# MEMORANDUM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | March 18, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Report on Approval of Management Contracts for Four Charter Schools, August 2023 – December 2024 |

Under the charter school statute, G. L. c. 71, § 89(k)(5), the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) must approve contracts between charter schools and entities from which they procure substantially all educational services. Eight of the 73 operating charter schools procure substantially all educational services through a management contract. In prior years, the Board delegated to the Commissioner the authority to approve certain management contracts on the Board’s behalf.[[1]](#footnote-2) Pursuant to this authority, former Commissioner Riley and I approved management contracts in 2023 and 2024 for Community Day Charter Public School, Holyoke Community Charter School, UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester, and Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School.

The table that follows provides details regarding each management contract that received Commissioner approval.[[2]](#footnote-3) There are three additional management contracts, previously delegated by the Board for commissioner approval, that are currently under review. These contracts are included in the table for reference.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) reviewed each contract and found the contracts to be reasonable and consistent with the charter school statute and regulations. Each contract included a delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the school and the management organization, performance evaluation measures, the total fee paid for management services, delineation of authority over hiring and firing, and the conditions and procedures for the contract’s renewal and termination. In the case of Horace Mann charter schools, each charter school also obtained or will obtain approval of the amendment from the local school committee and teachers union prior to submission.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alyssa Hopkins, Assistant Director of the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign; Alison Bagg, Director of the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign; Regina Robinson, Deputy Commissioner; or me.

**Contracts Previously Delegated for Commissioner Approval**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Charter School** | **Name of Management Organization** | **Contract Term** | **Date of Board Vote to Delegate Authority** | **Date of Commissioner Approval** | **Reason for New Contract** |
| Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School | Old Sturbridge, Inc. | 2023-2028 | 5/23/2023 | 8/24/2023 | New school |
| UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester (Horace Mann) | UP Education Network | 2023-2028 | 5/23/2023 | 6/17/2024 | Charter renewal |
| Community Day Charter Public School | The Community Group | 2023-2025 | 8/15/2022 | 12/16/2024 | Consolidation of charter school network operating with management contract |
| Holyoke Community Charter School | Springfield Education Management, LLC (SABIS Educational Systems) | 2020-2025 | 6/30/2020 | 12/16/2024 | Charter renewal |
| Excel Academy Charter School | Friends of Excel Academy Charter School, Inc. | 2024-2028 | 5/23/2023 | TBD | Charter renewal |
| Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School (Horace Mann) | Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE) | 2023-2027 | 8/15/2022 | TBD | Charter renewal |
| Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School | Old Sturbridge, Inc. | 2023-2027 | 8/15/2022 | TBD | Charter renewal |

1. *See* [BESE May 2023 Regular Meeting Item 6: Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Approve Contracts Proposed by Three Charter Schools](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item6.docx); [BESE August 2022 Special Meeting Item 4: Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Approve Contracts Proposed by Four Charter Schools](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2022-08/spec-item4.docx); and [BESE June 2020 Regular Meeting Item 6: Summer and Management Contract Delegation of Authority to Commissioner](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2020/2020-06/item6.docx). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. At its March 2025 meeting, the Board will consider for approval a management contract for Roxbury Preparatory Charter School that has not been delegated to the Commissioner. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)