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 SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”), under the provisions of the State University of New York Board of Trustees’ (the “SUNY Trustees’”) delegation of duties to the Institute, has reviewed and will approve the following revision requests:

- **Academic Leadership Charter School**, located at 677 East 141st Street and 470 Jackson Avenue, both in Bronx, New York in Community School District (“CSD”) 7, currently authorized to serve 600 students in grades K-8 for the 2018-19 school year and 650 students in grades K-8 for the 2022-23 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment change over the current term to serve 725 students in grades K-8 by the 2022-23 school year.

- **Ascend Charter Schools**, a charter school education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested enrollment revisions for the following schools:
  - **Cypress Hills Ascend Charter School**, located at 396 Grant Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208 in CSD 19, currently authorized to serve 249 students in grades K-2 for the 2019-20 school year and 498 students in grades K-5 for the 2022-23 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment decrease over the charter term to serve 459 students in the same grade configuration by the 2022-23 school year.
  - **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 3**, to be temporarily located at 396 Grant Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208 in CSD 19 for the 2019-20 school year and then to relocate to a permanent facility at 260 Shepard Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208 in CSD 19, currently authorized to serve 224 students in grades K-1 for the
2019-20 school year and 672 students in grades K-5 in the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment decrease over the charter term to serve 54 students in K for the 2019-20 school year and 378 students in grades K-4 by the 2023-24 school year.

- **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 4**, to be temporarily located at 870 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203 in CSD 18 for the first half of the 2019-20 school year and then to relocate to its permanent facility at 123 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11226 in CSD 17, currently authorized to serve 224 students in grades K-1 for the 2019-20 school year and 672 students in grades K-5 in the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment decrease over the charter term to serve 486 students in grades K-5 by the 2023-24 school year.

- **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 5**, to be located at 870 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203 in CSD 18, currently authorized to serve 224 students in grades K-1 for the 2019-20 school year and 672 students in grades K-5 in the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment decrease over the charter term to serve 324 students in grades K-5 by the 2023-24 school year.

- **Roosevelt Children’s Academy Charter School**, located at 105 Pleasant Avenue and 201 Debevoise Avenue, Roosevelt, New York 11575 in the Roosevelt Union Free School District, currently authorized to serve 850 students in grades K-8 for the 2019-20 school year, the final year of the current charter term, requests an enrollment decrease to serve 800 students in the same grade configuration during the 2019-20 school year.

- **Green Tech High Charter School**, located at 99 Slingerland Street, Albany, New York 12202 in the Albany City School District, currently authorized to serve 390 students in grades 6 and 9-12 for the 2019-20 school year, requests to change its name to “Green Tech Charter School.”

**Updates**

**2019 Request for Proposals for New Applications**

The Institute received four applications by the February 25, 2019 deadline in response to the second round “spring cycle” of the 2019 Request for Proposals (“RFP”), which the Institute released on behalf of the SUNY Trustees on December 12, 2018. As a result of the cap currently in place on new charters in New York City the round included only applicants from outside New York City. Two applications were for proposed schools in Buffalo, one in Syracuse, and one in Yonkers. After a rigorous review process that included evaluations of the proposals by Institute staff and external consultants, three applications were withdrawn and one remains under review pending the outcome of the Request for Amendments (“RFA”) process. Outside of New York City, the SUNY Trustees or the New York State Board of Regents may approve 99 charters. The Institute anticipates bringing any recommendation to the Charter Schools Committee in October of 2019.
Active Ingredients

The Active Ingredients pilot project launched February 14th at a convening in Orlando, FL. The Institute was joined by authorizing office leaders from Chicago Public Schools, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, School District of Osceola County, and the Washington State Charter School Commission who have all identified schools from their portfolios to collect and report additional data during this innovative pilot. The initial work of the participating authorizers and schools has included selecting additional measures that are central to their school program missions and theories of change. The project aims to identify systems and tools authorizers can use to support the credible collection and reporting of additional, non-traditional measures (or Active Ingredients) of student and school success and has the potential to impact as many as 245K students as a result of possible changes in participating authorizer practices. Grants from the Walton Family Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have made this project possible.

