



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 07/06/2014

Last updated: 02/29/2016

Basic Contact and Application Information

Page 1

Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the full name for the proposed charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	The New Learning Paradigm Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	K - 5
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	540

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Dr. Cynthia McQueen	██████████	██████████
Public/Media Contact Person	Lori Singletary	██████████	██████████

List of Key Design Elements

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	Single Gender Classrooms
2	Foreign Language Studies
3	Success For All Reading Program
4	Extended School Days or Hours
5	Saturday Classes for struggling students

6	Uniforms for all students & staff
7	Potential Year round schedule
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

(No response)

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	The Board of Trutees is in investigating several CMO options, and it is our intent to determine the best fit for our mission before the due date of the application.
Partner Organization 1	(No response)
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

Proposed Board Chair Signature

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).



Date

2016/02/26

Thank you for completing this form.

I. Applicant Information

A. Goliath Singletary is currently serving in the United States Army - 30 years – and is the lead applicant. He resides at [REDACTED].

B. Lori D. Singletary is a retired City of Buffalo school teacher, community member and the media contact. She can be reached via e-mail at [REDACTED].

C. Applicant Founding Group Members

1. **Franklin R. Pratcher**, is a Jurist Doctorate, and is currently Senior Partner of Pratcher & Associates, P.C. Buffalo, N.Y.
2. **Glendell Williams MA** is a retired Buffalo City school teacher after 28 years of service. She is a community volunteer who tutors high school students in math after school and privately.
3. **Karima Amin**, is an educator, curriculum consultant, justice advocate and community activist living in Buffalo, N.Y.
4. **Goliath Singletary** is currently serving in the United States Army, 30 years. Recently promoted to Master Sergeant and is currently on assignment. Mr. Singletary is also a retired nurse from Erie County Medical Center, (ECMC) and worked for UPS for 31 years until his retirement. The father of three, he is a native of Buffalo N.Y. who graduated from Kensington high school and attended Syracuse University.

D. Initial Board of Trustees

1. **Dr. Cynthia McQueen, Proposed Board Chair, MA, EdD** is a native of Buffalo N.Y. with 30 years of teaching and administrative experience. Her teaching career started at School 6 and School 71 in Buffalo N.Y. Dr. McQueen has been called to serve children in many capacities: College Professor, St. Augustine University 2011 through 2012 school year, Vice Principal from 2001-2002 Broughton High School, Raleigh N.C., Special Education teacher and Guidance Counselor, Darcell Middle School Toronto, Canada earning her Vice Principal ship just prior to returning to the United States. She holds a Doctorate in education and is currently serving as Principal of Torchlight Academy, a K-6 charter school located in Raleigh NC. Her 14 years of charter school experience includes but is not limited to; teacher recruitment, curriculum development and oversight, Parent relations, and compliance with all state and federal regulations. Education: Dr. McQueen also holds two masters degrees, in English and Communications 1980-1982 from Canisius College, a BA in Communications also from Canisius College 1974-1978,
2. **Franklin R. Pratcher, Proposed Vice Chair, Senior Partner of Pratcher & Associates, P.C 1133 Kensington Avenue Buffalo, New York 14215** is duly Licensed to Practice Law in the State of New York as of September 12, 1977. His educational background includes; State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, Amherst New York, August, 1973-December, 1976. Graduate Class of 1977. Degree: Jurist Doctorate. Area of Study: Real Estate, Criminal Law, Tax Law, State and Local Government, Personal Injury, Corporate Law. Past President of the National Bar Association. State University College of New York at Buffalo, January, 1970 – December, 1972 Graduate Class of 1973: Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts. Cum Laude Graduate 1973. Burgard Vocational High School, Buffalo, New York Diploma: Federal Aircraft and Power Plant License
3. **Glendell Williams City of Buffalo Teacher (retired) Proposed Treasurer** Most of her teaching experience was in the fourth and fifth grade. During her 28 years of teaching she would regularly conduct an after-school tutoring for struggling students. Education: BA in Education, Buffalo State College, MA Medaille College. In 2006 The Lota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. honored her with the, “Apple for the Teacher Award”.
4. **Karima Amin, Proposed Secretary**, is an educator, curriculum consultant, and justice advocate. Education: BA. English and Secondary Education - University of Buffalo 1969. MA. Urban Education and Curriculum Development – University of Buffalo. She has served in a variety of schools throughout the Buffalo area including Lafayette High School, Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts, Build Academy, and Martin Luther King Jr. Multicultural Institute. Ms. Amin has received numerous awards for her 30 years of dedication to education, community service, and the arts. Her biography is featured in ‘Who’s Who Among African Americans’.

