



**MEDIA RELEASE:**

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**ONTECH CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL WILL HOLD ITS NEXT BOARD MEETING  
ON MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> AT KING + KING ARCHITECTS  
Primary Agenda will be Presentation of the Progress on Site Development**

**March 17, 2017, Syracuse NY:** The OnTECH Charter High School Board announces approval of plans to go forward with the development of a site at Onondaga Commons, 484 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, as the location for the school. OnTECH will hold its next board meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the headquarters of King + King Architects, 358 West Jefferson Street, Syracuse NY 13202; the primary agenda item is a presentation on the progress of the site development.

Ellen Eagen, Founder and President of the OnTECH Board stated, “The decision to build OnTECH on the Onondaga Commons was preceded by a thorough review of the possible alternatives. An important factor was the central geographic position of the school in the City, making for ease of access by students from the Northside, Near West Side and the Southside of the City. We have a wonderful team working on this project, invested in turning this site into a state-of-the art educational campus.”

OnTECH will be housed in a building of historic significance, once used for the location of horse drawn carriages in the early 1900’s, then later a place for manufacturing and most recently the home of Rural Metro. Mr. Martin Yenawine, owner of the property, stated: “I am thrilled to have this property transformed to serve the unique educational needs of the children of Syracuse.”

The development of the property into a building for school use, maintaining its historical significance and meeting all the standards of the State Education Department is being undertaken by the firm of Brine Wells, Inc. Mr. Ed Riley, head of the company stated, “OnTECH Charter High School establishes a southern anchor for the Near West Side Initiative while reconstituting a building of historic importance for the City of Syracuse.” The architectural firm designing the school and campus is King + King Architects of Syracuse. Partner-in-Charge, Chad Rogers stated, “This project is both unique in its architectural and educational benefits, and we are enthused about integrating OnTECH organically into the fabric of the City.”

The goal is to design a school that is uniquely suited to the curriculum of the school and the student body. OnTECH is a career and technical School serving over-age, under-credited

students who struggle to succeed in a traditional educational setting; OnTECH will also welcome our New Americans. The educational model will combine the tried and true use of small class instruction and intense remediation, together with progressive learning models such as project-based education and robotic telepresence. Emphasis will be placed on giving students hands-on experience, learning critical thinking and social competence skills in addition to specific expertise that will place them firmly on an educational pipeline, leading to a variety of career pathways.

The curriculum will be based on jobs of indigenous industries in Central New York and where the region has a growing base of employment. Since agriculture is the largest industry in Upstate, the courses will include the subjects of agricultural sciences and agribusiness, as well as sustainable sciences and alternate energy.

Partnerships to advance the educational and apprenticeship key design elements of OnTECH will be developed with organizations and businesses, including Morrisville State College, the State University at Cobleskill, On Point for College, C&S Companies, Beak & Skiff Orchards, Hartwood Farms and Associated Builders & Contractors, among others.

The Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department approved the charter in December, and OnTECH is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018.

The school founders include graduates of Central Tech of Syracuse, Brooklyn Technical High School in New York City and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Maryland, who are invested in seeing students graduate with employable skills, finding employment with local companies and building their careers in Central New York. The Board Members include champions of our community that have expertise in business, education, non-profit governance, politics and the law.

The Founder and President of the OnTECH Board, Ellen Eagen, is a resident of the City of Syracuse and an attorney admitted to the New York and California Bars specializing in educational law. