



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 06/23/2016

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Basic Contact and Application Information

Page 1

Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the full name for the proposed charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	Students of the Tabernacle (SOTT) Academy Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	Grades PreK- 8
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	200

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Sharon Bailey	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Angela DeLeon	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

List of Key Design Elements

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	World Class Educational Plan
2	Students meet requirements of NYS standards
3	Student enrollment process
4	Student Evaluation Procedures
5	Staff Requirements for employment
6	Staff training and development
7	Academic/psychological/social/health services
8	School organizational structure- and evaluation
9	Partnership-with community/BOCES
10	Pre-opening Day procedures

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

(No response)

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

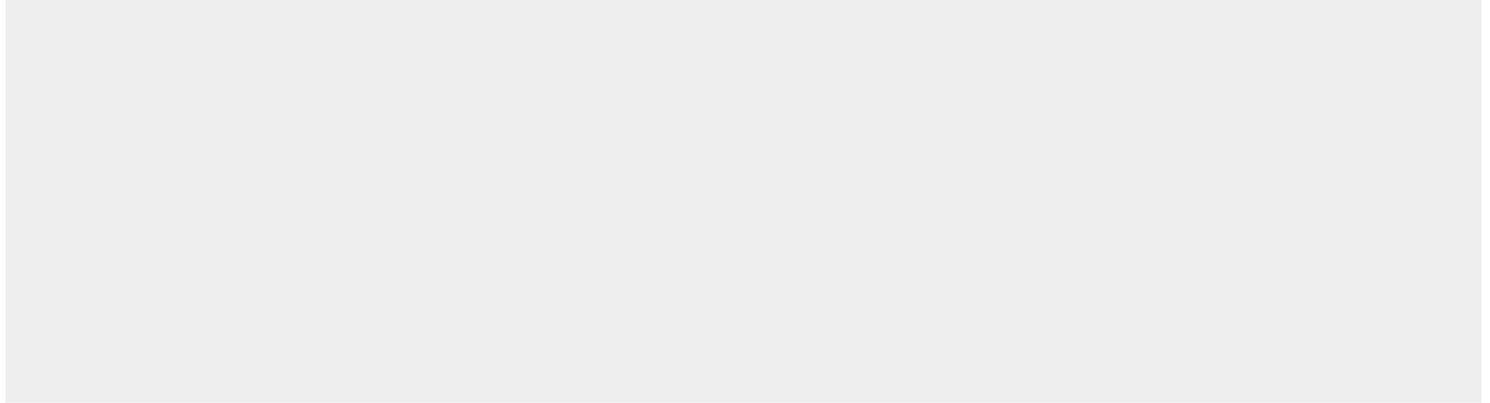
Proposed Management Company	(No response)
Partner Organization 1	Drexel University- School of Education

Partner Organization 2

(No response)

Proposed Board Chair Signature

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Date

2016/06/28

Thank you for completing this form.

Letter of Intent - Students of the Tabernacle (SOTT) Academy Charter School

Angela DeLeon- June 24, 2016

Billions of dollars have been spent on public education in the United States over the past few years. However, student assessment outcomes continue to fall below expectation in certain communities across America. Many of today's students have suffered from a catastrophic loss. Research shows two major events that have a devastating impact upon student learning. Those who have suffered from a natural disaster such as a hurricane and those who have suffered from gun violence.

As an educator, I am deeply concerned over the growing number of incidences of gun violence in our schools and communities. Over 30,000 Americans are killed each year by gunfire. Since 1979, more than 110,000 children and teens have been killed by firearms (CDC report, 2014) The National Rifle Association (NRA) has suggested that we provide teachers, principals and staff with firearms. This extreme idea may not be the best solution to gun violence in America. From the Columbine shooting, New York, Chicago, and Newton, schools along have realized a rise in deaths due to firearms.

Gun violence has a profound effect upon children and teens ability to perform academically. A generation of students have been affected for the past decade or more. Thousands of students have been displaced or relocated, some have fallen through the cracks of an overwhelmed educational system. . A report from the U.S. Department of Education stated that graduation rates ranged from 60% to 72%. (Dept. of Ed. 2002).

We must re-examine how these student's lives have been affected psychologically, socially and educationally. Many suffer from mental duress, behavioral disorders, discriminatory practices and PTSD. Students who attend schools with limited resources increase the risk of performing poorly in school. State assessments and teachers indicate that students have difficulty with focusing on tasks and completing assignments, many are diagnosed with a learning disability and attendance issues.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide students who attend (SOTT) Academy Charter School in grades Nursery to grade eight, a World-Class 21st century education. It includes a rigorous academic foundation that is aligned with the New York State Standards. We have created a new holistic therapeutic approach, known as Restorative Education for students who have suffered from gun violence. Graduates of SOTT Academy Charter School will successfully compete in the global economic employment market. Students will show academic achievement in a variety of measurable performance indicators. SOTT graduates are prepared to follow career paths such as; college-prep, trade-apprenticeships, Junior League-young business people of the future, the military cadet corp. and many other opportunities.

