2019 PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Last updated: 04/05/2019

Basic Contact and Application Information

New 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 a New Operator Applicant Group (which does not operate a Regents-authorized charter school or does not operate any schools currently) or an Existing Education Corporation (which operates one or more Regents-authorized charter schools) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

New Operator Applicant Group (operating no charter schools at all or in New York or not operating Regents-authorized charter schools)

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the full name of the proposed new charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the naming).

Proposed School Name	Emerald Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial 5 year Term	9-12
Max Number of Students During Initial 5 year Term	320

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	Mirza Tihic	[redacted]	
Public/Media Contact Person			

List of Key Design Elements

List the key design elements which are those features of the school that are innovative or unique to the school's mission and goals, are core to the school's overall design, and critical or integral to its success. The design elements may include a specific content area focus; unique student populations to be served; specific educational programs or pedagogical approaches; unique calendar, schedule, or configurations of students and staff; and/or innovative organizational structures and systems. Approved schools will be accountable for implementation of the key design elements included in their charter.

1	Humanities Curriculum
2	Cultural and Community Focus
3	Experiential and Expeditionary Learning
4	The Primacy of Self-Discovery
5	Career and Technical Education (CTE)
6	(No response)
7	(No response)

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.	http://emeraldcharter.org/

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	n/a
Partner Organization 1	(No response)
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

Proposed Board Chair Signature

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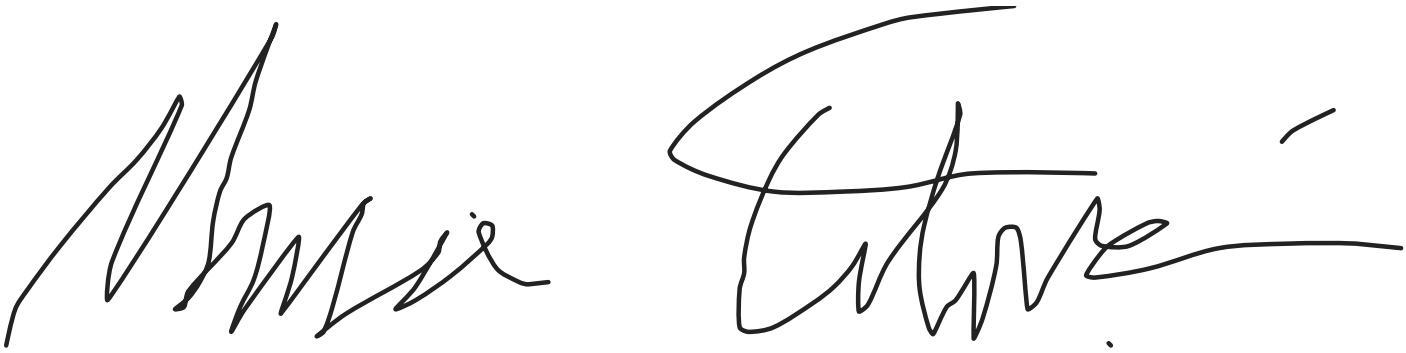

Date 2019/04/05

Thank you for completing this form.

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL
SYRACUSE , NEW YORK

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY

I. Applicant Group Information

a. Applicant Group. See Table 1, attached.

b. Public Contact: Mirza Tihic, Ph.D., emeraldcharter@gmail.com

c. Application History: Peter Kozik has been a previous board member for Greater Works Charter School, proposed on July 7th, 2014 to the Board of Regents of the State of New York. The Board of Regents did not grant a charter for the school. The remaining members of the Founding Board have no history of applying for charter schools in New York State.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed school name: Emerald Charter School

b. Proposed school mission statement: To foster students' desires and abilities for critical inquiry, creativity, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship.

c. Proposed school location: Emerald Charter School will be located in Syracuse, NY in Syracuse City Schools District. Emerald will not be co-located in public school district facilities.

d. Target population/community served: The Emerald School aspires to be a preeminent and inclusive secondary school serving under-engaged students in Syracuse, NY. An under-engaged student is a students who struggles in the traditional school setting, which leads to lack of attention, disinterest, pessimism, and lack of passion for learning. As a result, students are not motivated to learn and progress in their education. In the Syracuse City School District for the 2018 cohort, 752 students graduated with either Regents or Local Diplomas or with "sufficient credit" out of a possible 1,460 students. This left nearly a majority of the cohort, 708 students, without an on-time diploma. Although the official drop-out rate for the district is 247 students (17%) and 334 (23%) students "remain enrolled," the engagement rates for many of these students are weak at best. Emerald Charter School is designed to engage these students and help them thrive.

e. Planned grades and enrollment, using the required chart below to indicate grades, ages, and enrollment for each of year of the initial charter term:

Grades	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
9th	80	80	80	80	80
10th		80	80	80	80
11th			80	80	80
12th				80	80
Totals	80	160	240	320	320

f. **Proposed management and/or partner organization(s):** Emerald Charter School is not working and it is not affiliated with a charter management organization. Emerald does not plan to be affiliated with a charter management organization.

g. **Replication:** N/A

h. **School overview:**

The foundational design elements of Emerald Charter School are as follows:

1. Humanities Curriculum

Unlike conventional high schools, the Emerald Charter School (Emerald) engages students in an interdisciplinary study of the Humanities. The school will inspire students to explore unfamiliar cultures and challenge their assumptions about their own. Using the project-based learning method of education, Emerald students learn to think critically, read analytically, speak articulately, and write persuasively.

2. Cultural and Community Focus

As the local population grows increasingly diverse, creating a link between home and school becomes more and more important. Creating a link between home and school can enrich all kinds of lessons. The Emerald students will be empowered to learn and experience the rich diversity and inclusion their community offers. Both diversity and inclusion increase the richness of ideas, creative power, problem-solving ability, and respect for others.

3. Experiential and Expeditionary Learning

Emerald focuses on teamwork, courage, and compassion with an active approach to learning. Experiential and expeditionary learning means learning by doing and moving outside the confines of the school to engage with the experiences of others. Emerald first immerses students in an experience and then encourages reflection about the experience to develop new skills, new attitudes, or new ways of thinking.

