Letter of Intent

The Whole Elephant Charter School

Submitted to the Charter School Office of the New York State Education Department at June 25, 2012

I. Applicant Information

Lead Applicant(s) Information:
Dr. Lotus King Weiss, Ph.D., American Cancer Society Scholar; Founder of the Whole Elephant Institute; CEO of the Korean Community Center of New York; President of the Lotus Chinese School

Media Contact: celestrialwater@gmail.com

Application Founding Group:
Dr. Lotus King Weiss: Lead Applicant/Proposed Board Member

Dr. Weiss was born in Mainland China in 1967; she had the opportunity to study at the best elementary school, middle school and medical schools in China prior to her admission with full scholarship and tuition waiver at the age of twenty-one, into the graduate school at the University of Florida where she obtained her Ph.D. degree four years later; she subsequently entered Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital where she first carried out her post-doctoral research and rapidly rose as a young star in the field of cancer research; her innovative research discoveries were frequently published in the top science journals such as “Science” and “Cell”; she was the first recipient of the Renowned Claflin Distinguished Scholarship which was awarded to outstanding female scientists who are also young mothers, at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital; she became a mother in 1995 when she also became a young faculty member at the Department of Genetics of Harvard Medical School; her academic teaching experiences started even when she was only a graduate student; after she became a faculty member at Harvard Medical School, she taught graduate students, postdoctoral fellows as well as research fellows in the field of pediatric surgery in the area of biology and research; in 1999, she was elected to be the top 100 oversea scientists by the Chinese Academy of Science and was invited to run a national laboratory in Mainland China; she accepted a large new start up fund from the Benaroya Research Institute at the University of Washington, Seattle in 1999 and started to build her new laboratory in the field of Cancer Immunology; however, she soon became a target of persecution by the Chinese Communist Government because of her research in validating the profound health benefits associated with the practice of Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong) (http://www.thewholeelephant.info/Save-Sentient-Beings.html ); Dr. Weiss was put through a major trial of life, which, for a strong soul, is always the best gift for spiritual maturity; in 2005, under extremely difficult and even life-threatening situation, Dr. Weiss founded the Whole Elephant Institute in New York State, and started to plunge herself into the local Flushing community to carry out humanitarian services of all types, using her talents and knowledge as a scientist; she soon won the heart of many mothers and grandmothers here in Flushing because of her loving heart towards new immigrants’ children; in the past seven years, she has opened up many community-based education sites in Flushing, Brooklyn, Manhattan Chinatown and recently in Staten Island and Long Island; she gave seminars at elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools at Oceanside,
Dr. Weiss also actively participates in local civic groups’ activities and play an active role in keeping the Flushing Community safe and healthy;

**Dr. John Li:** Proposed Board Member and Advisor of Physics;
Dr. Li is a talented scientist of Modern Physics, currently serving as a consultant for the Levitation Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology; Dr. Li has been working closely with Dr. Weiss on the platform of the Whole Elephant Institute in the area of education and research; Dr. Li obtained his Ph.D. degree from California Institute of Technology; as a father, he is very passionate in education and has been researching into innovative ways of education of physics; Dr. Li will serve as the advisor of Dr. Weiss in designing the research program of Physics at the Charter School and serves as the Liaison between the Charter School and the California Institute of Technology;

**Dr. Yunteng Lao:** Proposed Board Member and Advisor of Civil Engineering;
Dr. Lao is a well-accomplished scientist in the field of Civil Engineering at University of Washington in Seattle; Dr. Lao also works closely with Dr. Weiss on the platform of the Whole Elephant Institute, which holds a mission to promote the essence of five thousands of years of traditional Chinese culture and to pave up a holistic path of mind-body-spirit; Dr. Lao has his expertise in computer science and statistic analysis; he will play a key role in helping Dr. Weiss with the set up of computer laboratories and engineering science education aspect in the Charter School; he will serve as the Liaison of the Charter School and the University of Washington in Seattle;

**Dr. Zhi-Ping C. Kolouch:** Proposed Board Member and Advisor in Chinese Medicine;
Dr. Koulouch is one of the best acupuncturists in the world and is a licensed practitioner in the field; she is also an author, a song writer and a musician of traditional Chinese instruments; her rich knowledge in the area of Chinese medicine as well as her expertise in music healing, the ancient Chinese science, culture and language will serve critical roles in assisting Dr. Weiss in the designing of a first-class Charter School that integrates the traditional cultures of both the East and the West;