Our mission is to use a unique educational design that includes a rigorous curriculum, therapy sessions, extended day and year program, Permaculture and Animal-Human Interactive therapy to restore the students holistically. We deal with the “at risk” learner, health, grief, displacement, behavioral difficulty with and self-development skills. We encourage students to adopt a healthy life style by planting your own garden, make healthy eating choices and exercising daily.

Providing the opportunity for students to meet their maximum potential as a caring educated person is of the utmost importance to our staff. Our mission is to educate, heal and restore individuals so that they will achieve their life long goals. We encourage our graduates to engage in global affairs and to thrive to make a difference in this world.

SOTT ACADEMY Objectives-

Our primary objectives of SOTT Academy Charter School ensure that we:

- Develop self- pride and respect in our students.
- Require our students to meet the New York State standards.
- Diagnose students and offer intervention services when needed.
- Expose students to Art, Gym, Music and Library Science
- Offer the most current technology with safeguards to our students.
- Engage students in farming and permaculture technology.
- Involve our students as active participants in the community.

Key Design Elements

The Student of the Tabernacle (SOTT) Academy Charter School was created for students who have suffered a catastrophic loss that has impacted their education. Another reason, is to address the growing culture of gun violence in our schools and communities. This is a major cause of concern in communities of color.

We have designed a radical approach to serving students who have experienced a catastrophic event in their lives. The school location will be in the Hudson Valley Region. We offer a rigorous curriculum as an academic foundation. Academic intervention services are provided for who are at risk. Students have flexible class placement/ We offer two types of classroom settings, the traditional classroom setting or the Looping approach to learning.

SOTT students will meet the academic standards established by the NYS Department of Education. Group therapy and individual sessions are scheduled on a weekly basis. Students have a psychologist, social worker, counselor and medical staff available each day. Special education classes are offered.

SOTT Academy Charter School will offer an extended day and extended year program. This program includes a tutoring program, student government meetings, sports program, school clubs, music, arts and crafts. We also offer Agricultural Sciences, which includes Animal-Human Interaction therapy, a technique that our students will enjoy. Permaculture and Farming encourages students to plant school gardens and indulge in nutritional foods for a healthier diet at school.

SOTT Academy Charter School has developed an outreach plan to involve the community in a series of events scheduled throughout the school year.

Proposed Student Population

Students who have suffered from gun violence will have an opportunity to attend school in a rural community. This change of environment exposes the student to a different way of life. The requirements for attending SOTT Academy Charter School are 1) Student is a victim of gun violence. 2) Student has been diagnosed with PTSD. 3) Student is also an English Language Learner, 4) Student may have a disability 5) Student is eligible for free and reduced lunch.

The purpose of the school being created, is to address the needs of students living in poor communities who have been affected by gun violence in America. Research states that a percentage of students will be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The trauma of living in this type of environment can affect an individual's ability to learn. The educational plan states that as the population completes grade 8, we will need to meet their educational, psychological and social needs. The program grows with the student, therefore, we hope to expand to a high school grades 9-12.

Phase II of this new innovative educational approach is to build a school on available farmland in upstate NY and own and operate the first Charter Boarding School. Students live on a dormitory style campus with residential staff 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. Once the school is established we would be able to double enrollment.

Data will be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the school programs which include NYS test scores and class assessments. School data will be analyzed by individual scores, grade level and school wide scores. We will evaluate SOTT Academy Charter School to "like schools" in the Hudson Valley Region.

"Bridging the Gap", is one of our mottos. Our main objective is to close the Achievement Gap of the underperforming student utilizing our new innovative educational design. Students will be recruited from a geographic area which includes the Northern Bronx, Westchester and the Lower Hudson Valley Region in New York State. The student population is recruited from inner city communities of color to students from rural towns in the lower Hudson Valley Region. This offers a unique geography of urban cities and rural towns. Therefore, SOTT Academy will have a diverse population.

SOTT Academy is a Nursery through grade 8 charter school. The maximum number of student enrollment will be 600, over the initial term of the charter school agreement. The proposed facility is located in Putnam County N.Y. within the borders of the Carmel Central School District. Currently the property is for sale and it will meet the Board of Education and Fire Department building codes. It is a large Bed and Breakfast Inn that is fully furnished and is located in the town of Putnam Valley. Other locations are also under consideration in the nearby area and a farm in Walden NY.

2017- Enrollment for the initial term of the charter agreement for each grade level is an approximation:

Grade Nursery- will be 20 students.

Pre-K to K – enrollment will be 40 students; Grade 1 and Grade2- enrollment will be 46 students.

Grade 3 and Grade 4- will be 50 students, Grade 5 and Grade 6 – enrollment will be 55 students.

