

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY

Date of Submission: June 25, 2012

I. Applicant Information

a. Lead Applicant Information:

Virginia Montague

b. Media Contact:

Danna M. Wood Webb, Esq.
webbwebbwood@aol.com (914) 371-2925

c. Members of the Applicant Founding Group

Conrad Graves, PhD, Proposed Board Member, Chairperson. Dr. Graves is a retired Professor and Harlem Community Leader for over 40 years. He is the former Chairperson of the Dept. of Social Work at Kean University and the President of the Central Harlem Inter-Agency Programs Inc. Dr. Graves has a deep understanding of the social, health and development needs of students.

Virginia Montague, Proposed Board Member, Lead Applicant. Ms. Montague is a long time Harlem resident a political consultant, and community activist for over thirty-five years and former President of The 100 Black Women of New York.

Selvin R. Osbourne, M.P.A., Proposed Board Member, Finance Committee. Mr. Osbourne is the Chief Financial Officer for Public Interest Projects, Inc and has extensive experience managing Not-For-Profit Financial Agencies for over twenty years.

Stephen Whitter, Proposed Board Member, Finance Committee. Mr. Whitter is Vice President-Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors. Earlier, as President, Tampa Bay Men's Club, his organization developed a mentoring program for elementary, junior high and high school African American males.

Danna M. Wood Webb, Esq. MSW. JD. Proposed Board Member, Legal Committee. Ms. Wood Webb has substantial experience as a Social Work Educator and is currently a practicing Attorney.

Brenda Smith, Ed.D., Planning Team Member. Dr. Smith retired as School Superintendent, after serving 40 years as an educator. She also worked as Deputy Personnel Director of Harlem Hospital Center. She is presently an NGO (Non-Governmental) Representative to the United Nations.

Arnette F. Crocker, Ed.D., Proposed Board Member, Education Committee. Dr. Crocker is the Founding Principal of the Women's Academy of Excellence serving grades 9-12 in the Bronx, NY. She is also a member of the original planning team for the single gender H.S. School.

Belinda K. Amoako, M. Phil., Proposed Board Member, Education Committee. Ms. Amoako is an Assistant Principal in a New York City H.S and former Academy Director in a Chartered K-8 School in the Bronx, NY. Her specialties are in Special Education and Mathematics. She is presently pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Education at CUNY Graduate Center.

Andrea Lawrence, M.S.Ed., M.S. Special Education. Proposed Board Member, Education Committee. Ms. Lawrence is an Assistant Principal of a Middle School in the Bronx, NY. She is presently pursuing a Ph.D. in School and Educational Leadership.

Kordai I. DeCoteau, D.P.M., Proposed Board Member, Education Committee. Dr. DeCoteau serves the Harlem Community by providing lectures on Health & Wellness to children and parents. She is a mentor in the Rites of Passages program for young children.

Maxine Johnson-Harris, M.S.LIS, M.S.Ed.SDA, M.Div. Proposed Board Member, Education Committee. She is the Founding Principal of the 2002 H.S. for Teaching and Professions, Bronx NY. Mrs. Johnson-Harris was a member of the planning team for Bronx Leadership Academy H.S. II.

d. Proposed Board of Trustees- Potential BOT members are indicated above, except **Brenda Smith, Ed.D.**

e. Replication or Network Information- N/A—the school is not a replicated school.

f. Application History:

The application has been submitted twice prior in 2010 and 2011, and was withdrawn.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed school name: Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School

b. Proposed school location: NYC CSD 5

c. Planned grades and enrollment

Grades	Age-Range	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
6	10-12	100	125	125	125	125
7	11-13		100	125	125	125
8	12-14			100	125	125
Total		100	225	350	375	375

d. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s): N/A

e. Proposed School Mission

The mission of the Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School (DMPCS) is to provide a rigorous and progressive educational experience for middle school students in Central Harlem focused on scholarship, health and leadership. Our vision is for all of our students to graduate from middle school and enter high school prepared to strive for academic excellence, and participate as active leaders that will promote good health and wellness in themselves, their community and beyond.

f. School Overview

Dr. Muriel Petioni, graduated with a B.S. from Howard University in 1934, and graduated from Howard University Medical School three years later. In 1950, she set up a private practice in Harlem. She maintained this practice for forty years, tirelessly serving the Harlem community. A medical doctor, educator and community activist, she worked diligently to ensure that underserved communities receive proper medical attention and equitable access to healthcare.

