



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.3516 Fax: 315.435.8582

www.ongov.net

Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

Ann Rooney
Deputy County Executive, Human Services

William P. Fisher
Deputy County Executive

Mary Beth Primo
Deputy County Executive, Physical Services

August 10, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Lead Applicant
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13202

Re: OnTECH Charter High School
NYS Education Department Charter Authorization

Dear Ms. ~~Eagen~~: *Ellen*

It is my pleasure to offer support for OnTECH Charter High School's request for charter authorization from the New York State Education Department. Your stated mission of addressing the issues of at risk students and those students who are struggling to perform in a traditional school structure, as well as serving the specific needs of children of refugee families would be a worthwhile addition to the educational options for the parents and children of Central New York.

OnTECH Charter High School's disciplined instructional environment, along with a keen focus on increasing retention and graduation rates, will be a benefit to our whole community. Students graduating with hands-on experience and critical thinking skills will go on to find employment and, more importantly, build careers in their chosen field.

Making a clear connection to the curriculum from industries indigenous to Central New York and fields in which we have growing regional expertise such as agriculture, environmental sciences and water quality is of particular importance in our ever changing economy. Growing a workforce who is prepared, educated and skilled in the jobs available in this community is a tremendous step forward in building industry centers and retaining our youth

Please know that I endorse the plans for OnTECH Charter High School and very much support the charter authorization request. OnTECH will be an asset to our community and the region.

Sincerely,

Joanne M. Mahoney

Joanne M. Mahoney
Onondaga County Executive

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JOHN A. DeFRANCISCO
SENATOR, 50TH DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
416 CAPITOL
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE 518-455-3511

DISTRICT OFFICE:
STATE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM 800
333 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202
315-428-7632

e-mail:
jdefranc@nysenate.gov

website:
defrancisco.nysenate.gov

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FINANCE

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CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME
& CORRECTIONS
JUDICIARY
LABOR
RULES

December 9, 2015

Ms. Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am writing to express my support for the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. I believe that OnTECH will be of great benefit to the City of Syracuse and an asset to our community.

It is my understanding that OnTECH Charter School will seek to address pressing issues such as the drop-out rate, the unemployment rate and the integration of refugees in to our community. Students who are struggling to perform successfully in a traditional school setting and children of refugee families could benefit greatly from a charter such as OnTECH.

Utilizing our regional expertise by connecting the school's curriculum to the Central New York agricultural industry, focusing on environmental and sustainable sciences and alternative energy would be a unique school model for the city of Syracuse. I believe that students who graduate with critical thinking skills and hands-on experience are better equipped to find employment, build careers, and have greater chances to pursue further education.

Finally, OnTECH Charter High School has an outstanding Board of Directors with a cross section of experiences and demonstrated success in their fields of endeavor, which makes it highly likely that the school will be successful.

Once again, I am pleased to support the OnTech Charter High School and ask that you keep informed of your progress.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. DeFrancisco".

John A. DeFrancisco
State Senator

JAD/dc



Onondaga County Sheriff's Office

Eugene J. Conway
Sheriff



Jason M. Cassalia
Undersheriff

Joseph B. Ciciarelli Chief Deputy Police Department
Kenneth C. Andrews Chief Deputy Civil Department
Esteban M. Gonzalez Chief Deputy Custody Department

February 25, 2016

Ellen K. Eagen, Esq.
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Sheriff's Office	315-435-3044
Police Department	435-3036
Human Resources	435-1767
Civil Department	435-3060
Custody Department	435-1717
Criminal Investigations	435-3081
Police Records	435-3010
Custody Records	435-1782

Dear Ms. Eagen,

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. The stated mission of OnTECH to address the issues of students struggling to perform in a traditional school structure, as well to meet the special needs of the children of refugee families, can be a valuable addition to the educational alternatives for parents and children of Central New York.

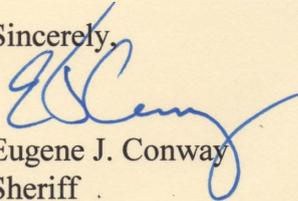
To the extent that OnTECH can provide a disciplined environment for instruction, encourage increased retention, with an increase in graduation rates, it will be a benefit to the community.

