DATE: August 21, 2012

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO EXTEND IMAGINE DISCOVERY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL’S CHARTER AGREEMENT

ORIGINATORS: Kevin A. Hobbs, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Patricia Lawton, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Zone 2
Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director, Special Programs

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approve extending the Imagine Discovery Public Charter School’s charter agreement for two years (2012-2013 and 2013-2014) under the following conditions:

- Imagine Discovery Public Charter School and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) collaborate to update the current Charter Agreement addressing issues important to both parties and conditions for contract renewal or revocation.

- Imagine Discovery Public Charter School and BCPS collaborate to conduct a joint evaluation in January 2013 to monitor achievement data and allow Imagine Discovery Public Charter School to make needed instructional adjustments for the second semester of the 2012–2013 school year.

- Imagine Discovery Public Charter School and BCPS identify a consultant to conduct an independent evaluation at the conclusion of 2012–2013 school year, to detail the five-year academic trend, and make particular note of student achievement during the 2011–2012 and 2012–2013 school years.

- After reviewing the results of the independent evaluation, the superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board no later than November 2013 whether Imagine Discovery Public Charter School should receive a two-year or four-year extension of its charter, or whether the charter should be revoked for the 2014–2015 school year.
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Baltimore County entered into a Charter School Agreement with Imagine Baltimore County, LLC, doing business as Discovery Public Charter School on January 30, 2008, for a term of four (4) fiscal years, through June 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the terms of the Charter School Agreement, the Charter School could apply for an extension of the Agreement during the first three months of the last fiscal year of the term of the existing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Charter School sought an extension of the Charter School Agreement, but not in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, The Superintendent has conducted a review of the Charter School and has given the Board an update on its operation; and

WHEREAS, The Superintendent, as a result of that review, has recommended that the Board extend the Charter School Agreement for two school years – 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, under several conditions, including reopening the Charter School Agreement to address several issues; jointly conducting a “soft evaluation” in January, 2013, to monitor first semester student achievement; and having a third party complete a full evaluation at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, after which the Board will decide, by no later than November, 2013, whether a further extension will be granted; and

WHEREAS, The Superintendent has further recommended that the Charter School Agreement be amended to reflect these changes and to place greater accountability on Imagine Discovery Charter School; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education agrees, in principle, with the recommendations made by the Superintendent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to communicate with the Charter School regarding the requisite terms of an amended Charter School Agreement, to contain the terms set forth in the Superintendent’s recommendations to the Board and after the Charter School has indicated its acceptance, to present the final Agreement to the Board for its approval.