Petioni served for thirty years as school physician in Central Harlem for the New York City Department of Health. Her pioneering spirit and steadfast commitment to excellence in the medical profession and her dedication to serving the Harlem community was the iconic force behind the concept of the Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School. Dr. Petioni's challenged community leaders to insure that the children of the Harlem community received the best care physically, mentally, medically and academically. It was on this principal that the charter school was founded. Historically, health disparities which have had the most significant impact on the Harlem community have been described as a reflection of an under developed country. The morbidity rates among the Harlem adult population have continued to exceed the levels in similar urban communities in heart disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes influenza and pneumonia. In more recent years, significant health disparities have had a major impact on the school community where children at the elementary levels and above are plagued by high rates

of obesity, diabetes and hypertension. It is based on these alarming and continuing trends in the Harlem community that the DMPCS deems Health education necessary as a crucial component of the curriculum. The DMPCS approach to learning will be engaging, collaborative, experiential and performance based. This will support and develop the three pillars on which the school was founded:

- **Scholarship:** to champion student academic success and advance post secondary education, preparing all students for admission into the high school of their choice
- **Health:** to collaborate with Harlem YMCA, Harlem Hospital and other community organizations such as Mentoring Medicine to support students in developing Healthy Habits as a gateway to their success mentally, physically, socially and academically.
- **Leadership:** students will demonstrate their leadership skills through their involvement in health focused community service activities, citizenship projects, and multicultural events unique to the history of Harlem which includes a collaborative relationship with The Schomburg Center in Black Culture.

DMPCS will engage families and students and start the academic development process beginning at enrollment, where we will implement some simple diagnostic assessments and start working on developing individual student development plans and targeted interventions prior to and during our summer bridge program. Teachers will engage in on-going professional development to provide students with a rigorous core curricula aligned with the Common Core Standards. They will facilitate students in exploring essential questions, investigation and analyzing real world problems around an interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics project-oriented curriculum. We understand that students will come to DMPCS with deficiencies in various areas and we will provide the necessary intervention services and programs necessary to support their individual needs. And by individualizing instruction and having staff dedicated to supporting and aligning support for every student, we will create a school where all students can't thrive. DMPCS will create an environment that is nurturing and supportive of students academically, mentally, physical and socially, that will drive them to academic and developmental success.

g. Target Population

The school intends to target the students in the Central Harlem Community because of the health disparities and the low performances in ELA and Math. On the NYSED ELA and Math tests in grades 3-8 for 2010-2011, performance data indicates that students in the District still lag behind the city. The district did not make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) in Mathematics for the 2010-2011 and will be identified as a DINI (year 1) if it fail to make AYP for the 2011-2012. According to the NYSED, the demographic in which the school is located the tested students in ELA, and Math, 58% were Black, 37% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 2% White. The demographic in which our school will be located has been identified by NYSED as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI) in ELA for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 (Year 5). Looking further into the student demographics, the percentage of ELL students is 11% and the percentage of students with disabilities is approximately 23%. The percentage of students considered economically disadvantaged is approximately 94% with 80% who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

III. Enrollment and Retention of students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the Free and Reduced price Lunch program DMPCS will engage in a focused effort to enroll English Language Learners (ELLs), Students with Disabilities (SWD), and those eligible for free and reduced lunch program (FRPL). Staff will contact coordinators, administrators, and teachers in Harlem-based elementary schools for recommended enrollment. Team members will continue to bring awareness to the students we intend to serve by speaking at various community venues (community centers, churches, district community board meetings, Elem. school PTA meetings). The media will also be used to bring awareness to DMPCS' mission and vision for the school district community we intend to serve. The Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School website, <http://www.petionics.org>, is in the process of being revised to reflect our present school proposal. Our aim is to inform parents/guardians of children with special needs that our school will welcome and support their individual needs while providing them with a well-balanced and relevant educational experience. All communication materials will be in multiple languages that are synonymous with our community of Spanish and French speakers. Materials for our community of Africans that share several dialects will also be addressed for translations. DMPCS staff will seek the assistance of the appropriate language speaking community-based organizations to help us in our communication efforts.

We will provide a strong academic program that supports the needs of all learners and engages them in active learning, and we think that a strong supportive program will be our first step in retention, we also intend to work with groups such as Advocates for Children in helping to assure that we are recruiting students with special needs but also in program design and implementation that we are meeting those needs. We will also work with groups, including the African Services Committee a non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community in New York City and beyond will be another support system for DMPCS, in recruiting serving and retaining English Language Learners.