The educational approach of connecting the curriculum to industries indigenous to Central New York and where we have growing regional expertise such as agriculture, environmental sciences and alternate energy sounds like a good plan. I like the idea that students will graduate with hands-on experience and critical thinking skills that will help them to find employment, build careers and pursue further education relating to these fields.

Your success in this endeavor will be an asset to the Syracuse community and the region.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Sincerely,


Eugene J. Conway
Sheriff



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WILLIAM J. FITZPATRICK**

County of Onondaga
Criminal Courthouse, 4th Floor
505 South State Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
315-435-2470
Fax: 315-435-3969

February 19, 2016

Ellen K. Eagen, Esq.
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am writing this letter of support with regard to the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. The stated mission of OnTECH is to address at least two (2) specific issues that are of great concern to me. This Charter school would be especially responsive to students struggling to perform in a traditional school structure, and it would meet the special needs of the children of refugee families. This school will be a valuable addition to the educational alternatives for parents and children of Central New York. As the chief law enforcement officer of Onondaga County, I can tell you, without hesitation, that a safe learning environment and a good education is the first line of defense to the battle to keep kids safe, off the streets, and away from drugs, guns and gangs.

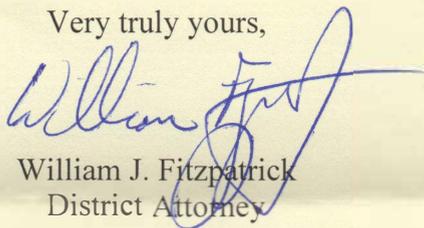
I believe that OnTECH can provide a disciplined environment for instruction, encourage increased retention, and at the same time, help increase graduation rates in our city. Integrating a curriculum in education to industries that are already imbedded in the Central New York region, such as agriculture, environmental sciences and alternative energy, is smart. I like the idea that students will graduate with practical experience and critical thinking skills that will help them secure employment, build careers and pursue further education relating to these fields.

A charter school like the one you are proposing will be an asset to the Syracuse community and the region. I have recently started a program in my office to reach out to immigrant communities in the city. It is important that refugees know that the criminal justice system can work for them. Initiatives like these will go a long way to rebuild our city.

Ellen K. Eagen, Esq.
February 19, 2015
Page 2.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William J. Fitzpatrick". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William J. Fitzpatrick
District Attorney

WJF/dh

JOHN KATKO
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1123 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3701

<http://katko.house.gov>



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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COUNTERTERRORISM AND
INTELLIGENCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3224

December 8, 2015

State University of New York
Charter School Institute
41 State Street / Suite 700
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Charter Authorizer:

My constituent, Ellen Eagan, Director of the Sustainable Sciences and Technology Foundation, contacted me in regards to receiving a charter for OnTECH Charter High School. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to Foundation, Sustainable Sciences and Technology Foundation's application.

Enclosed for your review please find documentation in regards to the charter for OnTECH Charter High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Katko".

John Katko
Member of Congress, NY-24

Enclosure



Onondaga County Legislature

J. Ryan McMahon, II

Chairman

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202

Phone 315.435.2070 • Fax 315.435.8434

February 25, 2016

Ellen K. Eagen, Esq.
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13203

Dear Ms. Eagen:

Please accept this letter of support for OnTech Charter High School. OnTech envisions more students graduating from high school with employable skills, more students getting jobs upon graduation, more local businesses hiring graduates which will increase regional employment statistics, and more young adults building careers and lives in Central New York and giving back to our community.

This approach to address the issue of students struggling in traditional school settings will be a valuable addition to education alternatives for parents and children in our region. Additionally, the educational approach of connecting curriculum to subjects of study that are relevant to the Central New York region and its industries is innovative and fulfills the need for a developed workforce.

The success of the OnTech Charter High School will be an asset to the greater Syracuse community. I am pleased to extend my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ryan McMahon, II".

J. Ryan McMahon, II
Chairman, Onondaga County Legislature

Frank L. Fowler
Chief of Police

Joseph L. Cecile
First Deputy Chief

Deputy Chiefs
Shawn M. Broton
Rebecca E. Thompson



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

07 December 2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School / Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of **OnTECH Charter High School**. It is important for our community to address the issues of students struggling to perform in a traditional educational structure as well as to recognize the unique circumstances faced by the children of refugee families.