4. The Primacy of Self-Discovery

Emerald will provide its students opportunities for self-discovery. Through projects and class activities students will uncover and realize their 'grand passions.' At Emerald the students will undertake tasks that require perseverance, fitness, craftsmanship, imagination, self-discipline, and significant achievement. These tasks will provide the students with the opportunity of self-effacement in the common cause.

5. Career and Technical Education (CTE)

To deliver on our vision of student engagement and achievement, students will be taught CTE tracks focusing on business (i.e. project management, entrepreneurship skills), information technology (i.e. coding), and arts, audio/visual technology, and communications. We believe that

this will foster an entrepreneurial mindset and knowledge foundation necessary for the leadership of the 21st century.

III. Enrollment and Retention Strategies

a. Describe the school's strategies to recruit and enroll its students, specifically:

i. *Those identified in the school's mission*: Emerald recruitment efforts are aimed at the City of Syracuse because its high school graduation rates are significantly lower than the state average (58% vs 80.4%)[1]. School representatives will continue targeted community outreach and recruitment efforts to reach both parents and students. The efforts will include information sessions at organizations that offer programs for under-engaged students (e.g. South West Community Center), working with local community boards, local faith organizations, organizations serving children with special needs, cultural and community based organizations (Hopeprint, North Side Learning Center), and social media. Relevantly, the information will be translated in native languages. Students will be enrolled through lottery system.

ii. *Students with disabilities:* The lottery for Emerald Charter School will ensure that students who are differently abled are represented in its enrollment numbers at the same levels of their representation as in the Syracuse City School District (20%). Emerald has been consulting with Joseph Soule, Ph.D., the coordinator for the OnCampus Program for the Syracuse City School District that is a program affiliated with The Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education at Syracuse University. We want to understand the needs and accommodations for students with disabilities. Dr. Soule will continue to advise and guide the Emerald's board to work collaboratively with other organizations that serve students with disabilities and the local district Committees on Special Education to help raise awareness about Emerald's services, programs, and settings for students with disabilities.

iii. *Multilingual Learners/English Language Learners*: The lottery for Emerald Charter School will ensure that students who are English Language Learners are represented in its enrollment numbers at the same levels of their representation as in the Syracuse City School District (19%). Emerald will continue its relationship and community outreach in partnership with organizations that serve the newcomer and immigrant population such as Interfaith Works, Catholic Charities, North Side Learning Center, and Hopeprint to reach this population. The outreach materials (information about the school, how to apply to Emerald, contact info) will be made available in native languages and translators will be present at information sessions at various community locations (mosques, churches, temples, libraries, and clubs/associations).

iv. *Economically disadvantaged students:* Emerald will distribute information about the school with local organizations working with economically disadvantages students such as shelters, foodbanks, community centers, and houses of worship. In addition to distributing materials, Emerald plans to hold information sessions to address parent and community

[1] https://www.syracuse.com/news/2019/01/syracuse-high-school-graduation-rate-drops-again.html
http://lohud.nydatabases.com/database/2017-18-new-york-graduation-rates-school-district

members' questions related to school and the application process. This will ensure that we effectively recruit students form diverse economic background.

b. Describe the school's strategies to retain its students, specifically:

i. *Those identified in the school's mission:* The Emerald's curriculum and program is designed to engage and support students of all levels of proficiencies through project based learning, peer support, crisis intervention counseling, mentoring, after school assistance, and parental involvement. Emerald will not only create an individualized education program/plan for the students; moreover, the school will create a family plan to support the student's education, growth, and development.

ii. *Students with disabilities*: Emerald will be a fully inclusive secondary school. Special Education teachers and professionals will be part of the school's design and implementation. All classes will utilize a co-taught model of instructional delivery. Teaching Assistants will be deployed as appropriate. Consistent with our curriculum and program, students with disabilities will benefit from the services listed above. Furthermore, additional targeted interventions for students with special needs will be offered in accordance with their individualized and family education plan. Where needs arises, we will contract with local resource providers such as social workers, speech therapist, physical therapist, and others to provide necessary special needs services.

iii. *Multilingual Learners/English Language Learners*: One of Emerald's educational design elements is cultural and community focus. In our public outreach the parents voiced their concerns that their children were losing the culture and their identity and advocated for education that is inclusive of different cultures and languages. Emerald will include foreign language in its curriculum and program offering. Furthermore, Emerald will partner with organizations such as North Side Learning Center to offer adult classes for parents on parental advocacy for their children and classes related on best practices to preserve ones cultural heritage. Additionally, parents will be invited to board meetings and town hall meetings, where translators will be available. Finally, school communication material to the parents, will be translated into the predominant languages of the communities served.

As a fully inclusive secondary school, Teachers of English as a Second Language will be part of the school's implementation. Classes will utilize a co-taught model of instructional delivery where appropriate, content area teachers will be educated in methods of teaching English Learners, and first language skills will be leveraged to ensure student achievement. Partnerships for teacher's professional development include working with SupportEd of Washington, D.C. which has provided professional development for the Syracuse City School District. The Founding Board is investigating a partnership with Voxy (voxy.com) to provide additional career and technical education support for English Learners.

iv. *Economically disadvantaged students.* Consistent with our curriculum and program, economically disadvantaged students will benefit from the services listed above under i.. Furthermore, through our partnerships and after school program students will be enriched through a community based approach and given an additional support in achieving its individualized and family education plan. It is our belief that an individualized and family

oriented education plan promotes development of skills, capabilities, abilities that both children and parents need to succeed personally and consequently academically. Thus, the family empowerment will enable us to retain them.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

a. See Table 2, attached. Table 2 outlines our public outreach and feedback collected, which informed our board regarding the needs and gaps in current educational offerings. Further, the community/public outreach served as a medium to inform the larger public about the Emerald Charter School and address any questions and/or concerns that the public had. Following is the list of different means we used to inform and reach out to the public:

   i. Website: we created a website http://emeraldcharter.org/. It provides information about the school and allows the public to reach out to us.
   ii. Press release. Sent to Syracuse.com, News Times, and posted on Emerald's Facebook site to inform media and community of the intent to open a new charter school (See attachment 1).
   iii. Social media: created a Facebook site https://www.facebook.com/EmeraldCharter/ (211 followers).
   iv. Community Public Forum notifications. Flyers distributed in the community and posted on Facebook and Nextdoor.com (See attachment 2).
   v. Community Public Forum PPT presentation (see attachment 3). Used survey to collect input from parents (see attachment 4).
   vi. Recorded a video to address questions that arose and explain who is involved with the Emerald School. Video is posted on Emerald's Facebook site (Video reached 1173 people, and had 510 views).
   vii. We asked for letters of support (see attachment 5).

