

Brooklyn World Community Charter School

Letter of Intent

Submitted to New York State Department Charter School Office

89 Washington Avenue

Room 471 EBA

Albany, New York 12234

Email: charterschools@mail.nysed.gov

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**Lead Applicant
Pamela Diaz**

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FOUNDING GROUP

The BWCCS planning team consists of ten members including educators and parents who are experts in the areas of middle school education, community relations, business and finance.

Pamela Diaz, Math and Reading Specialist, educator for over 30 years, who implemented the first Algebra Regents course in a middle school in East New York, Brooklyn, proposed Executive Director of BWCCS

Gail Gaines-Savage, Retired Principal and a founding member of The Essence School/IS 311, a successful middle school in Brooklyn CSD 19, and educator for over 35 years.

Sekinah Smith, Assistant Principal, Specialist in Special Education, a founding member of the Essence School; proposed Chief Operating Officer of BWCCS.

Dr. Jennifer Charles, Professional Development and Technology Instruction Specialist, educator for over 30 years, proposed Director of Middle School.

Ada Gonzalez, Social Worker and Guidance Counselor, proposed Guidance Counselor.

Patricia Davenport, Parent Coordinator, proposed Parent Liaison.

Janet Watson, Math Specialist, proposed Math Academic Coach.

Barbara Rademaker, Licensed Reading Specialist and Licensed Administrator, proposed ELA Academic Coach.

Charlene Oseni, a Foreign Language Specialist, proposed Foreign Language Academic Coach.

Gwen Lewis, a Community Activist with 20 years' experience in community development, will be responsible for Community Outreach.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gail Gaines, educator

Alan Bernstein, educator for over 40 years

Steve Taylor, Esq., lawyer

Craig B. Wilson, accountant

Keino Baird, educator

APPLICATION HISTORY

We submitted a prospectus to New York State Education Department in January 2011. We were not invited to submit an application.

PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Brooklyn World Community Charter School will be located in CSD 19 in Brooklyn, New York.

GRADE LEVELS AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The enrollment projection for Brooklyn World Community Charter School for the first five years reflects our goal to preserve small class and school size. Beginning with the sixth grade, there would be six classes per grade, with class sizes of approximately 23 students each. This number is large enough to allow for natural attrition of up to 5%, without the need for new enrollment.

	Projected	Enrollment	Table		
Grades	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
6th	135	135	135	135	135
7th		135	135	135	135
8th			135	135	135
Totals	135	270	405	405	405

MANAGEMENT AND/OR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

We have partnered with Long Island University Brooklyn campus and the Step Program headed by Dean Oswaldo Cabrera. BWCCS has also partnered with A Brooklyn Family Place, Inc., which will provide support services for our students. BWCCS will establish a community partnership with the Institute for Community Living, Inc. (ICL), a school-based mental health clinic program.

MISSION

The Brooklyn World Community Charter School (BWCCS) empowers its students to be scholars, thinkers and life-long learners. Through a rigorous curriculum, with an emphasis on investigation of world communities and cultures, we prepare our students to appreciate and respect themselves and others, and to succeed in college and careers.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Curricula: BWCCS will provide a standards-based academic program that is aligned to the Common Core Curriculum, provide rich learning experiences and build students' computation and literacy skills. We will inspire our students to achieve the highest standards of excellence through collaborative learning and the integration of literacy across the curriculum. Our humanities curriculum will be centered on world communities, supported by the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), which emphasizes intellectual challenge while fostering the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global awareness. Students will explore essential questions, investigate and analyze real world problems and cultures around an interdisciplinary science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) project-oriented curriculum. Special education students will receive additional support based on their Individualized Educational Program (IEP). For our students who are academically, socially or psychologically challenged, alternative-learning solutions will include but not be limited to small learning communities and differentiated instruction. English Language Learners (ELL) will be provided with a highly qualified teacher who will support students' learning to

enable them to gain the language skills necessary to succeed in school, and meet state learning standards in all subjects. Staff will receive additional professional development training to ensure that the specific needs of these students are met. Both the special needs students and English Language Learners will participate in all school activities, including after-school programs and Saturday Academy.