Having served in the Syracuse Police Department for over 25 years in many capacities and now as Chief of Police, I can affirm to you that the quality of our schools is essential to the safety of our city. When our drop-out rate is high, it means that more young adults can end up on the streets and become likely candidates to get into trouble with the law. Every step must be taken to offer educational alternatives that can help respond to this issue.

I very much endorse the goal of OnTECH to enroll as many of those students who have dropped out or are on the bubble of dropping out in a program that will engage them. We also have a significant influx of immigrant families who pose unique challenges to educate. A school that recognizes these needs can offer a valuable support to this important community.

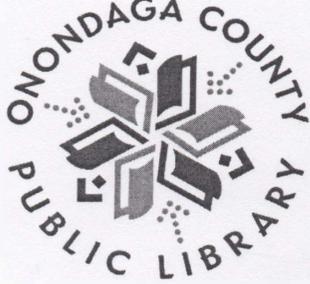
The idea of selecting a core curriculum connected to industries operating in Central New York and where we have growing expertise in our region is a good choice and can improve our regional unemployment rates.

Since the mission of the school is to identify students who have dropped out or who have unique needs that cannot be met in a traditional structure, it leads me to believe that such a school can be complementary and supportive to the City School District.

I wish you success going forward. Please let me know if I can help and keep me apprised of your progress.

Sincerely yours,

Frank L. Fowler
Chief of Police



ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Charles E. White Branch Library

763 Butternut Street

Syracuse, NY 13208

Phone

315-435-3519

Fax

315-435-3367

www.onlib.org

Susan Mitchell, Executive Director

Date: February 19, 2016

Ellen Eagan, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203
Re: Establishment of the OnTECH Charter High School

Dear Ms. Eagan,

The Charles E. White Branch Library provides services to Syracuse's most ethnically and racially diverse population. Many of the families are new immigrants who come to the library for book and media resources as well as for cultural enrichment, English language instruction, homework help, continued learning and ultimately citizenship preparation.

There is a documented achievement gap in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty and limited English language proficiency. The families in this community suffer from both these disadvantages, putting the students at risk of falling behind academically and aging out of high school before successfully completing the necessary coursework, which threatens their ability to graduate with a high school diploma. This creates a downward economic spiral that ultimately places them permanently on the periphery of society.

To alleviate this inequity, White Branch Library is happy to support efforts to create a non-profit Charter High School that helps at risk young adults academically and prepares them for continuing their education and not just for obtaining a job, but for successful well-paying careers.

A charter high school, dedicated to education and career training in the sustainable sciences such as renewable energy and agriculture, that teaches valuable concepts about science and sustainability, and fosters innovation, will help provide employment opportunities to this underserved population, giving them marketable skills that would remove them from the cycle of dependence and low wage jobs. It would also offer an economic advantage to local businesses that are part of Syracuse's green technology initiative.

As a library professional for 25 years, and a member of Syracuse's North side community serving the refugee and immigrant population for the past 12 years, I strongly support the creation of OnTECH Charter High School, established under the NYS Charter and Education Law, and look forward to seeing young adults in this community thrive through their participation in this educational opportunity.

Sincerely,

Renate Dunsmore

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renate Dunsmore".

Manager – Charles E. White Branch Library

December 9, 2015

Dear Ellen:

I am very glad that you are going forward with the charter school. In my opinion it will be a good thing for my community. Syracuse is a diverse place today and a home for every single person from every corner of the world. Therefore, the OnTECH project will impact lives wherever they bring the education they will learn.

I first came to the United States in 2001. Many of the Congolese came after me. For many of us the regular education is not as easy for us to learn as focusing on a specific things like the career and technical school of OnTECH. The hands on approach is easier than theory.

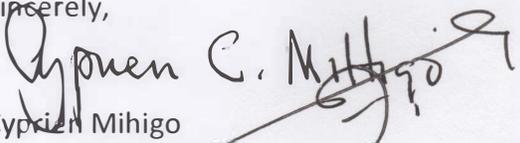
The subject of agriculture for study very much is something that we can connect to. Many of us come from areas which are farming areas of the rural lands. I came from the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo from Bukavu, where agriculture is an important part of life.

I myself went back to my home to bring soil back from there for analysis to see what would grow best. This is the kind of project I would like to revive with the students of OnTECH to help those back in the Congo.