b. The initial assessment indicates that the parents and children are interested in our proposed charter school. Furthermore, our community outreach helped us identified gaps and needs in education by collecting direct feedback from parents whose children are not engaged and community members who work with children that are not currently engaged in educational settings. Many parents did not understand what a charter school is, hence we included NYS Education Department's definition of Charter School (see attachment 3). Some parents in the community did not speak English and/or had not a good understanding of K-12 education. In this case, translators were used. Throughout the communities, parents and community members asked for a curriculum that engages children, focuses on cultures/communities, and makes them critical thinkers and leaders through a project-based learning experience.

   We disseminated surveys (see attachment 4) at the public forums. Overall, out of 47 completed surveys, a vast majority or 72.8% (35.6% agree, 42.2% strongly agree) of survey takers supported the effort of Emerald Charter School, where 15.6% neither agreed nor disagreed, and only 6.7% disagreed. Similarly 72.3% (19.1% agree, 53.2% strongly agree) of survey takers would like to see Emerald Charter School open in Syracuse, NY. This information is noteworthy as 53.2% "strongly agree" to see Emerald open.

Overall, the parents were excited about the presentations and the fact that the school will focus on cultural experiences and expeditionary learning within the community. Further, parents and community leaders were excited about the inclusion of family in the children's education and making a family education plan. They were happy to see that we use a collaborative approach in education and that we are collaborating with other resource providers to offer after-school programming, mentoring, and support.

V. Proposed Board Chair Signature and Date

Mirza Tihić, President, Emerald Charter School

04.05.2019
Date

Table 1: Applicant Group Information

Last updated: 04/05/2019

Must include a minimum of 5 members proposed as Trustees

Applicant Group Information

	Name/Phone/Email Address	Current Employment	Relevant Experience/Skills and Role on Applicant Group	Proposed Role in School (e.g., trustee, employee, none)	Proposed Position on Board (Officer, Trustee, Constituent Rep)
1	Mirza Tihic/ [redacted]	Syracuse University	Administration, financial management, fundraising, community engagementAdministration, financial management, fundraising, community engagement	Trustee	Board President
2	Peter Kozik/ [redacted]	Keuka College (faculty)	K-12 teaching and curriculum, school administration, fundraising/grants, charter school experiences	Trustee	Board Vice-President
3	Esmir Omerovic/ [redacted]	Self-employed (Real Estate Broker)	Real estate and facilities, financial management, fundraising, charter school experience	Trustee	Board Treasure
4	Dina Eldawy/ [redacted]	Student at Syracuse University	Community engagement and development, family involvement	Trustee	Board Secretary
			Family		

5	Amir Duric [redacted]	Chaplain at Syracuse University	involvement, community engagement, fundraising and development	Trustee	Trustee
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Application History

Identify whether any member of the current applicant group has ever applied to this or another charter entity to open this proposed school or another charter school, either in New York State or outside of New York State. Indicate the date on which the application(s) was/were submitted and to which charter entity; briefly describe the outcome of the charter entity’s decision; and provide a concise description of significant modifications made in this application (if applicable).

Peter Kozik has been a previous board member for Greater Works Charter School, proposed on July 7th, 2014 to the Board of Regents of the State of New York. The Board of Regents did not grant a charter for the school. The remaining members of the Founding Board have no history of applying for charter schools in New York State.

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
9/22/2018	Community organizations providing educational and mentoring programs to children at risk.	**Ali Rahman, VP at 100 Black Men of Syracuse, Inc.**	Phone call	Explained the school mission and objectives. The organization is interested in learning more and will schedule a meeting at the school's future location. Believes that a high school focusing on students that are not engaged is very much needed in Syracuse, NY.	Email more info about the school to Mr. Rahman	2
9/22/2018	Special Ed Advocate & Educator	**Joseph Soule, PhD, Syracuse City School District**	Marshall Mall, Syracuse NY	Explained the school mission and objectives. Dr. Soule supported the project based experiential learning and believes it will work very well for students with disabilities, too. Offered to be an advisor related to inclusion, special ed, and accommodations. Believes students need an experience to be engaged in education (children with	Consulted with Dr. Soule during the curriculum design. Researched experiential learning best case studies and academic research.	2
9/23/2019	Literacy Organization - Leader	**Mark Cass, Executive Director of North Side Learning Center**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Finds the idea suitable for a lot of children within their educational program as many do not engage in current educational setting due to various reasons i.e. language barriers, culture, lack of support. Welcome the opportunity for Emerald to have a public forum at North Side Learning Center.	Scheduled two public forums at the North Side Learning Center (11.30.2018 and 3.20.2019)	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
11.30.2018	Public	**Community Meeting-Open Forum: placed flyers across North Side of Syracuse (NSLC, NorthsideUp), invited several community members, created a Facebook event page (75 invited, 9 went, 29**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Parents asked questions related to differences to charter and Syracuse City School District schools. The idea of project based and experiential learning was well received. Parents would like to see that their children have opportunity to learn their native languages. Overall, the idea of Emerald School was well received by the parents	Conducted survey with all participants. Review of survey and input from the forum will be used toward curriculum design and development. Parents asked to be on the listserve in order to stay informed of the progress.	68
11/21/2018	Community organizations	**Linda Malik, Community Organizer at Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Explained the school mission and objectives. ACTS is interested in learning more and will attend a community meeting.	Schedule public meetings and invite ACTS members.	2
12.1.2018	Meeting with community organization - newcomers/immigrants	**Met with 7 representatives of the Burmese Cultural Center**	Burmese Community Center on Mary Street, Syracuse, NY	Presented the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. The community is excited about the school and hopes their children can attend the school. The project based curriculum with focus on culture and communities was welcomed and identified as needed.	Conducted a survey with participants and added the community members in the communication listserve as they are interested to be updated with the school's progress.	7