TARGET POPULATION

The mission of BWCCS is to serve a student population that is at risk and has a high need for the rigorous and supportive learning environment that BWCCS offers, an environment that would prepare them to succeed in college and careers.

We expect the incoming student population of our charter school to mirror the population currently served by CSD 19. According to the NYSED demographic information for Community School District 19, of the students tested, 53% were Black or African American, 39% Hispanic or Latino, 6% Asian, 1% American Indian and 1% White. CSD 19 has been identified by NYSED as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI) in ELA for 2009-2010. The high school dropout rate for students in CSD 19 is 15%, and only 48% of high school students graduate with a Regents diploma.^{^1}.

According to student demographic data for CSD 19, 87% of students are eligible for free lunch, 13% are English Language Learners (ELL), and 11% have individualized learning plans (IEP).^{^2}

BWCCS will be located in Community District 5 in the community of East New York in CSD 19. CD 5 has a total population of 173,198, of which 34.7 % are foreign born, 45.1% of households are headed by a female with related children under the age of 18 and below the poverty level. In addition, 50.5% of the population receives government assistance/income support. Forty nine percent of the population is Black or African American, 37.7% are of Hispanic origin, 3.5 % are Asian, 5.1% are White, and a small population of mixed races, 4.7%, is vibrant in CD 5. Furthermore, 20.4 % of the entire population is not proficient in English, 76.7% speak Spanish or Spanish Creole, 7.1% speak Russian, Italian or Polish languages, 4.4% speak French including Patois, Cajun and French Creole. 5.2% Chinese and Korean, 6.6% Arabic, African and other languages.

Of the 55,042 housing units in CD 5, 77.1% are renter occupied and 22.9% are owner occupied. Given its relatively small area, CD 5 is diverse as is evident by its various cultures, languages and ethnicities. Within CD 5, 51% of the Black population and 39% of the Hispanic population are homeless and under 18 years of age. 43.9% of the population is either abused or neglected. 64.5% of the Black population and 21.9 % of the Hispanic population are in foster care.

^{^1} Academic data taken from 2009-2010 NYS District Accountability Report

^{^2}. <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/psc/startcharter.html>

RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

According to NYSED Demographic data for CSD 19, 13% of the student population is classified as LEP/ELL students. To reach this population, BWCCS recruitment coordinator and staff will liaison with all the LEP/ELL coordinators and teachers of CSD 19 elementary and middle schools. BWCCS staff will reach out to the appropriate language-speaking (Spanish, Haitian Creole) community-based organizations and individuals who work with or provide services to families whose children are classified as LEP/ELL students. The school will make available to parents and families of LEP/ELL students all marketing and outreach materials in the family's native language.

To recruit students with disabilities at a rate comparable to or greater than the number enrolled in CSD 19 schools, BWCCS will implement in its recruitment efforts a set of strategies and techniques designed to attract and interest special needs students and their families. These efforts include: (1) open-house sessions held in the community geared towards parents and families of Special Education students, and (2) meetings with all CSD 19 elementary and middle school special education coordinators to describe the school's program and to distribute related literature. (3) Distribution of flyers that advertise BWCCS' Special Education program printed in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

Students with disabilities will be served in accordance with federal and state regulations including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (and amendments thereto, at 29 USC Section 794 et seq. and its implementing regulations at 34 CFR Section 104), and the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act ("IDEA" at 10 USC Section 14010 et seq. and its implementing regulations at 34 CFR section 300). An appropriate and free education will be provided to such students in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEP), as required by the IDEA, and 504 plans as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the most recent Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act (ADAA).

All special education programs and services at BWCCS shall be provided in accordance with Education Law §2853(4) (a) and applicable federal laws and regulations, an in accordance with the IEP recommended by the CSE of the student's school district of residence. BWCCS will use the NYCDOE Special Education Operating Procedures Manual as its guideline for compliance.