5. **Mrs. Lori Singletary, *Proposed member*** is a retired certified teacher of the Buffalo School Board. She successfully collaborated with students, parents, teachers, and administrators, to determine student needs, develop tutoring plans, and assess student progress. Identified, developed, and implemented intervention strategies, tutoring plans, and individualized education plans (IEPs) for students. Education: Associate Degree in Education 1993, Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education 05/1995, Master Degree in Computing Education 05/1996 all from Buffalo State College, Buffalo, N.Y.

E. Replication or Network Information - N/A

F Application History - N/A

II. Proposed Charter School Information

A Proposed School Name - The New Learning Paradigm Charter School

B. Location

Charter schools across the country and schools in general face many challenges when trying to achieve diversity. We believe part of the answer to achieving a more diverse student body is the location of the school. Our desire is to be located along the Main Street corridor in the heart of the city of Buffalo. The objective is to attract students and families from the predominately Eastside of Buffalo, which is made up of Black students and families, and the Westside of Buffalo which is predominantly Latino students and families. It is also our hope that a location on or near the main transit routes in the city will provide easy access for the various communities that make up the city's population. Our goal is to be located in the 14209 ZIP Code.

Our proposed board chair, has traveled extensively, nationally and internationally, which has allowed her to examine some of the best practices for facilities development. Our proposed Board of Trustees have been involved in discussions with construction companies who specialize in school buildings to determine the best designs for an optimal learning environment. The Board of Trustees would like to reserve the option to be placed in a Buffalo city school district facility if it finds a facility that meets the above requirements and is favorable to parents.

C. Planned Grades and Enrollment

One of the main elements of the school's success will be; uniformed staff members serving uniformed students in ***single gender classrooms***. The proposed Board of Trustees is convinced, that these two elements will bring about improved classroom management and aid the students in their focus. While the debate of single gender classrooms continues, we believe there is enough evidence to support this innovative practice, like the study done by the University of Pennsylvania.

Researchers traveled to Seoul South Korea, where students are RANDOMLY assigned either to single-gender or to coed high schools. The assignment is truly random, and compulsory. Students cannot "opt out" of either the single-gender format or the coed format. The researchers recognized that the random assignments create the opportunity to compare single-gender schools with coed schools, without the usual confounding variables which would accompany any attempt at a similar comparison among North American schools. All the schools in the study are publicly-funded; none of them charges any fees or tuition. There were no differences in socioeconomic background or prior academic achievement between students attending single-gender schools and those attending coed schools.

The results demonstrated that girls attending girls' schools were significantly more likely to attend a 4-year college compared with girls attending coed schools (Cohen's $d = 0.5$, $p < 0.01$). Likewise, boys who graduated from boys' schools were significantly more likely to attend a 4-year college compared with boys who graduated from coed schools (Cohen's $d = 0.8$, $p < 0.01$). All these effects remain significant after controlling for eligibility for free school lunches, prior academic achievement, and other demographic and student parameters. Boys at boys' schools also earned significantly higher test scores compared with boys at coed schools; likewise, girls at girls' schools also earned significantly higher test scores compared with girls at coed schools. To read the researchers' conclusions and review the full details of the study go to

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13524-012-0157-1> - It was published in October 2012 by the journal *Demography*.

While single gender classrooms may not be the answer for all students, those families who choose the New Learning Paradigm Charter School will have the opportunity to make such a choice.

The rubric below demonstrates how this will be achieved during the first five years of operation.

PLANNED SINGLE GENDER CLASS GRADES AND ENROLLMENT

Grade Range	Age	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
Single Gender (SG) Classrooms		BOYS	GIRLS								
K	4-6	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
1st	5-7	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
2nd	6-8	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
3rd	7-9	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
4th	8-10	20	20	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
5th	9-11	0	0	20	20	25	25	25	25	30	30
6th	10-12	0	0	0	0	25	25	25	25	30	30
7th	11-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	30	30
8th	12-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	30	30
Total per SG classroom		100	100	120	120	175	175	235	235	270	270
Total Overall Combined		200		240		350		470		540	

D. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization

The proposed Board of Trustees and the founding applicants are investigating possible relationships with a non-profit CMO. We believe that this may be the best strategy for our initial five-year term because it would allow administrators and board members to focus on the mission, the students and their families. The challenge remains to find a partner organization whose goals and objectives align with the mission of the New Learning Paradigm Charter School. If this objective is not achieved prior to the due date to complete our application we will end our pursuit for a CMO and complete the application with resources and partnerships from the Buffalo area.

E. Proposed School Mission

“The mission of the New Learning Paradigm charter school is to provide the proper cultivation of the gifts and talents of the individual student through the acquisition of knowledge. To aid the

student in coming closer to fulfilling their own unique purpose that will provide proper service to self, family, community, nation and the globe while experiencing the Joy of Learning.”