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
12.07.2018	Community organizations	**Peter A. Dunn, President and CEO of Central New York Community Foundation and Frank Ridzi, Vice President, Community Investment at Central New York Community Foundation**	Central New York Community Foundation	Presented the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. CNY Community Foundation is interested in learning more and recommended to connect us with Manufacturers Association of CNY (MACNY) and their Partners for Education and Business program.	Reached out to the executive director of Partners for Education and Business at MACNY following the email introduction from CNYCF.	3
12.09.2018	Community organizations	**Met with the Board of Directors of North Side Learning Center of Syracuse, Inc.**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Presented the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. NSLC is interested in partnership in serving under-engaged student population. There is interest in leasing the building/space to Emerald School at 501 Park Street, a school building owned and operated by NSLC.	Engage a realtor to asses the lease market value of the building for Emerald School.	7
12.16.2018	Meeting with community organization	**Met with Tim Saka, Executive Director of CNY RISE (Respect, Inspiration, Service, Empathy) Center**	CNY RISE Center and email follow up	Recommend parent involvement in the children education. Further, recommended to have a board who will focus on education and at the same time be fiscal responsible. Suggested to contact Syracuse Academy of Science (SAS) and talk to their administrators and learn local best practices.	Researched the IEP and Family Educational Plan/Program to more effectively engage and assist students and their families. Reached out to SAS.	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
12.18.2018	Public Office / Elected Officials	**Spoke to Sharon F. Owens - Deputy Mayor.**	Phone call	Shared the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. Supports the curriculum for experiential learning, recommended to see if anyone else is doings something like this already. Will keep in mind if she sees any buildings that can be used for the school. Sharon recommended that we reach out to Syracuse City School	Reached out to board of the SCSD, scheduled meeting with Derrick Dorsey, President of the Board of Education at Syracuse City School District	2
12.28.2018	Syracuse City School District	**Met and talked to Derrick Dorsey, President of the Board of Education at Syracuse City School District**	Stella's Diner	Shared the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. Clarified some misinformation that Derrick brought up. Derrick recommended that we address some misinformation about the school in terms of who is behind the school, who is and who is not involved.	Made a video statement and shared on Emerald's Facebook page. Video reached 1173 people, and had 510 views.	2
1.23.2019	Literacy Organization - Leader	**Mark Cass, Executive Director of North Side Learning Center**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Met with Mark to review the upcoming public forum. Mark recommended that we create a video statement explaining the mission of school, who we will serve, and who is starting the school.	Created a press release, shared with media, and made a video statement and shared on Emerald's Facebook page. Video reached 1173 people, and had 510 views.	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
2.21.2019	Community organizations	**Spoke to Paul Ciavarri - Community Organizer with Legal Services of CNY**	Phone call	Shared the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. Asked for input and recommendations or educational needs, curriculum, and other organizations that we need to engaged. Paul recommended that we reach out to Joyce Suslovic teacher at Syracuse City School District and chair of the education committee of the	Reached out to Joyce via email, sent her one pager, waiting to schedule a phone conversation.	2
2.27.2019	Community organization	**Conversation with Nicole Watts, Founder/Executive Director of Hopeprint**	Biscotti Cafe	Shared the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. Asked for input and recommendations for outreach. Nicole offered to do a public forum at Hopeprint and help reach out to community members.	Scheduled public forum at Hopeprint for March 11, 2019.	2
3.1.2019	Former student in the SCSD	**Spoke to Dahabo Osman, Member of ACTS Youth Council, former SCSD student, current student at Syracuse University**	Marshall Square Mall	Obtained info on what she sees were big issues during her time in high school, like violence, disengagement, ESL, lack of college prep etc.	Dahabo recommended speaking to students that are currently in high school (i.e. NSLC students and parents).	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.2.2019	Community organization/foundation	**Met and spoke with the executive director Sheena Solomon of Gifford Foundation**	The Gifford Foundation	Sheena has heard about Emerald already. She recommended to be aware of what other charter schools are doing and to consider programming for parents. The success of children depends on parents engagement and parents advocacy for children, she recommends educating parents and engaging them, too. Recommended that	Talked to Debra with PGR Foundation (Pretty Girls Rock) the same day. Scheduled a meeting with Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School to learn about their programming and others.	2
3.2.2019	Community organization	**Met and spoke with Debra McClendon-Boddie executive director of PGR Foundation**	The Gifford Foundation	Debra believes the school offers great opportunity for her female student population within PGR as the curriculum addresses concerns the PGR parents have for their children. Debra asked to partake at the next Emerald founding board meeting to be able to contribute more and was invited to the weekly meeting on Wednesday	Invited Debra to next board meeting for additional input and exploration of collaboration.	2
3.5.2019	Higher Education	**Spoke to Alexander McKelvie, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Chair of Department of Entrepreneurship**	Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University	Presented the school idea, target population, and goals to include business/entrepreneurship track within curriculum. Suggested to do market analysis, assess the need. Also, if school opens, recommends working with Syracuse University student organizations such as the E-Club (Entrepreneurship Club)	The board is doing further market need analysis and analysis of programs offered and not offered by Syracuse City School District and other Charter Schools within Syracuse, NY	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.6.2019	Local Media	**Emailed Press Release to syracuse.com and News Times, and posted on Emerald's Facebook page.**	Email and Social Media		The outcome of this was one interview with syracuse.com, one interview with WRVO, and 1194 people reached on Facebook	1
3.6.2019	Charter School	**Spoke with Dr. Hayali, superintendent of the Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School**	Moghul Indian Grill	Finds the school to be a needed educational option in City of Syracuse. Sees the school as compatible to Syracuse Academy of Science and other schools and wants to collaborate in the efforts of better serving the children in CNY. Likes the idea of building a greater community of education communities to share	Community engagement will be incorporated as part of curriculum. Focus on 9-12 high school, include cultural education and empowerment, and experiential learning.	2
3.6.2019	Community Organization	**Met and spoke with Debra McClendon-Boddie executive director of PGR Foundation**	Marshall Mall, Syracuse NY	Debra recommended to emphasize on collaboration among charter schools and other educational resource providers. Wants to schedule a meeting with Emerald and the parents of the children that PGR Foundation serves.	Continue building relationships with other schools and organizations, focus on collaboration. Waiting for the meeting with parents at PGR,	7

