MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Susan Miller Carello, Executive Director, SUNY Charter Schools Institute

Subject: SUNY Charter Schools Institute Update

Revisions

The Institute has reviewed the following requests for revisions and finds them appropriate and supported by documentation submitted by the education corporation boards.

- **Academy of the City Charter School**, located at 31-29 60th Street, Woodside, New York 11377, in Community School District (“CSD”) 30, currently authorized to serve 532 students in grades K-6 for the 2019-20 school year growing to serve 728 students in grades K-8 for the 2023-24 school year, seeks to amend its admissions policy for the 2020-21 school year and beyond by providing an at-risk preference to students who reside in housing operated by the New York City Housing Authority.

- **Achievement First Brooklyn Charter Schools**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested the following revision:
  - **Achievement First Voyager Charter School**, located 532 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203 and 601 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11226, in CSD 17, currently authorized to serve 560 students in grades K-2 and 5-9 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease to serve 240 students in grades 5-8 for the 2020-21 school year, the final year of the current charter term.

- **DREAM Charter School**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested the following revision:
  - **DREAM Charter School Mott Haven**, located at 250 East 156th Street, Bronx, New York 10451, in CSD 7, currently authorized to serve 81 students in grade K for the 2019-20 school year growing to 648 students in grades K-4 and 6-8 for the 2023-24 school year, requests an enrollment revision to serve 60 students in grade K for the 2019-20 school year.
year while still growing to serve 648 students in grades K-4 and 6-8 for the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term.

- **PAVE Academy Charter School**, located at 732 Henry Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231 in Community School District 15, currently contracts with PAVE Schools, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation to manage certain business and academic-related services, has requested to cease its relationship with PAVE Schools, Inc. effective June 30, 2020 and transition all applicable responsibilities to within PAVE Academy Charter School.

- **Truxton Academy Charter School**, a charter school education corporation located at 6337 Academy Street, Truxton, New York 13158, in the Homer Central School District, is currently authorized to serve 68 students in grades K-2 for the 2019-20 school year growing to 141 students in grades K-6 for the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term, has requested an enrollment reduction to serve 44 students in grades K-2 for the 2019-20 school year, growing to serve 138 students in grades K-6 for the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term.

- **Uncommon New York City Charter Schools**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested the following revisions:
  - **Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School**, located at 832 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11216, in CSD 13, currently authorized to serve 345 students in grades 5-8 for the 2019-20 school year growing to 780 students in grades K-8 by the 2024-25 school year, requests an enrollment decrease to serve 295 students in grades 5-8 for the 2019-20 school year and 264 students in grades 5-8 by the 2024-25, the final year of the approved charter term.
  - **Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School**, located at 791 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11213 and 1137 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233 in CSDs 17 and 23, respectively, currently authorized to serve 519 students in grades K-1 and 5-8 for the 2019-20 school year and grow to 780 students in grades K-8 by 2024-25 school year, requests an enrollment decrease to 458 students in grades K-1 and 5-8 for the 2019-20 school year growing to serve 572 students in grades K-8 by the 2024-25, the final year of the approved charter term.

**2020 Request for Proposals**

The Institute released the final 2020 Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on January 17, 2020. The Institute has scheduled two application rounds for 2020. The first round began with Intent to Apply Forms due February 18, 2020 with full proposals due February 25, 2020. The Institute received five proposals for five schools and anticipates presenting proposals recommended for approval to the SUNY Trustees in June 2020. The earliest approved opening date for any school approved in this cycle is fall 2021.
Active Ingredients

In February, the Institute held an Active Ingredients project mid-pilot convening. The convening brought together 30 project participants, including authorizers and school leaders from across the country. Participants shared the progress they have made in identifying additional measures of student success that schools can credibly collect, measure, and replicate. The convening also offered time for group members representing diverse regions and school models to access thought partners to help analyze unique challenges and problems of practice. Attendees left with common understanding of opportunity areas and next steps, and with a shared toolkit resource to help communicate their work.

Importantly, the Institute also debuted three new project videos at the convening, which explain the Active Ingredients project and highlight the work of the two SUNY authorized participants (Broome Street Academy and NYC Autism Charter Schools). Those videos are available at activeingredientsproject.org.

Recognition

The United States Department of Education (“USDOE”) recognized the Institute among eleven charter schools, charter management organization/networks, and charter authorizers nationwide for its innovative practices. As part of this recognition, USDOE will profile the Institute’s work in Measurement Systems that Capture a Broad Spectrum of Program Goals. During the project, researchers from SRI Education, the Center on Reinventing Public Education, and Policy Studies Associates, working on behalf of the USDOE, will meet with Institute staff to capture and profile our work in this topic. The USDOE will ultimately disseminate these profiles to educators, policymakers, parents, and other stakeholders to help them learn from and replicate these innovative practices.

Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grants

Pursuant to the State budget appropriation, SUNY has $1,357,024 in Charter Schools Stimulus Fund monies available to award to eligible charter school applicants regardless of authorizer. The Institute acknowledges that facility financing options for charter schools are limited; therefore, the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) calls for proposals that focus on facility construction, renovation, security, financing, leasehold improvements, and other facility related expenses. Only schools that own their facilities, are seeking to purchase facilities, or that have a three-year lease are eligible to apply. In general, schools in co-located school district space or receiving rental assistance funding are ineligible. Bonus points are available for academic high performance, performing or visual arts related projects, and improvements to security features of school buildings. SUNY has added bonus points for performing or visual arts related projects since 2014, and has awarded 51 grants that included arts related project funding. The Institute anticipates issuing the RFP shortly, analyzing proposals, and then bringing recommendations to the Charter Schools Committee in June 2020.
**Governance Toolkit on Institute Website**

The Institute will formally rollout a toolkit of governance resources on its website on March 18. The toolkit includes samples of various model documents and processes from high-performing boards, guidance on school safety procedures, a comprehensive scope of recommended topics for board meetings broken down by month and topic, and other resources. The Institute will communicate with all SUNY authorized schools and board members, as well as other important charter entities in the state including the New York Charter Schools Association and the New York Charter School Center, to ensure that those who will benefit from the toolkit are well-informed and understand how to use it.

**School Safety Training and Resources**

The Institute will offer trainings on school safety on April 23 to support schools in understanding topics such as discipline, child abuse reporting, violent and disruptive incident reporting, Title IX, social media policies, and fingerprinting of school staff. Institute staff will coordinate with the New York Charter Schools Association and the New York City Charter School Center to communicate these resources to the largest number of constituent schools.

**Information Update**

The Institute’s monthly newsletter *More Great Seats for Kids* is available [here](#). The Institute’s Director for Charter School Information, Michael Lesczinski, and Andrew Kile, Director of School Evaluation, sat down for an interview to support school leaders in understanding what to expect during school evaluation visits. The episode also includes an interview with the school leader at Elmwood Village Days Park Charter School in Buffalo to provide additional perspective about what to expect during school evaluation visits. Click [here](#) to listen to this episode.