Grade 7 and Grade 8- will be 54 students. Each subsequent school year 2018 to 2021 the student population will increase on average by 60 students each year.

SOTT Academy Charter School has a set of criteria that students must meet in order to attend the school. To maintain diversity within the student population a concerted effort will be made to recruit students who are Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native-American and other ethnic groups.

SOTT Academy Charter School will replicate the school model established by the Harlem Children’s Zone School which is a nationally recognized charter school. We will also replicate the Green Chimney’s School model. It is a private school known for its unique animal-human intervention therapy and innovative approach to educating students with special needs.

Students who have suffered from gun violence, students with learning disabilities, English Language Learners and students eligible for free or reduced Breakfast and Lunch will be sent a letter of introduction to learn about SOTT Academy Charter School.

We offer a school located in a rural environment with breath-taking views of the Hudson Valley. We provide a totally different relaxed school atmosphere and learning environment. One that is not overcrowded, students receive personal attention. Initial contact will be sent to the Pupil Personnel Director in each school district from the Northern Bronx, Westchester and the Lower Hudson Valley Region. Transportation will be provided.

Plans to advertise the school on the internet, in local community papers such as the Pennysaver and the Westchester Journal are underway. A meeting and a presentation will be presented to the Carmel School Board in the near future. I have met with community leaders over the past year in the town of Carmel.

Having several meetings with of SCORE, a group that offers assistance to community residents starting a business. These are retired business people who reside in the area. This group has provided group workshops for all area residents on business skills. I have attended meetings where they have provided guidance in writing a proposal for starting SOTT Academy Charter School to meet the needs of the community.

A comprehensive survey will be mailed to school districts located in communities with high rates of gun violence. The geographical region that we hope to serve include Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester, Poughkeepsie and Newburg. The CSS survey determines which communities have the most need for our services. The survey developed by Community School Services requires input from administrators, teachers, students-grades 4-8, parents and community leaders.

A SOTT Academy photo-newsletter to attract new students will be mailed to the Directors of Pupil Services. A website, Facebook and Twitter account will be established for the school. If a district responds to our letter/survey we will arrange to do a presentation for the school district.

Students of gun violence may include students who are English Language Learners, students with disabilities and students who are eligible for free or reduced breakfast and lunch are our targeted population. The retention goals for the targeted population is as follows; Students will complete a CSS evaluation survey. The results will indicate areas in need of improvement and the school will make the necessary adjustments. The need to evaluate what students have experienced as a part of their school environment is important. SOTT Academy Charter School will;

- 1) Identify the students' academic level of performance and learning style.
- 2) What changes would students and their parents would like to see implemented.
- 3) What changes would teachers and administrators would like to see implemented
- 4) What changes would the community like to see implemented

Having attended a community meeting in 2015, Students and their parents, verbally stated that parents of English language learners in the Hudson Valley Region would like the notices for parents to be written in their native language. NYS Assessments need to provide dictionaries in the native languages so that students can understand a question and write a thorough response. Parents in general have stated that when attending CSE meetings they would like to have a chance to meet with the parent advocate prior to the scheduled CSE. More face to face conversation as opposed to parents facing laptops of school personnel. More detail will be provided in the full application.

APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
	Ian Abramson	[REDACTED]

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION***Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or None)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)
NYU Law School Professor	Legal - Real Estate	Trustee	President

LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
1 year	Yes

Table 2: Public Outreach Information

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
01/16/2016 meeting date	Sent flyers to community based organizations serving children and families with special needs. Hosted a meet/greet to introduce team and solicit feedback on application.	ABC Community Center 1000 Avenue A NYC CSD 5	Families of students with disabilities, community members	Need for family partners	Add a family liaison to the staff who is bi-lingual	22 families of students in grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
12/13/12	Community based organization	SCORE , Inc. -	Community members, Community business leaders.	SCORE, will offer assistance when available.	SCORE provided assistance in outlining a business plan. Held several meetings with members.	5 – members meeting sessions ~20 people – for SCORE workshops
2/23/13/	Sent Flyer/letter Educational Workshop/discussion	Mt Zion Baptist Church Greenhaven-Stormville, NY	Families with school age children grades 3-12.	Discussion from grandparents and parents encouraged the idea that the school was needed.	To create next presentation to community.	34 participants Parents, grandparents, students Gr3-12
2/1/14 – 2/1/15	Youth Ministry Sunday School Program	Mt. Zion Church Greenhaven, NY	Families with children- 2-18 – and Children with disabilities	Students were taught to select a service project,	Outreach to help those who are ST. Jude patients.	15 families with children attended weekly.
7/1/16	Carmel CSD School Board Meeting, will do a presentation.	Carmel H.S., Fair St. Carmel, N.Y.	School Brd. Members , Carmel Community	Host a question and answer session.	Respond to concerns in a timely manner.	~ 20 – 30 attendees