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.7.2019	Local Media	**Interview with Jim Mulder, news reporter for The Post-Standard/syracuse.com**	Phone call	Jim reached out to M. Tihic, scheduled a call, and spoke to him about the school.	Conducted interview ith M. Tihic. Article included info about the school and locations/dates/times of the public hearings. https://www.syracuse.com/news/2019/03/syracuse-may-get-2-more-charter-schools-as-district-sweats-over-	2
3.11.2019	Community organization and group	**Community Meeting-Open Forum: Met with community members and students/program participants of Hopeprint, all were females (mothers).**	Hopeprint	Presented the school's mission, vision, objectives, and curriculum framework. The community expressed interest in the cultural aspect of the curriculum, their worry is the preservation of culture, language, and their community. See a need for entrepreneurial and modern technology education.	Collaboration with Hopeprint and NSLC to explore other organizations in the collaborative effort to assist not only the students at Emerald but also the parents such as advocacy, training, and support. Include cultural education in the curriculum,	12
3.13.2019	Public	**Community Meeting-Open Forum**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Participants liked the idea of project based and experiential learning. The emphasis has been on cultural education, participant felt that was not readily available and emphasis within current educational setting. Additionally, humanities curriculum should be explored and used as foundation for the curriculum. Overall,	Conducted survey with all participants. Review of survey and input from the forum will be used toward curriculum design and development. Parents asked to be on the listserve in order to stay informed of the progress. Incorporated the	9

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.13.2019	Community organization/community leader	**Spoke with Trevor Williams, Center Coordinator at the Brady Faith Center (BFC)**	The Brady Faith Center at 404 South Ave	Mr. Williams liked the idea and suggested to include coping and addressing trauma within curriculum. Meet kids at their level and provide mentoring, someone needs to believe in these kids (peer mentors, community mentors, teacher mentor/role model)	Mentoring and trauma coping will be explored and added within the curriculum.	3
3.13.2019	Community organizations/community leaders	**Met with religious/spiritual leaders**	Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University	Faith leaders supported the idea of experiential learning school focusing on humanities, culture, and individuals strengths/passions. School like this would add value to the parents as an additional option for their children. Recommended that the board look into holistic well being of the children and families.	Continue research family educational plan and child/family counseling and support.	9
3.13.2019	Media	**Interview with WRVO (Ellen Abbot)**	North Side Learning Center at 501 Park Street	Ellen Abbot asked M. Tihic for an interview before the public hearing.	Article and radio feature that provided basic information about the school. https://www.wrvo.org/post/public-hearing-held-gather-input-more-charter-schools-syracuse?fbclid=IwAR2JSGa9vEI7g6N4AYJfsjT79nqTJ1b9sZvu_8Fhvzs_uXM-	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.20.2019	Public	**Community Meeting-Open Forum**	Onondaga County Central Library at 447 South Salina St.	Participants asked questions related to differences to charter and Syracuse City School District schools. The participants were interested about special education and suggested that we do additional research related to needs, resources, and staff requirement related to special education.	Continuous collaboration with an employee from Syracuse City School District, Joseph Soule, Ph.D., who focuses on Inclusive Education to provide guidance on special education curriculum and resources needed to	5
3.21.2019	Community Leader	**Met with Linda Littlejohn**	Kind David's at Marshall Street	Mrs. Littlejohn liked the experiential learning and community focus of the curriculum that is founded on humanities. Recommended that we reach out and engage Dr. Marcelle Haddix, Chair of Reading and Language Arts and Dean's Associate Professor at Syracuse University, who has successfully worked with Mrs.	Reached out to Dr. Haddix via email on 3.21.2019 and scheduled a meeting with her on 4.10.2019	2
3.22.2019	Community Leader & Educator	**Met with Lawrence Williams, C.E.O. of Southwest Community Center**	Southwest Community Center at 401 South Avenue	Mr. Williams encouraged the use of experiential learning, learning about communities and cultures, and developing students with an entrepreneurial mindset of 21st century. Recommended to collaborate with all and welcomes any collaboration to advance the education of our children in the community. Recommended to	Culture and communities experiential learning in the curriculum. Reached out to Tim Jennings-Bey on 3.24.2019, waiting for the response.	2

