



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 06/12/2015

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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 or an Existing Education Corporation is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, brand new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

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

School Name	Sankofa Preparatory Academy for Rigorous Cognition Primary Charter School (SPARC-PCS)
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	K-5
Number of Students During Initial Term	300

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	Kenya M. Bradley	██████████	██████████
Public/Media Contact Person	Kerry James	516-778-8772	MrKMJames@aol.com

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.

(See pages 45-46 of the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	(No response)
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).

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Kenya M. Bradley" in a cursive script. The first name "Kenya" is written with a large 'K' and a stylized 'e'. The middle initial "M." is written with a large 'M' and a period. The last name "Bradley" is written with a large 'B' and a stylized 'y'.

Date

2015/06/21

Thank you for completing this form.

Letter of Intent
 Sankofa Preparatory Academy for Rigorous Cognition Primary Charter School (SPARC-PCS)
 June 23, 2015

I Applicant Group Information:

- a. **Applicant Information:** [REDACTED] n. [REDACTED] / ABA Therapist/Special Educator
- b. **Public Contact:** Kerry James 516-778-8772
- c. **Applicant Group Information:** Kenya M. Bradley MEd/Lead Applicant. I have been an educator for over twenty years. I have worked in public schools, private schools and BOCES servicing typical developing and special needs children of all ages. I owned and operated a group family daycare from 1997-2006. At the present time I am a Home-based service provider offering Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Special Instruction to infants and toddlers on the Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disabilities. As the founder of SPARC-Primary Charter School, I will transition from Board of Trustees to Operational Director.
- d. **Initial Board of Trustee Information:** {See Attachment Table #1} New Applicant and Prospective School Trustee Background Information Sheet and Signed Assurance Statement attachments for all proposed trustees.
- e. **Replication or Network Information:** We are not a replication or network group.
- f. **Applicant History:** We have not previously applied for a charter.

II Proposed Charter School Information:

- a. **Proposed school name:** Sankofa Preparatory Academy for Rigorous Cognition Primary Charter School (SPARC-PCS)
- b. **Proposed school location:** We have been working diligently with a Real Estate broker and have identified three possibilities located outside of the Hempstead UFSD. Two are located outside of the boundaries of Hempstead UFSD and a third is located central to Hempstead UFSD and several other districts in need. Upon approval of the LOI, we will move forward with finalizing the ideal location for our educational plan.
- c. **Planned Grades and enrollment in each of the years of the prepared charter term:**

Grades	Ages	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
K	4-6	50	50	50	50	50
1	5-7	50	50	50	50	50
2	6-8	0	50	50	50	50
3	7-9	0	0	50	50	50
4	8-10	0	0	0	50	50
5	9-11	0	0	0	0	50
Total		100	150	200	250	300

- d. **Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s):** Not Applicable.

