*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner |
| **Date:** | January 13, 2017 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Report on Actions Taken for Boston Renaissance Charter Public School and SABIS International Charter School |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to authorize the Commissioner to act on its behalf in “(a) granting charter renewals that do not involve probation; (b) approving charter amendments that do not involve changes in grade span, maximum enrollment, or districts served; and (c) removing or continuing conditions imposed on charters of charter schools; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on all charter renewals, charter amendments, and conditions that have been so approved; and provided further, that the Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of all such intended actions, and a Board member may request that the Commissioner place the charter matter(s) on the agenda of the Board for discussion and action.”

On December 8, 2016, I notified the Board that I intended to extend the academic conditions on Boston Renaissance Charter Public School (BRCPS) and SABIS International Charter School (SICS). Because no Board member requested that these matters be brought to the full Board for review, I am now notifying the Board that I have extended the conditions on the charters of BRCPS and SICS. I have attached the memoranda, dated December 8, 2016, for reference.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Summary information regarding the schools is provided in the charts that follow. BRCPS and SICS, like all other charter schools, will be operated in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71, § 89; 603 CMR 1.00; all other applicable federal and state laws; and such additional conditions as the Commissioner or the Board may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charters.

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| **Boston Renaissance Charter Public School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 944 | **Current Enrollment** | 955[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-6 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-6 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 972[[3]](#footnote-3) | **Current Age of school** | 22 years |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School is to nurture and develop academic, social, and emotional competence while building confidence, character and citizenship among its students. | | | |

The charter of BRCPS is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing BRCPS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2019, Boston Renaissance Charter Public School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

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| **SABIS International Charter School** | | | |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1574 | **Current Enrollment** | 1576[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 2775[[5]](#footnote-5) | **Current Age of School** | 22 |
| **Mission Statement**  The SABIS International Charter School is a college preparatory school that provides top-quality education on a non-selective basis to children of different races, religions, nationalities and backgrounds. It teaches these children to perform to the best of their ability, to achieve academic excellence in a global context, and prepares graduates to attend colleges and universities. The school develops and strengthens students’ ethical, moral, and civic values thus molding men and women with the knowledge, skills, and social judgment they will need to face the challenges of the times. The school believes those students with a SABIS education, especially in a multicultural setting, will be able to provide leadership throughout the world. | | | |

The charter of SICS is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing SICS on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. By December 31, 2019, SABIS International Charter School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has demonstrated significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2019, the Commissioner and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2019.

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director (781-338-3218); Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner, (781-338-3222); or me.

Attachment: Notification of Intended Action for Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Notification of Intended Action for SABIS International Charter School

1. Please note that the memorandum entitled “Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Action for SABIS International Charter School” contained an inadvertent error on page seven. The school did not have a decline in performance in 2016, as incorrectly stated in the memorandum. Instead, the sentence should have read: “Given this evidence, particularly the lack of significant and sustained academic progress from 2014 to 2016, I intend to extend the academic condition placed on the charter of SICS.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. According to the October 1, 2016, SIMS data, BRCPS is over-enrolled by 11 students. This is a violation of the school’s charter. Charter schools do not receive tuition for over-enrolled students. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source: As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html>). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. According to the October 1, 2016, SIMS data, SICS is over-enrolled by 2 students. This is a violation of the school’s charter. Charter schools do not receive tuition for over-enrolled students. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Source: As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html>). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)