At the root of this mission statement is a shift from the understanding that education is what we put into a child, to the realization that it is our responsibility as teachers, administrators and parents, to provide the students with a substrate that will allow expression of the child’s hidden gifts and talents. This we believe is at the root of the loss of the *Joy of Learning*, learning the knowledge of ones self. **Latin prefix of education is - educo: to draw out, lead out, march out / bring up, /**

F. School Overview – Reading is First

Implement Success for All -The highly acclaimed Success For All reading program was developed by educational and psychological researchers at the Johns Hopkins University. Though the cornerstone of the Success For All (SFA) program is reading, the whole-school improvement model weaves together four essential strategies to help ensure the success of students served. The New Learning Paradigm Charter School (NLPCS) will utilize the Success For All (SFA) Program. Success for All was evaluated in a three-year randomized control trial, the "gold standard" of research, funded by the U.S. Department of Education between 2002 and 2006. Students in Success for All schools achieved at significantly higher levels than similar students in control schools. The difference in only three years was enough to cut the black-white achievement gap in half. (Borman, Slavin, Cheung, Chamberlain, Madden, and Chambers 2007). The SFA program has been successful in significantly improving learning outcomes in reading for students across the country with student population demographics that are very similar to those students who will be enrolled in the NLPCS. Strong results in math achievement scores have also been found within several schools and systems around the country. One strong example is Central Elementary in Allentown. The school was able to turn around test scores as a result of intensive SFA interventions: From 2009-2010 to 2010-2011: 1) the percentage of African American students scoring at or above proficient rose 10.1 percentage points in reading and 21.3 in math. 2) Latino students saw a 6.8 percentage-point gain in reading and an 8 percentage-point gain in math. 3) Students from low-income families improved also, gaining 6 percentage points in reading and 11.2 in math. Thus, it is the plan and intent NLPCS to produce similar results.

*These data along with supporting tables can be found at: [http://www.successforall.org/Marketing-Pages/Success-Stories-\(1\)/SS-Central/](http://www.successforall.org/Marketing-Pages/Success-Stories-(1)/SS-Central/)

Extended Study Opportunities: 185 school days, hours of operation for classes will be from 7:30 am – 3:45 pm. Saturday Academy will be conducted for 8 weeks prior to the end of grade test for struggling students from 9am-12pm.

NLPCS will be a school where the opportunity to study languages will be available. We believe that the study of language expands the mind, prepares students to be global citizens and attracts families of various cultures. Our initial focus will be on Latin & Spanish, but in near future years language study will include Braille, sign language French and Arabic. Parental input and guidance will be essential in determining areas of language study.

Part of our discussion on the school overview is found in section **C Planned Single Gender Class Grades and Enrollment** (note the discussion on single gender class rooms).

Additional assessments tools under consideration are NWEA/MAP and Reading 3D.

G. Target Population

All students are welcome at NLPCS regardless of race creed class or color. It is our desire to improve diversity opportunities by employing a broad section of the representative population. We will reach out to Spanish speakers by promoting the advent of our school through Spanish media. We will reach out to the underserved through a variety of means, which will include but not be limited to social service low income housing developments, community-based organizations and public access mediums.

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.

Describe the schools strategies to attract and recruit its students, specifically:

- a. Those identified in the school’s mission – The best way to retain students is to provide an excellent education service in an environment that is; secure, inviting and receptive to input from the families we serve. This will provide the most effective form of advertising “word of mouth”.
- b. Students with disabilities – we believe that parent feedback, to determine their level of satisfaction, is a key to success. We will establish parent committees in order to garner feedback through focus groups

and surveys where administrators are not in attendance, so that parents may speak freely and teachers and staff get a true sense of the service we provide. Parent volunteers will be provided uniforms so that they will feel part of the school's culture. All literature will clearly state that there are no barriers to students with special needs. We will partner with community based organizations to assist our board and staff members with best practice methods to attract these and retain these students.

- c. English language learners – we believe that learning the culture of others through peer-to-peer learning strategies is an effective way to break down barriers and establish long-term friendships. By incorporating culturally sensitive lessons and acknowledging certain cultural holidays and important figures in the history of other cultures we will foster a sense of inclusion.
- d. Students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced price lunch program – it is our intention to qualify for the ‘free and reduced lunch program’. School meals are often the best meals of the day for children that qualify under the guidelines of this program. By offering breakfast, we will encourage families to arrive early to school in order to begin an orderly day.
- e. Provide before and after school services –
- f. Head Start Partnerships - We have approached area Head Start organizations, (Bethel Head Start and Holy Cross Head Start) and discussed the possibility of becoming the feeder school for their programs. We will continue these efforts with other Head Start leaders.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