The people I spoke with were very glad to know of OnTECH, the subjects of study and felt that it was a school for everybody who wanted to learn about these things. Those who signed the petition were very glad to do so.

I look forward to the school.

Sincerely,


Cyprien Mihigo
Leader of Congolese Community of Central NY
501 James Street
Syracuse, N 13203
315 414-7024

February 21, 2016

OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13203

Dear Ms. Ellen Eagen and the OnTECH Committee,

I am writing this letter to show my deep support and advocacy for opening the OnTECH School, being designed to serve new American immigrants and refugees, as well as students looking for a non-traditional learning environment in Syracuse.

The philosophical basis of the OnTECH curriculum is to choose subjects of study that are indigenous and relevant to the central New York region and its industries. The OnTECH is a career and technical school offering courses in science and technology that will give students the hands-on and critical thinking skills that they need to get gainful employment or to continue with their education after graduation, focusing on Agri-business, water resources, sustainable science, and alternative energy.

This could also give an opening not only to the new Americans as students, but also to serve the individuals in the community that have high educational level degrees: Ph.D, and Masters, and others that have highly skilled experience like: Civil Engineering and Architecture to participate and have a role in this school and in our community.

As a Iraqi refugee, I am one of the new Americans holding a Ph.D in Agricultural Engineering with an experience in the academic and research field for more than 12 years; however, I have not found a suitable job that fits my background and I assure you that there are many more new Americans like me who are looking forward for this school as a support.

It is my personal goal to return to the academic community and I am especially interested in academic field (Agriculture Programs). I would welcome the opportunity to advise you and join you as you are going forward and growing. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet you and hear about this school, and I look forward to learning about its progress.

Sincerely,

Adel K. Daboul

Adel Almohamad
315-373-3819
adeldaboul@yahoo.com



Bhutanese Community in Syracuse (BCS), Inc

710 Kirkpatrick Street, Syracuse NY 13208

Phone: (315) 475 0440; Email: admin@cnybcs.org

Ellen Eagen, Lead Applicant
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen,

On behalf of the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse (BCS), I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. I am confident that that OnTECH will address several issues that the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse has been facing such as the cases of dropouts, unemployment and integration as New Americans in the larger community.

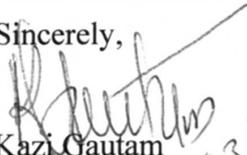
Students who are struggling to perform successfully in a traditional school setting and children of refugee families will benefit from the school you have described.

The idea of connecting the curriculum to the agriculture industry in Central New York and where we have a growing regional expertise is a good choice. I like the idea that students will graduate with hands-on and critical thinking skills that will help them find employment, build careers and pursue further education relating to environmental and sustainable sciences.

The school will certainly be an asset to the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse and the Central New York region.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Sincerely,


Kazi Gautam
Chairperson

Bhutanese Community in Syracuse

03/27/2016

NEHDA



December 14, 2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

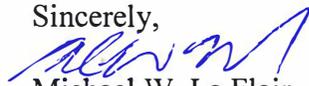
I was pleased to attend your presentation of **OnTECH Charter High School** on November 30, 2015. As you presented OnTECH and its mission, I believe that it would address several issues our community faces such as the drop-out rate, unemployment rate and integrating new Americans in our community.

The area of my organization's responsibility is directly affected by the level of education in the city and particularly the Northside which is the home of so many of the city's refugee families. Both students who are struggling to perform successfully in a traditional school setting and children of refugee families would benefit from the school you have described.

The idea of connecting the curriculum to the agriculture industry in Central New York and where we have a growing regional expertise is a good choice. If students graduate with hands-on training and critical thinking skills, that will certainly help them find employment and build careers or pursue further education. The second highest key driver for growth in our region, as pointed out in the recently funded CNY REDC URI competition is Agribusiness as an estimated \$2.9 billion. The proposed school fills a huge void not only in our community, but our future economy.

Let me know your progress.