2017-18 High School Outcomes

Due to the timing of data releases, the Institute confirms outcomes for high schools later in the school year than elementary and middle school programs. During 2017-18, the Institute authorized 29 schools with college preparatory programs that enrolled a 12th grade class. That school year, the overall SUNY graduation rate was 91%, an increase of four percentage points from the previous year. SUNY schools outperformed the state average by eight percentage points. Further, 27 of the 29 schools outperformed their local district in four year graduation rate. Finally, of the graduating students in 2017-18, 92% matriculated into a two or four year college program sometime during the year following graduation.

2018-19 Year in Review - Evaluations

During the 2018-2019 school year, Institute staff made approximately 84 regular cycle visits to SUNY authorized charter schools. In addition to the visits briefly described below, the Institute makes visits with boards and leaders as issues, concerns or successes emerge during the school year.

- Pre-Opening Visits for 10 new schools which opened in the 2018-19 school year.
- Renewal Visits for 34 schools.
- First Year Monitoring and Accountability Plan Development Visits to ensure the 10 schools opening for the first time in fall 2018 were getting established as outlined in the charter agreement as well as to provide technical assistance to school leaders and boards.
- Evaluation Visits for 10 schools open for longer than one year to evaluate each school’s progress in implementing an effective educational program, as assessed by the Qualitative Education Benchmarks (“QEBs”).
• **Prekindergarten Evaluation Visits** for 8 programs currently operated by SUNY authorized charter schools.

• **Performance Review Visits** to discuss 12 schools prospects for renewal with the schools’ boards.

**2019-20 Preview - Evaluations**

• **Pre-Opening Visits** for 14 new schools opening in 2019.

• **Renewal Visits** for 21 schools.

• **First Year Monitoring and Accountability Plan Development Visits** to ensure the 14 schools opening for the first time in fall 2019 are getting established as outlined in the charter agreement as well as to provide technical assistance to school leaders and boards.

**Opening Schools Forecast**

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<td>2019-20 School Year</td>
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AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

SUNY authorized schools had a wonderful year of recognition for the great accomplishments of their students, staff and schools.

Blue Ribbon Schools (2018)
- Success Academy Charter School - Bed-Stuy 1, Brooklyn
- Success Academy Charter School - Harlem 2, Manhattan

Reward Schools (2018)
- Academy of the City Charter School
- Achievement First Apollo Charter School
- Achievement First Bushwick Charter School
- Bronx Charter School for Better Learning
- Icahn Charter School 2
- Icahn Charter School 3
- Icahn Charter School 5
- Icahn Charter School 6
- Success Academy Charter School - Bronx 2
- Success Academy Charter School - Cobble Hill
- Success Academy Charter School - Harlem 2
- Success Academy Charter School - Harlem 4
- Success Academy Charter School – Williamsburg

- **School Climate Honoree**: Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

- **Blackboard Award for Schools & Principals**: Family Life Academy Charter School 2, Principal, Kathy Ortiz-Herscher.

- **Blackboard Award for Teacher Honorees**: Girls Preparatory Charter School of New York, Jillian Aquila, elementary teacher

- **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**: Democracy Preparatory Charter School, Kristin Smith, 9th grade Algebra teacher.

- **2018 Big Apple Award**: Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 3, Ashley Wilson, Kindergarten teacher
Students at SUNY authorized charters schools continue to meet their goals of acceptance into colleges and universities. The following is a sampling of the colleges and universities into which the Class of 2019 at SUNY authorized charter schools have been accepted.

