also requests to change its name to Pharos Academy Charter School. As stated above, the school will seek out and enter into a partnership with support providers to ensure that the transition occurs smoothly and in the best interest of students academically and social-emotionally.

Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2019 to 2020	Year 2 2020 to 2021	Year 3 2021 to 2022
Grade Configuration	Grade K – Grade 12	Grade K – Grade 12	Grade K – Grade 12
Total Approved Enrollment	678	678	678

Figure 1: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency State and District Differentials Over Time Comparison to NYC CSD 12

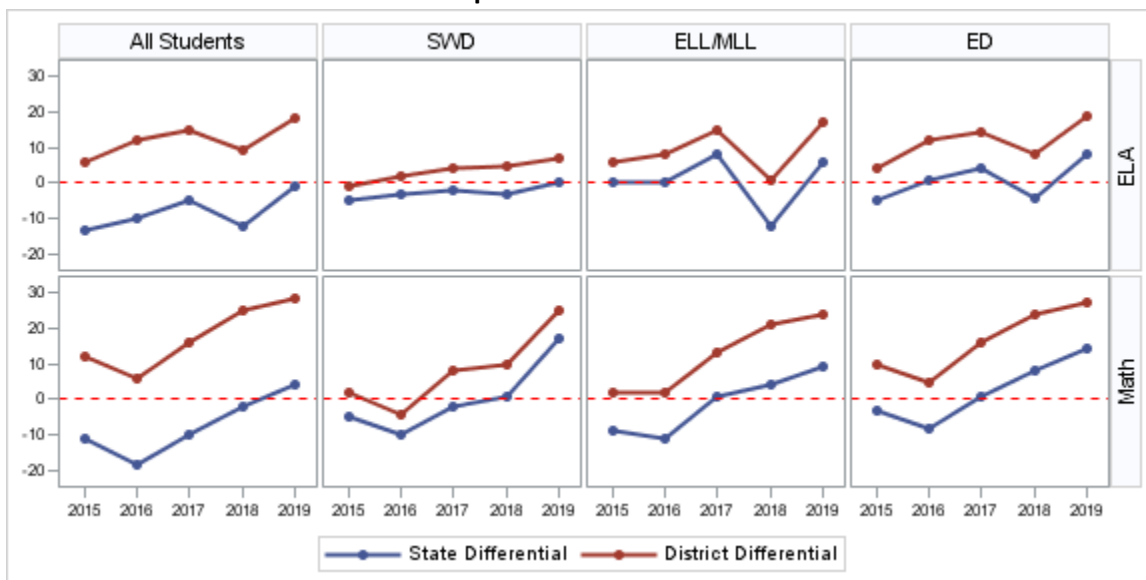


Table 1: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes: Charter School, District & NYS

		ELA					Math				
		Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS
All Students	2014-2015	18%	12%	+6	31%	-13	27%	15%	+12	38%	-11
	2015-2016	28%	16%	+12	38%	-10	21%	15%	+6	39%	-18
	2016-2017	35%	20%	+15	40%	-5	30%	14%	+16	40%	-10
	2017-2018	33%	24%	+9	45%	-12	43%	18%	+25	45%	-2
	2018-2019	44%	26%	+18	45%	-1	51%	23%	+28	47%	+4
SWD	2014-2015	2%	3%	-1	7%	-5	7%	5%	+2	12%	-5
	2015-2016	6%	4%	+2	9%	-3	2%	6%	-4	12%	-10
	2016-2017	9%	5%	+4	11%	-2	12%	4%	+8	14%	-2
	2017-2018	13%	8%	+5	16%	-3	18%	8%	+10	17%	+1
	2018-2019	15%	8%	+7	15%	0	34%	9%	+25	17%	+17
ELL/MLL	2014-2015	10%	4%	+6	10%	0	10%	8%	+2	19%	-9
	2015-2016	13%	5%	+8	13%	0	9%	7%	+2	20%	-11
	2016-2017	20%	5%	+15	12%	+8	20%	7%	+13	19%	+1
	2017-2018	13%	12%	+1	25%	-12	33%	12%	+21	29%	+4
	2018-2019	31%	14%	+17	25%	+6	40%	16%	+24	31%	+9
ED	2014-2015	16%	12%	+4	21%	-5	24%	14%	+10	27%	-3
	2015-2016	28%	16%	+12	27%	+1	20%	15%	+5	28%	-8
	2016-2017	33%	19%	+14	29%	+4	30%	14%	+16	29%	+1
	2017-2018	31%	23%	+8	35%	-4	42%	18%	+24	34%	+8
	2018-2019	44%	25%	+19	36%	+8	50%	23%	+27	36%	+14

Table 2: High School Cohort Graduation Outcomes: Charter School & NYS

		All Students				SWD				ELL/MLL				ED			
		Charter Total Cohort	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYS Graduation Rate	NYS Differential	Charter Total Cohort	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYS Graduation Rate	NYS Differential	Charter Total Cohort	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYS Graduation Rate	NYS Differential	Charter Total Cohort	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYS Graduation Rate	NYS Differential
2011 Cohort	4 Year	51	76%	80%	-4	8	25%	54%	-29	.	.	.	.	41	71%	73%	-2
	5 Year	50	92%	84%	+8	8	75%	60%	+15	.	.	.	.	38	92%	79%	+13
	6 Year	50	96%	85%	+11	8	88%	62%	+26	.	.	.	.	33	97%	81%	+16
2012 Cohort	4 Year	41	59%	82%	-23	9	0.44	0.57	-13	7	57%	49%	+8	37	62%	75%	-13
	5 Year	41	90%	85%	+5	9	0.89	0.62	+27	5	100%	56%	+44	21	90%	80%	+10
	6 Year	41	95%	86%	+9	9	0.89	0.64	+25	5	100%	58%	+42	21	100%	82%	+18
2013 Cohort	4 Year	59	88%	82%	+6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56	89%	76%	+13
	5 Year	59	92%	85%	+7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	55	95%	80%	+15
	6 Year	59	93%	86%	+7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	53	98%	82%	+16
2014 Cohort	4 Year	54	87%	83%	+4	5	0.8	0.6	+20	.	.	.	.	47	89%	76%	+13
	5 Year	54	93%	86%	+7	5	0.8	0.66	+14	.	.	.	.	35	94%	81%	+13
2015 Cohort	4 Year	58	88%	83%	+5	7	86%	62%	+24	7	100%	58%	+42	49	86%	77%	+9

Table 3: Student Demographics Comparison to District of Location

	SWD			ELL/MLL			ED		
	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District
2015-2016	17%	24%	-7	13%	23%	-10	82%	89%	-7
2016-2017	18%	24%	-6	10%	22%	-12	89%	89%	0
2017-2018	19%	24%	-5	14%	26%	-12	91%	93%	-2
2018-2019	18%	25%	-7	18%	26%	-8	92%	92%	0

Table 4: Retention – Aggregate and Subgroups Comparison to District of Location

	All Students			SWD			ELL/MLL			ED		
	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Bronx Lighthouse CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District
2016-2017	92%	78%	+14	90%	78%	+12	88%	80%	+8	92%	79%	+13
2017-2018	89%	78%	+11	86%	77%	+9	91%	80%	+11	90%	79%	+11
2018-2019	90%	76%	+14	87%	76%	+11	95%	78%	+17	91%	77%	+14

Summary of Public Comment

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on June 16, 2020. Sixteen people attended, and 12 spoke. All 12 speakers were in favor of the revision, and 0 were opposed.