Sincerely,


Michael W. La Flair
Executive Director

Northeast Hawley Development Association, Inc.
101 Gertrude Street · Syracuse, New York 13203
(315) 425-1032 · Fax 425-1089
www.nehda.org



March 22, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Esq.
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13202

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Eagen:

The Syracuse Center of Excellence is pleased to support the application submitted to the SUNY Charter Institute for a charter to OnTECH Charter High School. Based on our discussions, we understand the mission of OnTECH is to serve a student population that is struggling to succeed in a traditional educational structure, including the children of refugee families. We also understand that the curriculum will be based sustainable and environmental sciences, agribusiness and alternate energy.

Led by Syracuse University, SyracuseCoE is an industry-university collaborative enterprise established in 2002 as New York State's Center of Excellence for innovations in energy and environmental systems related to the built environment. We have engaged more than 200 firms and institutions in research, development, education, and outreach projects to address global challenges in clean and renewable energy, indoor environmental quality, and water resources. Our collaborators conduct targeted research, demonstrate new technologies, and commercialize innovations.

SyracuseCoE commits to support the OnTECH Charter High School by offering tours of our LEED Platinum research facility to OnTECH faculty and students, providing input and guidance to high school faculty and staff, as requested and as part of curriculum development on topics within our areas of focus, enabling interactions with local industry Partners, and facilitating connections to Syracuse University faculty and staff, when needed.

It is my pleasure to support the application submitted to the NYSED. Please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Tamara L. Rosanio
Associate Director | Partner Programs



SYRACUSE MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY, INC.
more than you think...since 1975

August 9, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Proposed Board Chair
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13203

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Monica Williams

Advisory

Linda Campbell
Rita Fredette
Emma L. Johnston
Dan Smith

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ellen:

I very much enjoyed meeting with you today and hearing about the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. The goal you lay out to serve the students at risk of dropping out and those struggling to perform in a traditional classroom setting is aligned with what is needed in our community. At Southwest Community Center, we also see many students who fit the description of being under-credited and over-age, and it is good you are addressing this population as well.

Having served in several positions that interface with our community, I am very much aware of the serious challenges we have. I saw that as Youth Services Director at Dunbar, Family Services Director for P.E.A.C.E. Inc., Deputy Commissioner for the City of Syracuse and now as Chief Executive of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood facility which oversees the Southwest Community Center. Only through a total community effort will we be able to meet the needs of our children.

As you have described OnTECH, it can be a valuable addition to the educational alternatives in Syracuse. A curriculum based on hands-on experience with business mentors will give students the kind of educational background that will enable them the opportunity to engage in their education and gain employment.

Please keep me apprised of your continuing plans. Where it is possible I would very much like to explore a relationship between the interests of OnTECH and SWCC.

Sincerely,


Sharon F. Owens
CEO



100

BLACK MEN OF SYRACUSE INC.

2610 South Salina Street # 27
Syracuse, New York 13205
Office Phone: (315) 443-8749
100bkmsyr@gmail.com
www.100blackmensyr.org

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Louis Clark

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- Ryan Beauford
- Tony Clark
- Ali Rahman
- Erin Smith

Founding Director
• Walter Eiland

August 9, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Lead Applicant
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ellen:

I was pleased to meet with you today and hear about your plans for OnTECH Charter High School. Syracuse has need of educational alternatives that will meet the needs of every child. As you have described OnTECH's mission of addressing the issues of students who have struggled to perform in a traditional setting, the school would provide innovative teaching methods and a nurturing learning environment where these students can flourish.

The members of 100 Black Men have been mentors to children of the Greater Syracuse Area, including SCSD for many years and we have seen the challenges to delivering a quality education to the under-credited and over-aged student. As we discussed, to effectively connect with these students, it is essential to understand their neighborhood circumstances when growing up and the mindset that has developed.

Your hands-on contextual instruction can offer the kind of immediate feedback to the learning process that can be so important in engaging the interest of the students. I was glad I was able to give you advice on how to best reach the students in our community and give them a meaningful education that will enable them to be employable.

I know of students in our community who would benefit from a school like OnTECH. It has the potential for being a valuable educational resource for the Syracuse community. Please let me know of your progress and we will look forward to developing a mutually beneficial relationship.

Sincerely,



Vincent B Love



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

725 Harrison Street · Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone 315·435·4161 · Fax 315·435·4015

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

July 29, 2016

Ellen K. Eagen, Esq.

