MEMORANDUM

June 11, 2020

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee
From: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair, Charter Schools Committee
Subject: New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grants

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of $1,357,024 in New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund facilities grants to various charter schools authorized by various charter entities pursuant to New York State Finance Law § 97-sss.

Resolution

I recommend that the Charter Schools Committee adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the grants to the charter schools identified below, in the amounts and from the programs specified, be, and hereby are, approved with such conditions and restrictions as the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”) deems necessary and appropriate; and be it further

Resolved that funds awarded pursuant to this resolution but not spent by the awardees may be awarded by the Institute to any partial awardee or to the next highest scoring project(s) submitted through the request for proposals process.
New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grants:
Facility Grants (Totaling $1,357,024):

- Buffalo Collegiate Charter School (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- Elmwood Village Charter School Hertel (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- Evergreen Charter School (Authorized by the New York State Board of Regents) $200,000
- Merrick Academy – Queens Public Charter School (Authorized by SUNY) $165,000
- Niagara Charter School (Authorized by the Board of Regents) $200,000
- Persistence Preparatory Academy Charter School (Authorized by SUNY) $200,000
- The Academy Charter School (Authorized by SUNY) $68,368
- Truxton Academy Charter School (Authorized by SUNY) $123,656

Background

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to the Charter Schools Committee to award grants to charter schools.

The New York State Legislature made funds available in the 2019/20 New York State Education Department budget for services and expenses related to the development, implementation, and operation of charter schools. The New York State Division of the Budget made $1,357,024 available together with reappropriated funds to SUNY for distribution to charter schools authorized by all state authorizers including the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, the Board of Regents, and the Buffalo City Board of Education. Pursuant to Section 97-sss, these funds may be used for "discretionary financial support, including grants ... to charter schools ... for start-
up costs and costs associated with the acquisition, renovation, financing or construction of charter school facilities."

On March 13, 2020, SUNY released a Request for Proposals (T003702) (the “RFP”) (copy on file in the Albany office of the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”)) to enable eligible charter school education corporation applicants to compete for funds for expenses associated with the acquisition, renovation, construction, or financing of certain charter school facilities not located in free public space or receiving rental assistance funding. The Institute set the maximum for a facility grant at $200,000. Pursuant to the grant program previously approved by the Board of Trustees on April 25, 2000 (Resolution 00-64), the Institute convened a review panel, and scored and ranked all proposals in the manner outlined in the RFP.

Should the Charter Schools Committee adopt this resolution, the Institute, working with SUNY, will be given the authority to enter into contracts with the grantees that set forth conditions under which the grant monies are to be disbursed as described in the RFP including, but not limited to, submission of budgets and other supporting documentation.