- e. SPARC Primary Charter School's *mission* is to provide children K-5 with a comprehensive educational foundation in a safe and exceptional integrated educational program. We will support the individual needs of each child including their academic, social/emotional and behavioral needs. SPARC-PCS strives to assist families in understanding their child's *strengths* and areas of need, encouraging each child to reach their full potential. SPARC-PCS scholars will strive for success and nothing less.
- f. **School Overview:** SPARC Primary Charter School is dedicated to a holistic approach to meet the needs of each scholar. SPARC-PCS will have a child-centered community where educators partner with parents to commit to a nurturing, individualized, and motivating atmosphere of rigorous instruction. The *organizational design* of the school will take aim to achieve academic excellence. SPARC-PCS will bridge the gap between general education, special education and English Language Learners. Educational plans will be provided for general education, special education and English Language Learners. Scholars will engage in lessons that adhere to the NYS Common Core educational learning standards, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Natural Environmental Teaching (NET) and culturally and linguistically age appropriate instruction. SPARC-PCS will serve a diverse population where all scholars will achieve at their maximum potential. The 100 scholars to enter SPARC-PCS for the 2016-2017 school terms will be placed in the least restrictive class according to their developmental milestones academically and socially. Classes will be structured in a Small Learning Communities model with a maximum of 16 students; looping will be implemented based on student need and school community feedback. There will be an extended school year beginning in the month of August; with a mandatory summer enrichment program which will provide scholars with exposure to the curriculum and culture. The school will have an extended academic day from 8:00am-4:00pm with one hour of daily enrichment/intervention. *School climate and culture* will be driven by the mantra "A strong school family builds a strong school community." We will drive success by creating an environment where failure is not an option; where success is recognized and rewarded publicly. A reward-based discipline system with a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct that holds scholars accountable and which is aligned with DASA and which promotes a positive culture and climate. The system of discipline will encourage self-reflection and self-governing resulting in behavioral improvement; peer mediation and public recognition and reward for making healthy choices. Our school will require mandatory uniforms for all students and a staff dress code that encourages school pride through the wearing of school colors or school paraphernalia. Teacher pay will be based on performance in addition to credentials and accountability of student success is the responsibility of all team members, thus support staff will be included in co-curricular activities and mentoring programs; and parents will be required to contractually agree to the support and commitment of each scholar's success. *Professional Development* will be ongoing and rigorous, and will take place every summer prior to the first day of school, as well as weekly full staff gatherings and

daily grade-level professional development meetings. Focus will be on curriculum review, data analysis, and common planning. **Parent Involvement** will be encouraged through open-door communication. Parents will be active members of the school community. They will have many opportunities to get involved in the education process including but not limited to meetings with teachers, participation in the Parent Counsel, advocacy, co-curricular support, and fundraising efforts as well as seek parent volunteers for recruitment committees, and public relations committees. The Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining at least one parent member and will employ two parent coordinators on staff at all times.

- g. Target Population/Community Served:** SPARC Primary Charter School will serve K-5 scholars with varying abilities, specifically those scholars identified as “at-risk.” Hempstead UFSD is our primary targeted population and community to be served. Hempstead UFSD is in crisis as the numbers from the 2013-2014 NYSED Student Information Repository System show. SPARC-PCS will assist in alleviating the overcrowding of Hempstead Schools due to a sudden population growth which was expressed by Hempstead School Board members. The scholars will also hail from Nassau and Western Suffolk County school districts found to be severely underperforming.

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. According to the NYSED SIRS, in the 2013-2014 school year, of the 6,705 students enrolled in Hempstead UFSD, 61% were Hispanic or Latino, 35% were Black or African American, 3% were listed as White and 1% other ethnicities. There are 66% of students listed as economically disadvantaged (approx. 4,438) and 27% listed as Limited English Proficiency (approx. 1,794), and 12% of students were identified as having disabilities (approx. 773). Of the 6,705 students enrolled, 1,921 were enrolled in grades K, 1, and 2 collectively (approx. 25%). The demographics of the communities of Uniondale UFSD, Roosevelt UFSD, Wyandanch UFSD, Copiague UFSD, Amityville UFSD and Westbury UFSD are similar to that of Hempstead and SPARC-PSC would open its doors to those students as well.

To recruit from these populations, we will use a multi-lingual approach ensuring that all written correspondence is provided in both English and Spanish; providing live presentations with both English and Spanish speakers; access to our website with key facts and FAQs, a contact form and phone number where parents may contact the founding group directly for more information; presentations to community groups, civic organizations, faith-based organizations, libraries and service organizations, as well as the local colleges and adult programs where parents may frequent. It is part of SPARC-PCS’s mission to ensure that at least 10% of our total population includes students with disabilities and LEP students. It is also part of our mission to service a population of 70-80% of students who are listed as economically disadvantaged.

SPARC-PCS will offer free and reduced cost breakfast and lunch to eligible scholars. All meals including snacks will meet the appropriate nutritional requirements.

