**Executive Summary**  
**Board Date: April 13, 2004**

**SUBJECT:**
Application for the Approval of the Renewal Petition and Charter for the Holly Drive Leadership Academy Charter School

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<th>Recommendation(s):</th>
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<td>It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed renewal of the petition and charter for the Holly Drive Leadership Academy (HDLA) Charter School. Should HDLA enter Year 4 of Program Improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, petitioner and district agree that September 1st of Year 4 Program Improvement shall serve as the effective date of notice that the charter shall be revoked effective June 30 of that academic year, or if eligible for charter renewal, the charter shall not be renewed. It is recommended that the school provide: 1. Business management services with an in-house person or a contracted out-source provider, effective July 1, 2004. 2. A yearly programmatic audit contracted with an independent professional/s at the school’s expense, to be received no later than April 1 of each year of renewal contract. This audit shall focus on programs and strategies for improving student achievement.</td>
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**Summary of Previous Board of Education Discussion and Action:**
The Board of Education approved the original HDLA charter on July 13, 1999. The Board approved conditionally an amendment to the HDLA charter on July 23, 2002. On August 5, 2003, the Board of Education approved verification that the conditions for approval of the amendment to the HDLA were met. A public hearing for renewal was conducted on January 13, 2004.

**Summary of Key Issue(s):**
The original HDLA charter was submitted to the district by School Futures Research Foundation (SFRF), which was responsible for the fiscal and educational programs of HDLA. In January 2002, SFRF notified HDLA that it would discontinue its relationship with the school effective June 30, 2002. HDLA thereupon submitted a charter amendment to the Board of Education describing a proposed new governance structure for the school not involving the sponsorship of SFRF. The amendment clarified that HDLA would operate as an “arm-of-the-district” charter having no separate legal status from the district. Representatives of HDLA have submitted a charter renewal application to the district to continue operation of the school through June 2009. The petition states that the school will remain a K-8 school. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 200 students. The school’s 2002 API base was 567. The school tested 99% of its students in the 2002-03 school year and posted a score of 578. The school did not meet API growth targets for the 2002-03 year nor did they meet AYP goals. The 2003 API score was a 1 with a similar schools rank of 2. HDLA is currently participating in year three of a High Priority School Program Grant. HDLA seeks to remain an arm-of-the-district charter school and will remain the employer of record. The school proposes to continue to remain part of the district’s SELPA and will continue to exercise Option 1 for purposes of delivering special education services.

**Fiscal Analysis:**
HDLA is currently operating in a rented facility at 4999 Holly Drive, San Diego 92115. For 2003-04 and 2004-05, the school submitted a request for facilities under Proposition 39.

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Chief of Staff

“The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.”