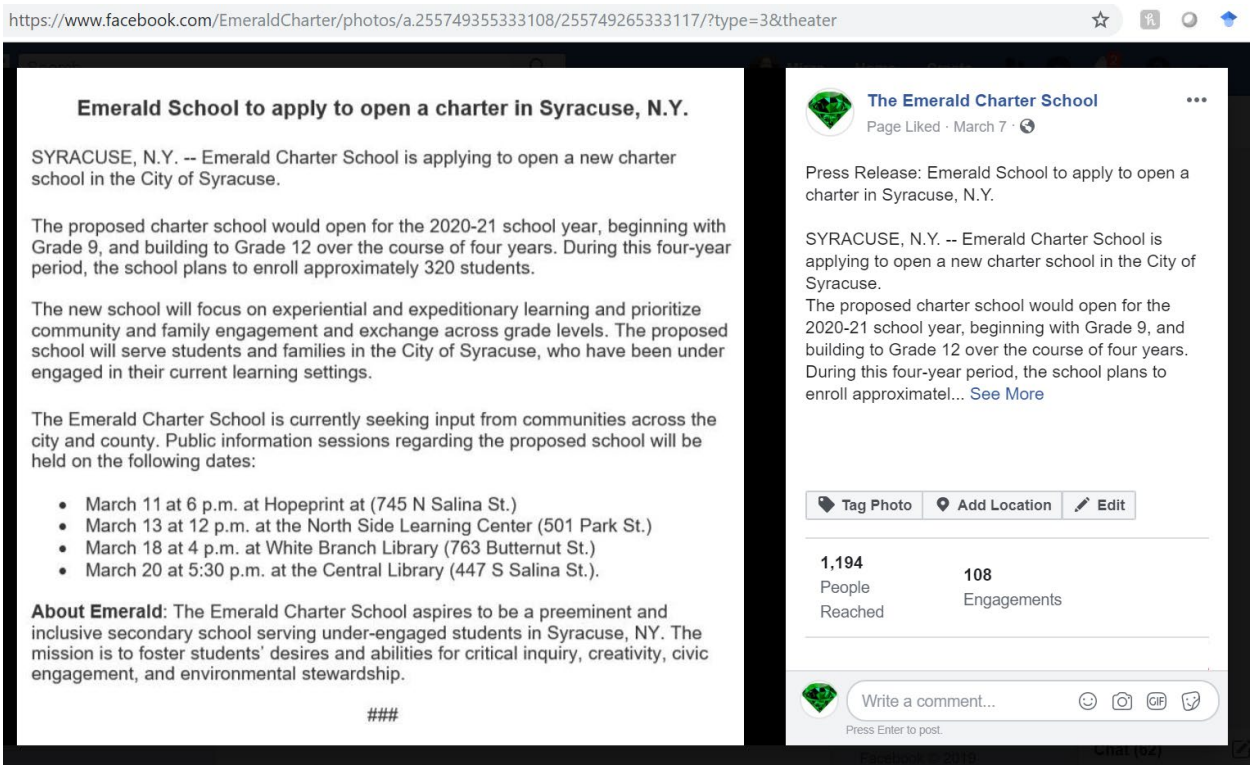
Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.22.2019	Museum of Science and Technology	**Met with Peter Plumley (Chief Program Officer) and Dr. Emily Stewart (Assistant Director of Programming)**	MOST, 500 S Franklin St	Would be very excited to work with the Emerald Charter School throughout the year and summer programs. "Intersection of humanities and technology," Emily is a big proponent of connecting humanities and technology; her PHD was in a field related to the history of these two items. She was vey excited about the Emerald	Will engage the curriculum team to collaborate with Emily. Explore year round education programs linking humanities and technology.	3
3.26.2019	Experiential Learning Education Subject Matter Expert	**Spoke with Christina Lesh, Regional Director at EL Education, Inc.**	Phone call	Read about Emerald in syracuse.com and would like to support our efforts with experiential learning. Shared her website with best practices.	Shared website and best practices with the Emerald Board.	2
3.27.2019	Community organization, parent	**Met with Kira Crawford - Director of Up Start - CenterState CEO**	Salt City Café	Explained the school idea and plan. As parent believes the school fills a gap and provides additional option for a high school to parents and children in Syracuse, NY. Believes collaboration is key.	Continue to identify educational institutions that are complementary and collaborative.	2

Table 2. Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach (mm/dd/yy)	Target Stakeholder Group	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Input Obtained	Action Taken on Input	Number of Attendees
3.28.2019	Community Leader and Educator	**Spoke to Dr. Emad Rahim - community leader, educator, parent**	Phone call	Dr. Rahim wanted to know how Emerald is different from other schools. Believes the school fills a gap and is great addition to Syracuse, NY as children learn differently. Having more options allows us to accommodate more children; thus, engage more children. Recommended to talk to Lonnie Johnson, Ranette Releford, Dr.	Reached out to Lonnie, Rennatte. Waiting to heard back from Dr. Najah, and planning to reach out to Sam Roberts.	2
3.31.2019	Community Leader	**Spoke to Lonnie Johnson - community leader**	Phone call	Lonnie liked the idea that school will focus on project based learning with focus on culture and communities. Suggests foreign language offering of communities present. Additionally, recommended that we look into 12 months school calendar.	Research calendar year examples and practices in schools nation wide.	2
4.1.2019	Community Leader	**Met with Ranette Releford - community member, partent, and president of local homeschooling organization+C1**	Kind David's at Marshall Street	Ranette agrees that many children are not engaged in current educational settings and believes a project based learning is effective way to engage students. Recommended to offer after school programs and services. Interetsed in collaboration as her organization serves children after school.	Continue exploring effecctive after school programs.	2

Attachment 1 – Press Release



https://www.facebook.com/EmeraldCharter/photos/a.255749355333108/255749265333117/?type=3&theater

Emerald School to apply to open a charter in Syracuse, N.Y.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Emerald Charter School is applying to open a new charter school in the City of Syracuse.

The proposed charter school would open for the 2020-21 school year, beginning with Grade 9, and building to Grade 12 over the course of four years. During this four-year period, the school plans to enroll approximately 320 students.

The new school will focus on experiential and expeditionary learning and prioritize community and family engagement and exchange across grade levels. The proposed school will serve students and families in the City of Syracuse, who have been under engaged in their current learning settings.

The Emerald Charter School is currently seeking input from communities across the city and county. Public information sessions regarding the proposed school will be held on the following dates:

- March 11 at 6 p.m. at Hopeprint at (745 N Salina St.)
- March 13 at 12 p.m. at the North Side Learning Center (501 Park St.)
- March 18 at 4 p.m. at White Branch Library (763 Butternut St.)
- March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Library (447 S Salina St.).

About Emerald: The Emerald Charter School aspires to be a preeminent and inclusive secondary school serving under-engaged students in Syracuse, NY. The mission is to foster students' desires and abilities for critical inquiry, creativity, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship.

###

The Emerald Charter School
Page Liked · March 7 ·

Press Release: Emerald School to apply to open a charter in Syracuse, N.Y.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Emerald Charter School is applying to open a new charter school in the City of Syracuse.
The proposed charter school would open for the 2020-21 school year, beginning with Grade 9, and building to Grade 12 over the course of four years. During this four-year period, the school plans to enroll approximatel... See More

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1,194 People Reached

108 Engagements

Write a comment...

