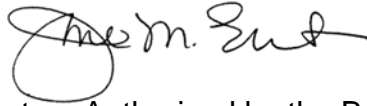





**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Jhone M. Ebert   
**SUBJECT:** Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents  
**DATE:** September 6, 2018  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Decision

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

1. **Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys**
2. **Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls**

### Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

### Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the full Board for action at the September 2018 Regents meeting.

### Procedural History

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

### Background Information

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charters of the charter schools listed above. Information about the revision requests are provided below.

## **Related Regents Items**

### **Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys**

#### **January 2006 First Renewal**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2005Meetings/December2005/1205emscvesida3.htm>

#### **April 2008 Enrollment Revision**

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/April2008/0408emsca1.htm>)

#### **July 2010 Enrollment Revision**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/July2010/0710monthmat.html#emsc>

#### **December 2010 Second Renewal**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2010Meetings/December2010/1210p12a1.pdf>

#### **March 2015 Third Renewal**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Mar%202015/315p12a3.pdf>

#### **April 2016 Merger Revision**

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/416p12a4.pdf>)

#### **February 2018 Fourth Renewal**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218p12a1revised.pdf>

### **Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls**

#### **January 2006 First Renewal**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2005Meetings/December2005/1205emscvesida3.htm>

#### **April 2008 Enrollment Revision**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/April2008/0408emsca1.htm>

#### **July 2010 Enrollment Revision**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/July2010/0710monthmat.html#emsc>

[December 2010 Second Renewal](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2010Meetings/December2010/1210p12a1.pdf>

[March 2015 Third Renewal](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Mar%202015/315p12a3.pdf>

[April 2016 Merger Revision](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/416p12a4.pdf>

[February 2018 Fourth Renewal](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218p12a1revised.pdf>

**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 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 **Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys** 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 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 **Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

**Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents action for **Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys** will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for **Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls** will become effective immediately.

**Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys**

**Table 1: School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys
<b>Board Chair</b>	Martha Snyder
<b>District of Location</b>	Albany City School District
<b>Facility</b>	116 North Lake Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 - Private Space
<b>Opening Month/Year</b>	Fall, 2002
<b>Current Charter Term</b>	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021
<b>Management Company:</b>	None
<b>Current Maximum Approved Grade Levels/ Number of Students</b>	Grades K-5 / 325 students
<b>Mission</b>	<p>The Mission of the Brighter Choice Charter Schools is to ensure that BRIGHTER CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL scholars have the same opportunities for future success as scholars attending the best public schools in the region. There are 3 significant components to achieving this mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemplary instruction that prepares scholars to think critically, problem-solve effectively, and to become engaged and responsible learners, successfully prepared for middle school, high school, and college</li> <li>• Focus on the development of social, behavioral, and organizational skills necessary for future school success</li> <li>• An education beyond the basics that includes performing arts, visual arts, science, and history</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Revision</b>	<p>The school requests a material charter revision to amend the school’s organizational chart to, among other things, eliminate the Director of School Quality position. Instead of reporting to the Director of School Quality, the principal will report directly to the Board. The School will add a Director of Operations who will provide service for both the Boys' and Girls' schools.</p>

In January 2001, the Board of Regents initially approved and chartered the Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys (BCCSB) in the City School District of Albany; the school opened in September of 2002. In April of 2016, the Board of Regents approved the merger of BCCSB with the Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls (BCCSG) to form the education corporation “Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools.” In February 2018, the Board of Regents approved the charter for a short-term renewal; the current charter expires on June 30, 2021.

BCCSB’s Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to allow the school to better pursue its mission. The proposed revision is to amend the school’s organizational chart to, among other things, eliminate the Director of School Quality position. Instead of reporting to the Director of School Quality, the principal will report directly to the Board. The School will

add a Director of Operations who will provide service for both the Boys' and Girls' schools. With these changes, there will be a dedicated principal at each school as the school's academic leader.

It is the school's belief that the proposed new leadership structure will best serve the school's needs. By utilizing a structure that has a Director of Operations whose responsibilities are limited to coordinating the operational functions in the schools, while having one academic leader at each of the schools focused solely on instruction, professional development and driving academic achievement, the school's leadership will be able to work more efficiently and effectively towards advancing the school's Charter goals and needs of the school's community.

There is no fiscal impact on the district of location for this revision.

### **Public Hearing**

As required by the Charter School Act, the Albany City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys on August 16, 2018. There were no attendees present at the hearing. There were no comments in support or in opposition to the proposed charter revision.

**Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls**

**Table 1: School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls
<b>Board Chair</b>	Martha Snyder
<b>District of Location</b>	Albany
<b>Facility</b>	250 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 – Private Space
<b>Opening Month/Year</b>	Fall, 2002
<b>Current Charter Term</b>	July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021
<b>Management Company:</b>	None
<b>Current Maximum Approved Grade Levels/ Number of Students</b>	Grades K-5 / 325 students
<b>Mission</b>	<p>The Mission of the Brighter Choice Charter Schools is to ensure that BRIGHTER CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL scholars have the same opportunities for future success as scholars attending the best public schools in the region. There are 3 significant components to achieving this mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemplary instruction that prepares scholars to think critically, problem-solve effectively, and to become engaged and responsible learners, successfully prepared for middle school, high school, and college</li> <li>• Focus on the development of social, behavioral, and organizational skills necessary for future school success</li> <li>• An education beyond the basics that includes performing arts, visual arts, science, and history</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Revision</b>	<p>The school requests a material charter revision to amend the school’s organizational chart to, among other things, eliminate the Director of School Quality position. The Director of School Quality previously served as the principal of the Girls’ school. This will now be a separate principal position who will report directly to the Board. The School will add a Director of Operations who will provide service for both the Boys’ and Girls’ schools.</p>

In January 2001, the Board of Regents initially approved and chartered the Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls (BCCSG) in the City School District of Albany; the school opened in September of 2002. In April of 2016, the Board of Regents approved the merger of BCCSG with the Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys (BCCSB) to form the education corporation “Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools.” In February 2018, the Board of Regents approved the charter for a short-term renewal; the current charter expires on June 30, 2021.

BCCSB's Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school's charter to allow the school to better pursue its mission. The proposed revision is to amend the school's organizational chart to, among other things, eliminate the Director of School Quality position. The Director of School Quality previously served as the principal of the Girls' school. This will now be a separate principal position who will report directly to the Board. The School will add a Director of Operations who will provide service for both the Boys' and Girls' schools. With these changes, there will be a dedicated principal at each school as the school's academic leader.

It is the School's belief that the proposed new leadership structure will best serve the school's needs. By utilizing a structure that has a Director of Operations whose responsibilities are limited to coordinating the operational functions in the schools, while having one academic leader at each of the schools focused solely on instruction, professional development and driving academic achievement, the school's leadership will be able to work more efficiently and effectively towards advancing the school's Charter goals and needs of the school's community.

There is no fiscal impact on the district of location for this revision.

### **Public Hearing**

As required by the Charter School Act, the Albany City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls on August 16, 2018. There were no attendees present at the hearing. There were no comments in support or in opposition to the proposed charter revision.