**Dr. Gillian Small:** Proposed Board Member and Advisor;
Dr. Small was the graduate thesis advisor of Dr. Lotus King Weiss and now is the vice Chancellor of the CUNY system; she has a heart of major interest in the area of Chinese Language and Culture Education; Dr. Small will serve as the liaison between the Charter School and the CUNY education and research system, which will be able to provide great resource of education and research to the Charter School; and conversely CUNY will greatly benefit from a close connection to the most vibrant and resourceful Chinese Community in New York;

**Dr. Patricia K. Donahoe:** Proposed Board Member and Advisor;
Dr. Patricia K. Donahoe was the Postdoctoral Fellowship Sponsor/Advisor of Dr. Lotus King Weiss at the Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital; through her vision and efforts, the famous sex hormone, MIS (the Mullerian Inhibiting Substance) was identified at the molecular level; she was the editor of Dr. Lotus King Weiss’ earlier grant proposals and papers and exhibits profound passion for teaching English language; with the
upcoming retirement of her from the previous demanding research work, Dr. Donahoe shall play a key role in helping Dr. Weiss to design the Biological Science Education Program as well as in serving as the liaison between the Charter School and Harvard University;  
**Dr. Kelly Selman: Proposed Board Members and Advisors in Marine Biological Science:**  
Dr. Kelly Selman graduated from the Harvard Medical School before she became a faculty member at the Columbia University; she was the graduate coordinator who was responsible for the admission of Dr. Lotus King Weiss into the graduate program at the University of Florida in 1988, a critical step for Dr. Weiss to embark onto her path of scientific research here in America; she has been a dear friend for Dr. Lotus King Weiss ever since; her expertise in education, research, human resource management and her loving and caring heart will serve well in providing Dr. Weiss with timely advise in designing science education in the Charter School, particularly in the area of marine biological science, in which she and her husband Dr. Robin Wallace are both world renowned authority; Dr. Selman will also serve as the Liaison between the Charter School and the University of Florida at Gainesville;  
**Mr. Longfei Yang: Proposed Board Member and Adviser in Martial Art Education**  
Mr. Yang is a world-renowned martial artist; he practiced and taught martial arts in Africa prior to his coming to the United States and has been making major leaps in his personal cultivation as a martial artist; as a loving and caring father, he has been devoting major efforts in finding the best education environments for his two daughters and is a long-time supporter and friend of Dr. Weiss in the area of education; he will serve as the adviser for Dr. Weiss to design the Martial Art Education Program of the Charter School;  
**In addition,** five parents here in Flushing whose genuine wish for receiving the best education for their beloved children has been the backbone of the initiatives here proposed for the Charter School: **Mr. Yanming Si; Ms. Julie Zhu; Ms. Rongqing Gao; Ms. Chunming Song; Ms. Xuefang Jiang; Ms. Ling Lee; Ms. Tanya Yang**  
**The names of proposed members of the school’s initial board of trustees:**  
The founding group as presented above will be the school’s initial board of trustees.  

**Replication Information:**  
Work has been ongoing to set up similar Charter Schools at Manhattan, Long Island, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Bronx.  

**Application History of the Founding Members:**  
This is the first time application the founding members are submitting.  

**II. Proposed Charter School Information**  
**a. Proposed School Name:**  
*The Whole Elephant Elementary School at Flushing*  
**b. Proposed Location:** 144-03 Bayside Avenue; Flushing, NY 11354  
**c. Planned Grades and Enrollment:**  

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d. Academic and Community Program Partner: The Whole Elephant Institute; The Korean Community Center of New York; California Institute of Technology; Harvard Medical School; Columbia University; University of Washington; University of Florida;

e. Proposed School Mission: The Whole Elephant Elementary School at Flushing carries out the mission to establish an innovative education system which integrates the most frontier science of the West with the ancient science of mind-body-spirit from the East, with a goal to bring out the Master within each child whose unique passion and talent will be cultivated to blossom and whose mind will be cultivated to reach true maturity with great wisdom of human life and the entire universe.