In our research and studies we have found that schools with proven success include a combination of academic excellence, strong parent/community support, and a school culture where every individual sees him or herself as important within the school community. Thus, we aim to ensure retention of all students by providing (1) curricula designed to be both rigorous and supportive; (2) differentiated instruction provided by highly qualified teachers in integrated co-teaching (ICT), small learning communities; (3) tutoring and mentoring programs that function as co-curricular programs; and (4) mandatory intervention programs for those students identified most at-risk. We will prepare our scholars to transition smoothly with academic readiness of critical thinking skills onto middle school and beyond. In addition, to ensure the ongoing support of parents and the community, we will employ two parents as parent coordinators, recruit at least two parents as members of the Board of Trustees, encourage an open-door policy of collaboration and communication with the Parent-Teacher Counsel, seek parent volunteers for recruitment committees, climate and culture committees, and public relations committees. We will also offer multi-lingual parental assistance programs including adult education programs in the evening and Saturdays where parents will be provided with parenting strategies and language support.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

a. Public outreach began in 2014 with an initial meeting with Hempstead's Mayor Wayne J. Hall, Sr. and Deputy Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr. who both agree that the situation with the Hempstead UFSD is critical and seeks relief for the overcrowding of the schools in the Village of Hempstead. Subsequent outreach included meetings with community civic organizations and religious organizations. Feedback was solicited in person via surveys and open discussions as well as via social-media sites, and a website created specifically for the SPARC Primary Charter School. In addition, we have arranged to provide on-site forums at many of the multiple-family dwellings throughout the community providing information in English and Spanish as well as surveying parents in local Laundromats, supermarkets, libraries, and restaurants. However, we understand that it is crucial for outreach to be ongoing to ensure parental support and communication.

b. The parents and community members of Hempstead UFSD are desperate for an alternative to the current educational system. On more than one occasion, community members expressed their concern for the fact that there exists two charter schools in Hempstead UFSD currently and the tax burden another non-profit would bring to property owners. However, when we explained that SPARC-PCS would be located outside of the community and students would attend school similar to being sent to private, Parochial, or Catholic school, the parents expressed great support and anticipation. In addition, some parents expressed that although there are two charter schools in Hempstead UFSD, enrollment is limited and the anticipation of another mass enrollment has left community members concerned about overcrowding. Thus, while there is some resistance to having another charter school and opponents to charter schools believe it will have a negative

financial impact on the existing public school entity, the majority of parents we have met with are not only in agreement, but are urgently seeking an alternative.

V. Lead Applicant(s) Signature and Date Signed

Kenya M. Bradley MEd
Print Name

Kenya M. Bradley MEd
Signature

6/8/2015
Date

The Letter of Intent must be signed and dated by the Lead Applicant(s) before uploading the document into the portal.

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION							
*Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees							
NAME OF APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or No Continuing Role)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
Kenya M. Bradley		Self-Employed-ABA Therapist/Special Educator	Lead Applicant, MSED Foundation of Education, MSED School Counselor, Certified Special Ed K-12, BA Psychology, AAS Marketing, Business Owner, ABA Therapist/Special Educator, Teacher of children of all ages, Worked in public schools, private schools and BOCES, Developed IFSP and IEP, Formulate and implement Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) and NYS Alternate Assessments, provided professional development, children and family advocate.	Operations Director	Trustee	TBD	No
Lisette Gali		Senior Billing Coordinator	AAS Early Childhood Education, Teacher Assistant Certification, Church Youth President, Youth Community Advocate, Vacation Bible School Teacher, Intervention, Bulling and College Forums, Hygene Classes, Community Service- Church Pantry, ATB Test Administrator, Real Estate Broker, Notary Public, Fluent in Spanish and knowledge of ASL Proud mother of two.	Trustee	Trustee	TBD	Yes
Kerry M. James		Marketing Director	BBA in Marketing, Business Owner, Business Developer, Skilled negotiator, Brand Developer, Father of two school-aged children, Assistant Youth coordinator at Faith Place Church, High School Football trainer and private coach, career mentor, college coursework included psychology, marketing, advertising and promotions.	Trustee	Trustee	TBD	Yes