RETENTION OF STUDENTS

BWCCS will provide rigorous and relevant instruction to better engage students in learning and provide the skills needed to graduate. BWCCS will develop a Comprehensive Academic Narrative (CAN) for each student during the month of September of each school year. This plan will determine each student's academic needs and learning style by using data collected from the DRA, WRAP, Scranton, and baseline assessments in all instructional academic areas. Staff will meet to determine what goals need to be established for students based on the data. The CAN will also be used to develop lesson plans and to drive instruction. In addition, the CAN will be used to plan and design courses to address the diverse needs of each student, differentiate instruction, and promote academic success in order to close achievement gaps.

BWCCS will provide tutorial classes as part of the after-school program and Saturday Academy for its “at-risk” students. Students will be able to receive academic help. Counseling services, peer and one-to-one tutoring will be offered to re-enrolled drop-outs and those students whose performance is below grade level.

To discourage a student from dropping out of school, attendance will be monitored daily, and incentives will be offered to motivate students to ensure 100% attendance. Home visits will be made for students who have been absent for three days or more without notifying the school.

BWCCS will be a nurturing community and a safe haven for students and their families. The social worker will provide services to address students and their families’ social and emotional needs. The school will serve a large immigrant population by providing activities to acclimate students to their new environment. If there are health issues that prevent children from attending school on a regular basis, BWCCS will provide a health program to address students’ academic and behavioral needs. It will offer a culturally and linguistically supportive environment where students can relate their experiences to national and international issues.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Brooklyn World Community Charter School will reach out to the community by collecting signatures from families whose children will be eligible to enter the sixth grade for the school year 2013 – 2014. To date we have collected over 100 signatures in support of our school. We are waiting to meet with the District Congressman to present the school concept.

The results of the Parents Survey showed that 66.6% of the parents surveyed were in favor of daily healthy and nutritious meals. 60.3% wanted advanced educational programs and 60% a wide range of sports activities for their child. More than half (50.7 %) of parents wanted to be more familiar with their child’s school curriculum, were advocates for their child receiving support in school with his or her homework, and were in favor of a creative arts program.

Members also attended Community Board #5 meetings where community concerns were presented and discussed. Informational flyers about BWCCS have been posted in public places such as libraries and community newspapers. It was also posted on a Facebook page accessible to former District 19 Essence School graduates and their families.

Signature _____ Date _____

Pamela Diaz (Lead Applicant)

Attachment I

Community School District 19

December 9, 2011

Brooklyn World Community Charter School Parent Survey

BWCCS will be a charter school located in Brooklyn serving students in grades 6 to 8. Its mission is to empower its students to be scholars, thinkers and life-long learners. Through a rigorous curriculum, with an emphasis on investigation of world communities and cultures, we prepare our students to appreciate and respect themselves and others, and to succeed in college and careers.

What are you looking for in a middle school? What do you consider the five most important elements in a middle school? Please check off the five most important elements below:

- Participate more actively in my child's daily education
- Be more familiar with my child's school curriculum
- Have my child receive support in school with his or her homework
- Cooperative learning and conflict-resolution workshops
- Research skills
- Advanced educational programs
- Creative arts program
- A wide range of sport activities
- Daily healthy and nutritious meals at school
- An extended day program

BROOKLYN WORLD COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Brooklyn World Community Charter School (BWCCS) empowers its students to be scholars, thinkers and life long learners. Through a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on investigation of world communities and cultures. We will prepare our students to appreciate and respect themselves and others, and to succeed in college , careers and life.

OPENING DOORS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THE WORLD
SEPTEMBER, 2013



BRIDGING THE WORLD'S COMMUNITIES
SETTING THE STANDARDS IN
EDUCATIONAL REFORM

LOCATION:
EAST NEW, BROOKLYN, NY
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