- Albright College
- Aldelphi University
- Alfred University
- American University
- Arizona State University
- Bard College
- Barry University
- Baruch College
- Becker College
- Beloit College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brooklyn College
- Brown University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Canisius College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Carthage College
- Cazenovia College
- Champlain College
- Chapman University
- Cheyney University
- Clark University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Clarkson University
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of Mount Saint Vincent
- Coppin State University
- Cornell University
- CUNY - Baruch College
- CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College
- CUNY – Bronx Community College
- CUNY - Brooklyn College
- CUNY - College of Staten Island
- CUNY - Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College
- CUNY – Hostos Community College
- CUNY - Hunter College
- CUNY - John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- CUNY - Kingsborough Community College
- CUNY – LaGuardia Community College
- CUNY - Lehman College
- CUNY – Macaulay Honors College
- CUNY - Medgar Evers College
- CUNY - New York City College of Technology
- CUNY - Queens College
- CUNY - Queensborough Community College
- CUNY - Stella and Charles Guttman Community College
- CUNY - The City College of New York
- CUNY - York College
- Curry College
- Daemen College
- Dean College
- Delaware State University
- DePaul University
- Drexel University
- Elon University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Endicott College
- Fairfield University
- Florida Memorial University
- Fordham University
- Fort Lewis College
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Full Sail University
- Georgetown University
- Gordon College
- Goucher College
- Hampton University
- Hartwick College
- High Point University
- Hilbert College
- Hobart & William Smith College
- Hofstra University
- Howard University
- Hunter College
- Iona College
- Ithaca College
- Johnson & Wales University
- Keene State College
- Kent State University
- Keuka College
- Lafayette College
- Lasell College
- Lehigh University
- Le Moyne College
- Lesley University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Lincoln University
- Livingston College
- Long Island University
- Lynn University
- Marist College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Marymount University
- Manhattan College
- McDaniel College
- Mercy College
- Middlebury College
- Mitchell College
- Molloy College
- Monroe College
- Morehouse College
- Morgan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- New England College
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Norfolk State University
- Northeastern University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Ohio University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Olin College of Engineering
- Pace University
- Pine Manor College
- Pitzer College
- Princeton University
- Providence College
- Quinnipiac University
- Reed College
- Regis University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Roberts Wesleyan College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Saint Augustine’s University
- Saint Leo University
- Saint Peter’s University
- Salisbury University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- School of Visual Arts
- Seton Hall University
- Shaw University
- Siena College
- Skidmore College
- Southern California Institute of Architecture
- Spelman College
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. Francis College
- St. John’s University
- St. Joseph’s College
- St. Lawrence University
• St. Thomas Aquinas College
• Suffolk University
• SUNY – Alfred State College
• SUNY – Binghamton University
• SUNY – Broome Community College
• SUNY – Buffalo State
• SUNY – Canton
• SUNY – Cobleskill
• SUNY – Cortland
• SUNY – Delhi
• SUNY – Erie Community College
• SUNY – Fashion Institute of Technology
• SUNY – Fredonia
• SUNY – Fulton-Montgomery Community College
• SUNY – Geneseo
• SUNY – Herkimer County Community College
• SUNY – Korea (in partnership with Stony Brook University)
• SUNY – Morrisville
• SUNY – New Paltz
• SUNY – Old Westbury
• SUNY – Oneonta
• SUNY – Onondaga Community College
• SUNY – Oswego
• SUNY – Plattsburgh
• SUNY – Potsdam
• SUNY – Purchase College
• SUNY – Stony Brook University
• SUNY – The College at Brockport
• SUNY – Tompkins Cortland Community College
• SUNY – University at Albany
• SUNY – University at Buffalo
• SUNY – Westchester Community College
• Susquehanna University
• Swarthmore College
• Syracuse University
• Talladega College
• Temple University
• Texas Southern University
• The College of Saint Rose
• Trinity College
• Tufts University
• Tulane University
• Tuskegee University
• University of Bridgeport
• University of Central Florida
• University of Connecticut
• University of Hartford
• University of Kansas
• University of Maine
• University of Maryland
• University of Massachusetts
• University of Michigan
• University of Minnesota
• University of New Haven
• University of Ohio
• University of Oregon
• University of Pennsylvania
• University of Rochester
• University of Southern California
• University of Vermont
• University of Virginia
• University of Wisconsin, Madison
• Utica College
• Vassar College
• Virginia State University
• Virginia Union University
• Wells College
• Wentworth Institute of Technology
• Wesleyan University
• Western New England University
• Westminster College
• Wheaton College
• Wittenberg University
• Woodbury University
• Xavier University
• Xavier University of Louisiana
2018-19 RENEWAL SCHOOL NOTEWORTHY SUMMARIES