We will provide the resources and support for students with special needs in accordance with Federal and State regulations including 504 plans, IEP plans, and LEP/ELL mandates. Our school will offer Integrated Collaborative Teaching (ICT) when needed and ESL services in implementing a more inclusive program. DMPCS teacher will discuss student's academic needs and design learning plans to support them. Teachers and/or Counselors will meet with parents/guardians to discuss their child's progress report. Teachers generated assessments, differentiated instruction, after school tutoring and/or mentoring, and summer enrichment will be implemented as needed. We will connect our parents with available resources to aid them in monitoring their child. Our aim is to have an online system for posting students progress, attendance, achievements and other relevant information. We do not want any of our students to slip between the cracks therefore, effective communicate will be a high priority.

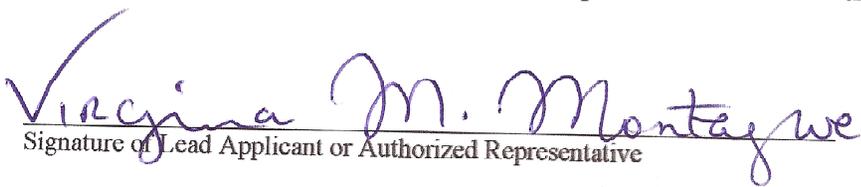
V. Public Outreach and Community

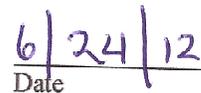
The Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School began as a grassroots movement initiated by a meeting sponsored by the Central Harlem Inter-Agency Program, a community based organization and Region 10 of the NYC Department of Education where elected officials, appointed officials, religious leaders, business leaders, students and parents were invited to attend and discuss issues of concern regarding the educational needs of this community. Based on the students' assessment of their educational needs and the lack of the school system to adequately address these issues, a

planning team of education and community leaders came together to assess the interest in developing a charter school in Central Harlem.

Community Board #10 and District 5's Community Education Council support the proposed creation of DMPCS because they know the disparities that face the students in Central Harlem. They welcome an educational setting that will support student academic achievement. Because of the iconic stature of Dr. Muriel Petioni and the charter school's mission to help the children of Harlem achieve their full intellectual and social potential, the proposed school is enthusiastically supported by every elected official representing the Harlem community including Congressman Charles B. Rangel, former Governor David Paterson (then State Senator), former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, State Senator Bill Perkins, State Senator and Minority Democratic Senate Conference Leader John Sampson, Assemblyman and Manhattan County Leader Keith Wright, and City Council member Inez Dickens as well as community leaders Hazel Dukes, President NY State NAACP, Rev. Al Sharpton, the President of City College of New York, the Executive Director Harlem Hospital, the Harlem YMCA, the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and Columbia University School of Public Health, all enthusiastically support the school. Because of the iconic stature of Dr. Muriel Petioni and the charter school's mission to help the children of Harlem achieve their full intellectual and social potential, every elected official representing the Harlem community including Congressman Charles B. Rangel, former Governor David Paterson (then State Senator), former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, State Senator Bill Perkins, State Senator and Minority Democratic Senate Conference Leader John Sampson, Assemblyman and Manhattan County Leader Keith Wright, and City Council member Inez Dickens as well as community leaders Hazel Dukes, President NY State NAACP, Rev. Al Sharpton, a Baptist minister, civil rights activist, and television/radio talk show host, the Harlem YMCA, the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and Columbia University School of Public Health.

Obviously, sustained and continuous efforts of community outreach are critical to achieving our charter goals. Once again we will have town hall meetings that will be open to the Central Harlem community on July 5, 2012. A multi-language survey will be presented to the attendees for feedback. Revised press releases will be sent to local community based newspapers. We will collaborate with WHCR a local radio station based at City College that broadcasts directly to Northern Manhattan to schedule interviews with planning team members. Revised literature about the school will be distributed at grassroots organizations such as tenant association and block association meetings, local health and business fairs, social media networks, etc. A special effort will be made to reach underserved families in the community such as immigrants from West Africa and other African communities. Flyers and literature in African languages, and notices in African newspapers will be distributed through their individual social networks. Because of the reticence by these communities to reach out, a concerted effort to establish a relationship with them will be accomplished through their leaders. An on-going effort to keep the community informed will be accomplished through updating our social media outlets and contacts with other charter, elementary and parochial schools in the Harlem community.


Signature of Lead Applicant or Authorized Representative


Date