Lead Applicant

OnTECH Charter High School

312 Sedgwick Drive

Syracuse, New York 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Application

Dear Ellen:

I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with you about OnTECH Charter High School while I was serving as Superintendent of the City of Syracuse School District. In my opinion the most effective use of charters goes to the original intention of charter school law, which anticipated that charters would serve unique needs in communities and incubate new ways to teach and reach students. I understand that the proposed mission of ONTECH is to serve "at risk" students struggling in a traditional school setting, including many of our children of refugee families, newly settled in the Syracuse community. Having this objective, OnTECH would support the overall mission of the school district.

Throughout my tenure in the Providence School District, as well as serving as Superintendent of the City of Syracuse School District, I have witnessed the multiplicity and complexity of the problems that urban school districts must solve. To the best of our resources we must recognize the individual and unique needs of each child. I have grown to realize that the solution for such challenging issues can be best served through alliances in the district among a wide range of community organizations. This would include a charter school, such as OnTECH, aligned in such a way to contribute to the total educational options afforded to the children of its school district.

I wish you success for OnTECH and the potential it has for serving the children of Syracuse. I have always advocated for the most needy in the community, and any program that will help more students find a meaningful path in life benefits the entire community. Please stay in touch and keep me apprised of your progress.

In the Interest of All Children,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon L. Contreras".

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

March 28, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Lead Applicant
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: Letter of Support for OnTECH Charter High School

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. My thanks goes to Jim Heffernan, a member of OnPoint for College, for suggesting to you that SUNY Cobleskill would be a good fit for our mutual interests. I was very excited to talk to you yesterday, compare notes on how education can best serve our most at-risk communities, and start brainstorming ways that we can collaborate.

From our conversation this afternoon, the focus of the OnTECH curriculum on agriculture, agribusiness, sustainable sciences and alternate power meshes directly with the educational programs of SUNY Cobleskill. Our interests are also well aligned in the areas of urban farming, micro-credentialing at the high school level, addressing food deserts, hot-spot incubators, and new techniques of farming such as hydroponics. These are certainly rapidly expanding areas of growth in agricultural technology and education. The OnTECH mission to focus on students struggling in the traditional structure and the children of refugee families makes the opportunity to collaborate all the more important to my own areas of interests in working with the United Nations.

We at SUNY Cobleskill look forward to exploring ways in which we might collaborate and be partners in what we see as a very essential need within our secondary and higher education programs: building a critical pipeline to meet the increasing demand for professionals who work directly in the field of agriculture and in related industries. Among the ways of support we will consider: providing advice and consulting on curriculum and projects, inviting students to participate in immersion learning experiences at SUNY Cobleskill, and developing career pathways in these disciplines.

We have no doubt that the school you propose will be an asset to the community and we at SUNY Cobleskill look forward to developing a working relationship which will benefit the students and communities that we all serve. Let us continue this discussion so that we can hopefully codify it in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Please keep me apprised of your progress.

Sincerely,



Marion A. Terenzio, Ph.D.
President



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James Glavin
COR Development Company

Debra Hamilton-Schoening
Hamilton-Schoening Consulting

Mary Pat Hartnett
SRCTec.

Yaschia Kinsey
Crouse Hospital

Anthony Kumiega
Bank of New York Mellon

Edwina Schleider
Papas, Cox, Kimpel, Dodd & Levine

Ken Souser
Janney Montgomery Scott

Al Turner
Verizon Communications

December 7, 2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

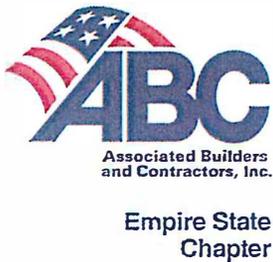
I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. The target community planned to be served by OnTECH of students who are struggling to perform successfully in a traditional school setting and children of refugee families will benefit from the school you have described. The school will certainly be an asset to the Syracuse community.

As you know, On Point for College has assisted thousands of students from high school through college and we would look forward to establishing a relationship which would be beneficial to the student population you would serve.

Please keep me posted on your progress. I can be reached at 315-374-4104 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Rowser
Deputy Executive Director



Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.

Empire State Chapter

6369 Collamer Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057-1115

(315) 463-7539 (800) 477-7743 Fax (315) 463-7621

www.abcnys.org

December 8, 2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. I believe that OnTECH will address several issues our community faces such as the drop-out rate, unemployment rate and integrating new Americans in our community.