Press Enter to post.

Attachment 2

NEW HIGH SCHOOL PROPOSED FOR SYRACUSE, NY

Please join us for any of the following public information sessions:

March 11 at 6 p.m. at Hopeprint at (745 N Salina St.)

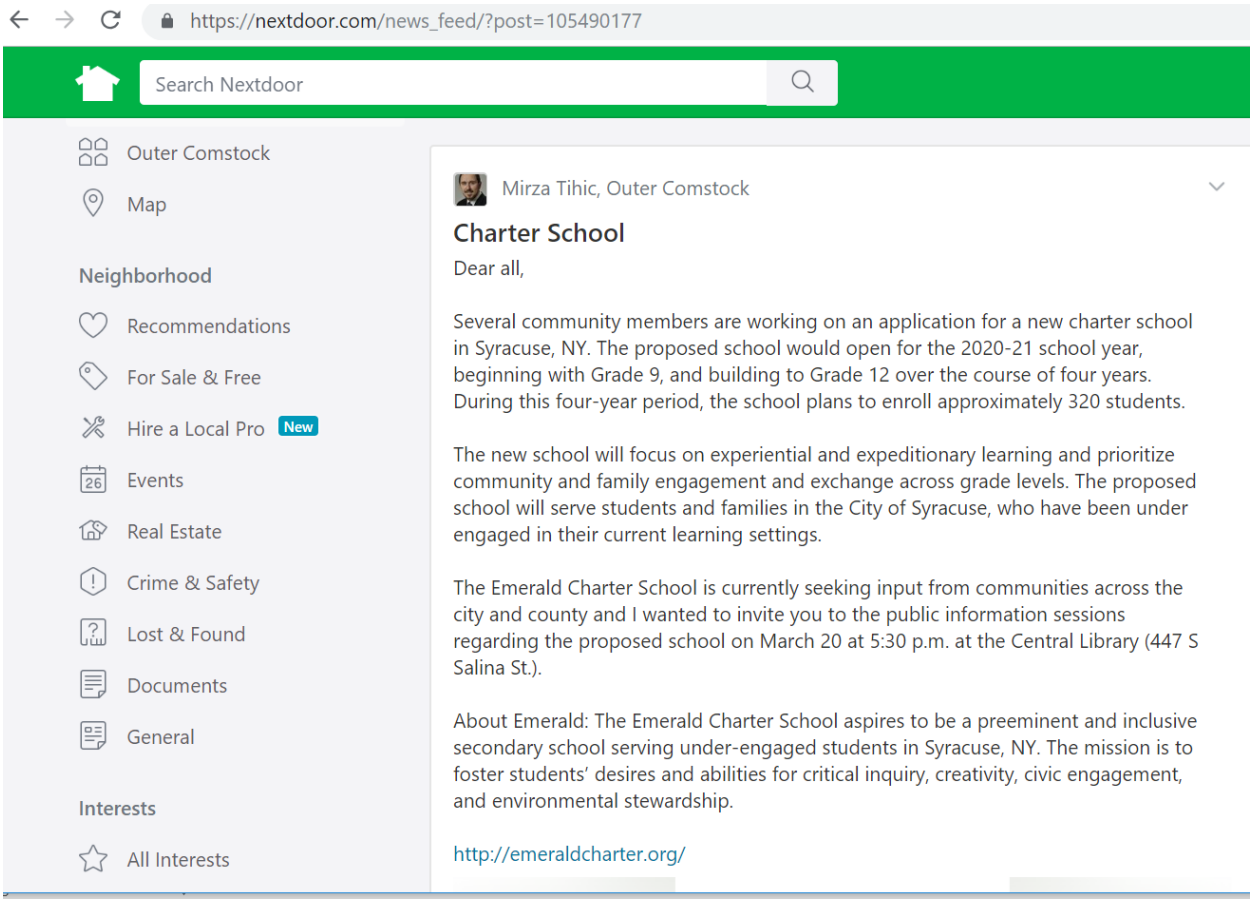
March 13 at 12 p.m. in the community room at the North Side Learning Center (501 Park St.)

March 18 at 4 p.m. at White Branch Library (763 Butternut St.)

March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Library (447 S Salina St.)

Emerald Charter School's Mission is to foster students' desires and abilities for critical inquiry, creativity, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship through meaningful and transformative educational experiences.