There have been several public meetings and public appearances by board members where parents and community members were asked to provide feedback and ideas about the kind of school they would want to see in the Buffalo area. 2000 fliers were produced with English on one side and Spanish on the other. The flier described the proposed school and provided a toll free number (866-850-7056) so parents could call, get information in English or Spanish, and leave their comments. Perspective board members also held three meetings at the Merriweather public libraries where they fielded questions and took input from concerned community members. The meetings were designed around this basic question “what do you want to see in a charter school”. Some attendees participated via Skype and phone. Lori Singletary was invited to speak at the monthly District Parent Coordinating Council (DPCC), meeting and received the endorsement for NLPCS. From that meeting she was asked to appear on the Byron McIntyre show which is a weekly public access television program. The group provided an online petition, which allowed community members to post comments and provide feedback on the schools educational plans. Many of the commentators expressed interest in enrolling their children in the school.

See the online petition: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/new-learning-paradigm>

The first Thursday of May 2015 Mrs. Singletary went on “Eye On the Prize” radio show on WUFO 1080 AM. Board members detailed the curriculum and answered questions about possible locations and the plan population to be served.

V. Signature and Date


Mr. Goliath Singletary

February 26, 2016

Date

APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
LORI SINGLETARY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
GOLIATH SINGLETARY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
CYNTHIA MCQUEEN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
FRANKLIN F. PRATCHER	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
GLENDALE WILLIAMS	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
KARIMA AMIN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION***Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or None)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)
RETIRED BUFFALO BOARD OF ED	TEACHER	PRINCIPAL	TRUSTEE
U.S. ARMY	MILITARY INSTUCTOR	Trustee	TREASURER
Torchlight Acad Charter Schl	PRINCIPAL	Trustee	BOARD CHAIR
PRATCHER & ASSOC	ATTORNEY	Trustee	VICE CHAIR
RETIRED BUFFALO BOARD OF ED	TEACHER	Trustee	TRUSTEE
RETIRED BUFFALO BOARD OF ED	TEACHER	Trustee	SECRETARY

LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
3 YEARS	NO
5 YEARS	Yes

Table 2: Public Outreach Information

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
01/16/2016 meeting date	Sent flyers to community based organizations serving children and families with special needs. Hosted a meet/greet to introduce team and solicit feedback on application.	ABC Community Center 1000 Avenue A NYC CSD 5	Families of students with disabilities, community members	Need for family partners	Add a family liaison to the staff who is bi-lingual	22 families of students in grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
07/01/2015- 10/30/2015	Distributed flyers in English & Spanish to homes and organizations	East and west sides of Buffalo	parents and guardians of students who live near where we propose to open	Received several call on our toll free line	Informed participants Of application process	27 calls
6/4/15	Distributed 500 flyers in Spanish & English to inform them of the public meeting	Public Library 1324 Jefferson Ave. Buffalo, NY	Zip codes: 14201, 14203, 14204	Received several call on our toll free line	Organized list & continue to keep in touch on application progress	32
9/2015	Distributed 1000 flyers in Spanish & English	Public Library 1324 Jefferson Ave. Buffalo, NY	Zip codes: 14202, 14207, 14208, 14209	School's ability to deliver quality services to children		13
Oct 2014	Lori Singletary spoke at the District Parent Coordinating Council Meeting	Science museum	Students and parents Who are part of that group	Received the endorsement of the DPCC	Continue to	
5/5/15	Lori was interview on the WUFO radio show Eye On the Prize	Radio	Buffalo audience	We received calls into our toll free number		1,000
9/19/15	Lori spoke at a Math and Science expo	Public Library 1324 Jefferson Ave. Buffalo, NY	Buffalo parents and students	Received support on our online survey		500



"Un Iman Para La Educacion En Buffalo, N.Y."

COMIDA GRATIS Y TUTORÍA GRATIS

PROGRAMA DESPUÉS DE ESCUELA

CLASES DE LENGUAJES EXTRANJEROS

LABORATORIO DE COMPUTADORAS

AULAS DE UN SOLO GÉNERO

Un Nuevo
PARADIGMA DE EDUCACIÓN
ESCUELA CHARTER

LLEGANDO A BUFFALO, NUEVA YORK

ESCUELA GRATIS

Ayudenos a Traer De Vuelta El Gozo De Aprender | 866-850-7056



"A Magnet for Education in Buffalo"

FREE LUNCH & FREE TUTORING

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LESSONS

COMPUTER LAB

SINGLE GENDER CLASSROOMS

A New
EDUCATION PARADIGM
CHARTER SCHOOL
COMING TO BUFFALO, N.Y.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Help us bring back the Joy of Learning... Toll Free 866-850-7056