A Career & Technical curriculum is one that the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Empire Chapter (ABC) believes can serve the needs of many students who may struggle to perform successfully in a traditional school setting. Our partnership with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) enables us to provide many state certified courses in multiple disciplines and we would be pleased to have an alliance with OnTECH Charter High School toward these objectives.

The particular areas focus of OnTECH in sustainable sciences and alternate power are subjects covered by NCCER through the courses in Green Environment and Construction, Alternative Energy, Wind Turbines and Solar Voltaics. Our core central curriculum teaching the basics of understanding the fundamentals of a technical education would also apply.

The disciplines planned to be offered by OnTECH are areas where we have growing expertise in our Central New York region and make a lot of sense to be the focus for a charter high school. We very much endorse the idea that students will graduate with hands-on and critical thinking skills that will help them find employment, build careers or pursue further education relating to these subject areas.

OnTECH will be a valuable addition to education alternatives in our city and region. We are looking forward to establishing a partnership with ABC. Please keep us posted on your progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Albert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" written in a more compact, stylized script and the last name "Albert" written in a larger, more legible cursive.

Jeff Albert

Chief Operating Officer

Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC) - Empire State Chapter

6369 Collamer Drive

East Syracuse, NY 13057-1115

Direct: 315-579-3502 / Ph: 315-463-7539 / F: 315-463-7621

albert@abcnys.org



12/8/2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Dear Ms. Eagen,

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of the OnTECH Charter High School. The FFA has long standing partnerships with district high schools across the State of New York providing a strong curriculum based on agriculture and agribusiness. As we discussed during our conversations there are multiple career pathways of instruction that can serve the interests of your students. In addition to reinforcing core curriculum areas and introducing key career concepts; agricultural education engages students in leadership, work and critical thinking exercises that are unrivaled by any other program available to students today.

It is our understanding that the proposed OnTech Charter school will include an agricultural education focus and develops a unique agri-business experience for its students. Since we are not aware of any NY charter schools an agricultural based curriculum at this time, you present an excellent opportunity for us to grow our reach into the education alternatives offered to students in our State. At the same time, with your focus on children of refugee families and those struggling with traditional structure, the studies of sustainable sciences and alternate energy fit into the subject areas connected to the agricultural programs. With the novel approach you are taking, we may be able to replicate what we do together in other districts of the State and even extend the benefit of our cooperation.

The New York FFA is pleased to support this new initiative and look forward to supporting a new successful program which will benefit the students and communities of central New York. Please keep me abreast of your progress and let me know ways in which we can be of assistance to you as you develop your new program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Lighthall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari Lighthall
New York FFA and Agricultural Educators
Cornell University
slighthall@cornell.edu
315-346-1222



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY & SUNY ESF

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY/ STEP Center
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Step Out of your World - Step into Another's
Together We Can Make a Difference



Ellen K. Eagen, Lead Applicant
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

March 25, 2016

Dear Ellen,

I am writing to urge our elected officials to support the OnTECH Charter High School that is being proposed to serve students in the city of Syracuse, especially new immigrants living on the North side of the city. I can attest to the need for this special school for teens and young adults whose families have been invited to seek refuge from danger and make a new home in our country. I have been working for seven years with refugees connecting students and faculty to these new residents of our community in service learning projects, through which the university participants gain as much as the refugees. We have researched community needs and assets, created websites, established a Refugee Resource Center with high speed interconnectivity in partnership with MetroNet, Inc., run English as a Second Language classes through an Onondaga Literacy Coalition Literacy Champions grant, a digital literacy class in partnership with Onondaga County Library, and with the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University we are working on development on an innovative communication system for use by ethnic community leaders.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the new immigrants who have fluency in English who help their neighbors who cannot speak English negotiate their needs. In my experience most of the literate refugees are young adults ranging in age from 18 – 25 years old. I was shocked to discover that although many have High School diploma's from schools they attended while in refugee camps they do not have an American educational credential. It is very difficult for them to secure their GED/TASC credential due to the need to work to help support their families. These bright, talented leaders in the community would have greatly benefited from the charter school being proposed.