To learn more please contact us at emeraldcharter@gmail.com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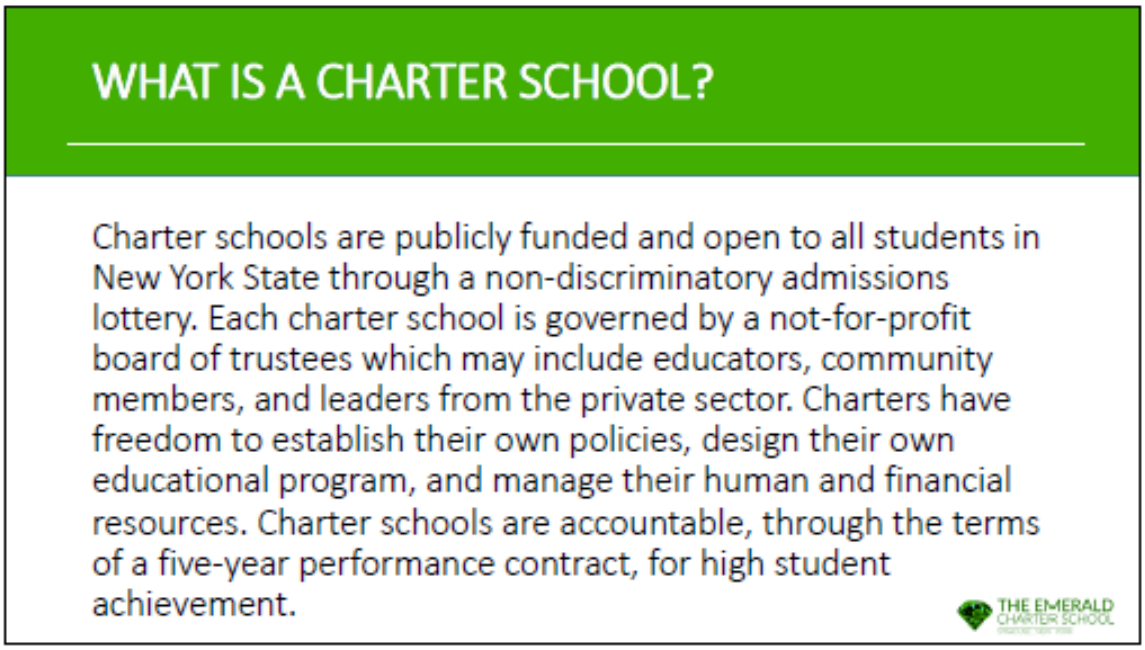
New
Events
Real Estate
Crime & Safety
Lost & Found
Documents
General
Interests
All Interests
Mirza Tihic, Outer Comstock
Charter School
Dear all,
Several community members are working on an application for a new charter school in Syracuse, NY. The proposed school would open for the 2020-21 school year, beginning with Grade 9, and building to Grade 12 over the course of four years. During this four-year period, the school plans to enroll approximately 320 students.
The new school will focus on experiential and expeditionary learning and prioritize community and family engagement and exchange across grade levels. The proposed school will serve students and families in the City of Syracuse, who have been under engaged in their current learning settings.
The Emerald Charter School is currently seeking input from communities across the city and county and I wanted to invite you to the public information sessions regarding the proposed school on March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Library (447 S Salina St.).
About Emerald: The Emerald Charter School aspires to be a preeminent and inclusive secondary school serving under-engaged students in Syracuse, NY. The mission is to foster students' desires and abilities for critical inquiry, creativity, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship.
http://emeraldcharter.org/

Attachment 3 – PPT Slides



WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools were established to:

- Provide families with an increased number of high quality school choices;
- Improve student achievement;
- Increase learning opportunities for all students, with an emphasis on at-risk students;
- Encourage use of innovative teaching methods/educational designs;
- Create new professional opportunities for teachers, administrators, school staff;
- Change from rule-based to performance based accountability

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL

VISION

The Emerald School aspires to be a preeminent and inclusive secondary school serving under-engaged students in Syracuse, NY.

OUR MISSION

To foster students' desires and abilities for critical inquiry, creativity, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship through meaningful and transformative educational experiences.

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL

THE APPROACH

Through a liberal arts curriculum based in experiential and expeditionary learning, Emerald seeks to make use of our diversity by approaching learners as replete with skills, knowledges, and linguistic and cultural resources. In this way, our approach to teaching leverages interdisciplinary connections and learners' existing languages, literacies, and knowledges to support the pursuit of post-secondary education, entrepreneurship, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL

CURRICULUM DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Centering the Humanities
- Engaging across cultures and communities
- Learning through experience and expedition
- Pursing self-awareness and self-actualization
- Providing Career and Technical Education (CTE)

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL

QUALITIES of EMERALD STUDENTS:

Engaged
Mature
Entrepreneurial
Respectful
Agile
Life-long learner
Diverse

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL

THE EMERALD
CHARTER SCHOOL
SYRACUSE , NEW YORK
What are you excited about?
What are your concerns?

THE EMERALD
CHARTER SCHOOL
SYRACUSE , NEW YORK
Contact us at
emeraldcharter@gmail.com

Attachment 4 – Survey & Survey Results

THE EMERALD CHARTER SCHOOL
SYRACUSE , NEW YORK

Please state your level of agreement on a scale from 1 to 5 (1= strongly disagree, 5 =strongly agree)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I understood the goals of the Emerald School	1	2	3	4	5
I support the efforts of the Emerald School	1	2	3	4	5
I would like to see the Emerald School open in Syracuse, NY	1	2	3	4	5
I would be interested in sending my child to the Emerald School	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Questions/Comments:

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey from meetings with parents	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I understood the goals of the Emerald School	12.8%	12.8%	6.4%	36.2%	31.9%
I support the efforts of the Emerald School	0.0%	6.7%	15.6%	35.6%	42.2%
I would like to see the Emerald School open in Syracuse, NY	0.0%	8.5%	19.1%	19.1%	53.2%
I would be interested in sending my child to the Emerald School	0.0%	13.6%	38.6%	18.2%	29.5%
n = 47					

Comments

"thank you"

"I love the goal of the Emerald School. How would they treat one with disability?

"I like that they are trying to get children more engaged by doing more project groups

" I have no children but options are great"
"I love this school because it will help us find our future"
"I understood the goals of the Emerald School that they try to help this community"
"Not sure what the Emerald School does that the SCSD Doesn't"
"Thank you for this idea"
"This is a wonderful idea to unify communities in culture and coonnectedness!
"We need language and reading and writing and religion"
"Nice idea"

Attachment 5

Coordinator of the OnCampus Program

[redacted]

April 1, 2019

RE: Emerald Charter School, Syracuse NY

To whom it may concern,

The founding members of the board of the Emerald Charter School presented their ideas and goals of the Emerald Charter School to me. I strongly support their proposal and this type of education and the educational opportunities it presents.

It is imperative that we make practical and engaging learning available to more students in the urban settings such as the City of Syracuse.

Sincerely,

Joseph Soule, PhD

[redacted]

March 27, 2019

Mark Cass
[redacted]

RE: Emerald Charter School, Syracuse NY

To Whom It May Concern,

Members of the founding board of the Emerald Charter School presented the idea and goals of the school to me. With over 25 years of experience in the adult education and literacy field, I have encountered thousands of adults with limited reading and writing skills. Hundreds have shared their stories with me - which typically included their struggles with the way they were taught, and their various ways of disengaging in school. They learned to read as adults when given instruction using alternative approaches. My current work with ENL learners – also informs me of the great need for educational options for parents.

This is why I support your positive review of the Emerald Charter School's Letter of Intent. I believe we should make this type of education and educational opportunity available to more students, particularly in the urban settings such as the City of Syracuse.

Sincerely,

Mark Cass