While recognized in their individual renewal reports this year, the following is a summary of noteworthy items the evaluation team noted in schools up for renewal this year.

• The Academy Charter School: The Academy Charter School partners with the New York Institute of Technology ("NYIT") and the Cordell Hull Foundation for International Education to support teacher recruitment, specifically in hard to fill positions such as secondary mathematics, science, and ELL teachers. The partnership with the Cordell Hull Foundation offers international teachers a three year teaching residency at the school. The NYIT partnership offers a cohort of 12 to 15 uncertified teachers and teaching assistants the opportunity to earn a Master’s degree in education and complete the state teaching certification requirements at a subsidized cost.

• Academy of the City: In 2016-17 and 2017-18, the New York State Education Department named Academy of the City a Reward School, one of only 18 charter schools statewide and the only charter school in Queens to receive this honor. To be identified, a school must have high overall state test scores, make adequate yearly progress for all demographic and at-risk categories, and enable more than 50 percent of the school’s lowest achieving students to make gains.

• Achievement First Bushwick Charter School: AF Bushwick is home to the AF Brooklyn Schools’ Empower program, which currently serves as a program for students with disabilities in 1st – 5th grade with the vision that the program transitions students from a more restrictive setting to an inclusive, general education setting through targeted interventions.

• Achievement First East New York Charter School: AF East New York’s high school level students participate in the school’s AP for All program, and for the 2018 graduating class, of the students who attempted an AP exam, 67% of students passed with a score of 3 or higher gaining college credit while still in high school.

• Achievement First Linden Charter School: AF Linden is in its first year of building its middle school level program, and the network is using its 5th grade to implement the Greenfield program design, an innovative pedagogical approach that develops students’ conceptual learning through the use of technology, project based learning, and self agency.

• Boys Preparatory Charter School of New York: Boys Preparatory Charter School of New York establishes partnerships with the local community to bring male role models to the school to serve as inspirational figures for students. Annually, the school begins the instructional year with a Male Heroes Welcome Back event during which male community members including fire fighters, businessmen, and custodial staff greet entering students.
• **Bronx Charter School for Excellence**: In keeping with Bronx Charter School for Excellence’s commitment to develop students’ critical thinking skills and global perspective, the school is committed to providing students opportunities to engage in STEM programs in and out of school. Students in 8th grade have the opportunity to attend STEM summer programming at Colgate University. The week long program has included experiences such as coding and application development. In addition, students have the opportunity to visit and learn from leaders at innovative companies like Google and Amazon. The school also supports its STEM initiative through the addition of an innovation floor and a fully equipped chemistry laboratory in the newly built middle school building. The school intends to develop courses in coding, 3D printing, and application design for students in the middle school grades.

• **Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15**: The school offers an International Baccalaureate (“IB”) diploma program, which is a rigorous curriculum sequence that focuses on completing independent research and undertaking projects that involve community service. For students enrolled in the school’s IB program in 2017-18, 77% graduated with IB diplomas.

• **Brownsville Collegiate Charter School**: With support of Uncommon Schools’ robust college support program, the 2017-18 graduating class at Uncommon High School was awarded over $1.75 million in financial support for college. Across the network of schools under Uncommon New York City Charter Schools, students in the 2017-18 graduating class received $4.5 million in funding in awards and scholarships.