Then there are the young adults who arrive in their new community without strong literacy skills. These 18- 25 year olds are working in low wage jobs, often on night shift which makes taking classes for English literacy very difficult. At this point I see strong family ties sustaining them, but I am concerned that if these young people are not given opportunities to enter the main stream of our society we will be creating a situation where a majority of our new immigrants will be locked into generational poverty. I have unfortunately observed the tendency for younger siblings to drop out of high school to help with family chores and finances, especially if they begin to have any academic trouble. The OnTECH Charter School would provide an extremely valuable resource to combat these negative outcomes.

Please support the petition to fund the OnTECH Charter School being proposed for the Syracuse City School District. It will greatly benefit our whole community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Gail V. Riina

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY • REV. DR. GAIL V. RIINA

HENDRICKS CHAPEL • SYRACUSE • NY • 13244 • Office: 315.443.2439 • Email: lutheran@syr.edu



SUNY EOC

The Power of Opportunity

**State University of New York
Educational Opportunity Center**

December 8, 2015

Ellen Eagen, Director
Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ms. Eagen:

I am pleased to write this letter of support in connection with the planning of OnTECH Charter High School. We believe that OnTECH will address several issues our community faces such as the drop-out rate, unemployment rate and integrating new Americans in our community. Students who are struggling to perform successfully in a traditional school setting and children of refugee families will benefit from a school like OnTECH. The school will certainly be an asset to the Syracuse community.

As you know, Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center (SEOC), established in 1969, is part of the State University of New York and, since 1974, has been administered by Morrisville State College. The SEOC is one of ten centers in New York State. SEOC's mission is to provide adult learners comprehensive academic and workforce development programs and services – programs and services that lead to enhanced employment opportunities, access to further education and personal growth and development. Again, we believe that OnTECH will be an asset to the Syracuse community and look forward to establishing a relationship which would be beneficial to the student population you would serve.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Sincerely,

Tim Penix
Vice President

635 Wilton Grove Road,
London, ON, N6N 1N7, Canada
Tel: (519) 686 1771 Fax: (519) 686 1132

May 3, 2016

Ms. Ellen Eagan.
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, NY 13203

Dear Ms. Eagan,

I was very pleased to hear about your plans for OnTECH High School and I believe your proposed school will have very positive effects on students, their careers and also on the industries which you will target.

KMW will be an enthusiastic supporter and will assist in whatever ways we are able. I have attached the letter of intent which outlines some of the ways we will try to make positive contributions.

Sincerely,



Gerry Higgins, MBA, CIM, ICB
President,
KMW Energy Inc.

Copy: Mr. Kevin Walker

November 1, 2016

Ellen Eagen, Proposed Board Chair
OnTECH Charter High School
312 Sedgwick Drive
Syracuse, New York 13203

Re: OnTECH Charter High School Planned

Dear Ellen:

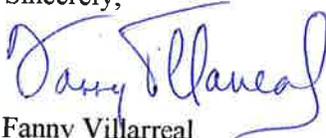
I very much enjoyed hearing about the progress of OnTECH Charter High School. You have come a long way from our first conversations. The goal of OnTECH to serve students at risk, those who struggle in a traditional school environment and the children of refugee population is very much on target with what is needed.

In my positions as Executive Director of the Spanish Family & Community Director for P.E.A.C.E. Inc., as co-founder of the NYS Hispanic Coalition, on Nostros Radio's "Your Latino Voice" and now as Executive Director of the Syracuse & Onondaga YWCA, I have seen the many special needs and challenges facing our children in school. What you propose as the mission for OnTECH would be very supportive of those students "at risk" of dropping out of high school, as well as the many ethnicities and children of refugee families facing language barriers.

One of the issues that must be addressed, particularly in our poorer neighborhoods is the high unemployment rate of young adults. I like the idea that the OnTECH curriculum is based on hands-on experience and that the students will be taught critical thinking skills that will enable them to find employment and build a career or continue their further education.

For over thirty years, I have been a voice of the Latino community and I appreciate the fact that one of your key design elements is to support English Language learners. I know many students who could benefit from this program. Please keep me apprised of your continuing plans. Where it is possible I would very much like the YWCA to be supportive of OnTECH and I would look for opportunities where we could work together.

Sincerely,



Fanny Villarreal
Executive Director