f. School Overview: The Whole Elephant Elementary School at Flushing will officially open on September 1, 2013. One hundred and twenty students, with 20 students at each grade (k, 1, 2, 3, 4&5), will be admitted after Dr. Lotus King Weiss meet with the applicant students and their parents in one-on-one fashion and explain the mission and education program to the student candidates and parents; admission will be based upon first come first serve principle; the admitted students and their parents will first meet with the entire team of Master Educators consisting of leading experts and scholars in the field of Modern Life Science, Modern Physics, Computer Science, Engineering, Modern Western Medicine, Law, Western Philosophy and History, Chinese Language Arts, Chinese Martial Arts, Classical Chinese Dance, Chinese Music, Chess, Chinese Calligraphy, Painting and Poetry. Each student can choose one or more Master Educators as his or her primary Master, who will then be responsible for his or her individualized education program from k-5; each student will work closely with his or her Master(s) to develop the details of the curriculum tailored specifically for the student’s level and interest; all students will be offered standard lectures in listening, speaking, reading and writing of English and Chinese; all students are required to master both English and Chinese Language at our Charter School; open seminars will be given by Master Educators to all students in their area of expertise through out the school hours, at different levels, so that each student can choose, under the instruction of his or her primary Master, to receive the appropriate level teachings; science laboratories in the area of life science, computer science and Chinese Medicine will be established in the Charter School at the end of the first year, which will then be made available for all students. In the following four school years, an additional 20 students will be enrolled for each grade, therefore enrolling a total 220 students in Year 2, 300 students in year 3, 360 students in year 4 and 400 students in year 5; besides mastering the knowledge of each specialized field offered by the Master Educators, each student will work closely with his or her primary Master in personal upgrading of their mind and heart nature; the ancient cultivation way of Falun Dada will be offered to all students at the Charter School; seminars on all forms of righteous religions from both the West and from the East will be offered to all students; The classical Chinese Texts teaching human morality, such as Sanzijin (Three Character Sutra) and Dizigui (Disciplinary Guide to Disciples) will be offered to all students. When students graduate from our Charter School, they shall be young scholars in Chinese Language and Culture, and young scientists of life, besides meeting the standards required upon them by the State Education Department of New York. The innovation of the
education approach is based upon seven years of education research carried out by Dr. Lotus King Weiss at the Flushing Community; such an approach shall overcome the current existing blockage existing in most, if not all public schools: outdated contents of textbooks in all main fields of sciences; lack of individualized guidance and teaching to maximize the power of the young learners, especially young children from immigrants’ family facing major challenges in a new culture and language; not recognizing the immense power of the five thousand years of traditional Chinese culture in early childhood education; not recognizing the critical importance in moral education, wisdom education and disciple education; the loss of the art of education in the format of Master-Disciple relationship. The Motto is our Charter School is: to awake the Master within each Child; our operational principle is: Trust-Love-Respect.

III. The enrollment and retention of students with disabilities will be carried out by offering sufficient information to the local community sites who frequently offer services to the disabled children; two of our founding board members are both parents of disabled children and are in close connection with families of disabled children; most of the Chinese children in the Flushing community are English Language learners; our strong English language programs will naturally attract these children; similarly, most of the students among the new Chinese immigrants are eligible applicants for the free and reduced price lunch program. Our Charter School will offer colorful and healthy Chinese style lunch program (besides standard Western Style food) for all students since Chinese food is an important part of Chinese Culture.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

In the past seven years, Dr. Lotus King Weiss has been totally devoted to the Flushing Community in providing free education and legal services to families in Flushing; these families are primarily new immigrants from many different countries, such as China, Korea, India, Dominican, Porto Rica, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Morocco, Greece and Russia. With a steady progress of reaching out to the general public at an average of five to ten people a day, Dr. Weiss has been reaching out the over 10,000 people in Flushing Community in the past seven years, building a large trusting group of parents who treat Dr. Weiss as their own family members and are willing to leave their children in her care, with the children calling her Mom Teacher. Dr. Weiss has also interviewed many young parents and listen to their feedbacks regarding the obstacles they are encountering in sending their children to the American public school; the Charter School project has been announced for a whole year to all the parents Dr. Weiss have been working with and will be announced to the entire community in the next six months through the Whole Elephant Institute websites, the local Civic Meetings, letters to the local elected officials, phone calls, emails and letters to the members of the Whole Elephant Institute, and street-level booths in Flushing. Advertisement at several local newspapers, a local television station and two radio stations will also be carried out to announce this existing project, which is the fruit of the very dreams of the general public in Flushing. The entire team for the Whole Elephant Elementary School at Flushing sends best wishes to the reviewers of this application and is committed to make this project a great success!

June 24, 2012; Dr. Lotus King Weiss, Ph.D. Lead Applicant