• **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School**: In fall of 2018, the state made the 2017-18 achievement data for homeless students available. Central Brooklyn Ascend’s homeless students posted proficiency rates of 53% and 60% in English language arts and mathematics, respectively, outperforming the statewide average and district performance in both subjects.

• **Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School**: In alignment with the school’s mission to engage students in active citizenship, students run a Get Out the Vote campaign each election day to encourage neighborhood community members to vote. Notably, a 2018 study by Mathematica Policy Research concluded that “enrolling in Democracy Prep substantially increases the probability that students will vote when they reach adulthood.”

• **Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant**: In 2017-18, students with disabilities at Excellence Boys scored at or above proficiency on the ELA state assessment at a rate more than double the school’s comparison district’s students with disabilities.
• **Excellence Girls Charter School:** In 2016-17, Excellence Girls was the first charter school in Brooklyn awarded a National Blue Ribbon Award by the US Department of Education. The award recognizes schools for their success in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

• **Explore Charter School:** In alignment with its mission, Explore devotes significant resources to supporting students and families through the high school application process. School staff work with students to develop a list of prospective high school programs that are rigorous, committed to college preparation, and meet students extracurricular and academic preferences. In 2017-18, 87% of Explore 8th graders received an offer from one of their top three high school choices.

• **Explore Excel Charter School:** In 2017-18, Explore Excel’s 3rd grade students demonstrated impressive performance in mathematics. Over 86% of the 59 tested students scored at or above proficiency on the state mathematics exam. Further, 49% scored at performance level 4, indicating achievement above grade level expectations.

• **Family Life Academy Charter School III:** FLACS III partners with DreamYard, a Bronx-based organization that works with schools to provide students with arts education and arts learning opportunities to the entire school. Through this partnership, FLACS III Kindergarten students were chosen to sing at The Bronx Arts Festival held annually at Lehman College in June 2017. The school continues this partnership and plans to have Kindergarten students sing at this year’s festival.

• **Grand Concourse Academy Charter School:** In its first year with 8th grade students, Grand Concourse had nearly half of its 6th and 7th grade classes accepted into the DREAM program, a selective extracurricular academic program offered through the New York City Department of Education (“NYCDOE”) to prepare students to take the Specialized High School Admissions Test. At the time of the Institute’s visit, the 8th grade class also received two high school acceptances at Phillips Academy Andover and the Hill School, both highly competitive college preparatory boarding schools, for participants in the Prep 9 program.

• **Icahn Charter School 4:** In 2016, The U.S. Department of Education recognized Icahn 4 as a National Blue Ribbon Award School, which is granted to schools across the United States based on a school’s overall academic excellence and progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups. Additionally, in 2014 and 2016, New York State gave Icahn 4 the Reward school designation. New York State issues Reward school designation to schools that rank in the top 20 percent of schools statewide based on mathematics and ELA state test scores.
• **Manhattan Charter School:** As part of the school’s mission and key design elements, the school has a dedicated music program that hosts community concerts twice a year for the school and local community. The school also hosts an annual musical. For the visual arts, students present artwork during an annual art fair held at a local community center.

• **Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1:** In 2018, The U.S. Department of Education recognized Success BedStuy 1 as a National Blue Ribbon Award School, which is granted to schools across the United States based on a school’s overall academic excellence and progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups.

• **Success Academy Charter School – Upper West:** Success Upper West’s 4th grade students participate in ballroom dancing and compete with schools across New York City with Dancing Classrooms, an organization that invites artists to teach dancing skills to students. The school implements the program as an additional way to build trust and respect amongst scholars and contributes to Success Upper West’s goal of educating well rounded scholars.

• **True North Troy Preparatory Charter School:** Troy Prep’s science club partners with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (“RPI”) to bring college students, who major in science related fields, to work with and mentor students twice a month on rigorous science experiments. The club takes an annual trip to RPI to tour the science facilities, which includes some of the most advanced research laboratories in the country in areas of nanotechnology, combustion and energy, biochemistry, and the environmental sciences.