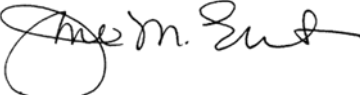





TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
SUBJECT: Revision to a Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents:
School in the Square Public Charter School
DATE: April 11, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of the following charter school authorized by the Board of Regents?

1. School in the Square Public 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 April 2016 Regents meeting.

Background Information

The Commissioner recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charter of the above listed charter school. Information about the revision request is provided below.

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Table1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	School in the Square Public Charter School
Board Chair	Michael Pollack
District of Location	NYC CSD 9 or 10
Opening Date	August 22, 2016
Current Charter Term	August 22, 2016 to June 2021
Facility	124 Wadsworth Avenue New York, New York
Current Grades Levels/Number of Students	Grade 6 108 students
Mission	“School in the Square (S2) will engage, educate, and empower adolescents in the Bronx to respond mindfully and creatively to life’s opportunities and challenges. S2 draws its name from the concept of the public square, where communities come together to solve problems and celebrate successes. We envision S2 as a place where students, families, and educators are seen, heard, and inspired and where students build the academic foundations, emotional intelligence, and leadership skills necessary to excel in college and professional life. In line with our commitment to equity and diversity, S2 is dedicated to serving the highest needs students of the Bronx, regardless of their academic achievement, English language proficiency, or disability status.”
Proposed Revision	The Board requests to move the school from CSD 9 or 10 to CSD 6 in order to move into a private facility with a long-term lease.

On November 17, 2015, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the School in the Square Public Charter School (“S2” or the “School”), to be located in NYC CSD 9 or 10. The School plans to open for instruction on August 22, 2016 implementing a summer focus cycle along with a summer bridge program.

The School’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to move from their approved location of NYC CSD 9 or 10 to CSD 6. The proposed site is located at 124 Wadsworth Avenue a few blocks to the west of CSD 10 close to public transportation. This change will enable the school to operate in a private space suitable as a permanent home. The building

currently houses a private school planning to close at the end of the current school year. The facility includes a gymnasium, a rooftop play area, a kitchen and cafeteria, and a large auditorium. The School will be the building's sole tenant.

Table 2: School in the Square Public Charter School Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2016- 2017	Year 2 2017- 2018	Year 3 2018- 2019	Year 4 2019- 2020	Year 5 2020- 2021
Grade Configuration	6	6-7	6-8	6-8	6-8
Total Approved Enrollment	108	216	324	324	324

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education, held a public hearing about the proposed revision on March 31, 2016. Five individuals attended the hearing. Four comments were made in support of the proposed 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 **School in the Square Public Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for School in the Square Public Charter School will become effective immediately.

Attachments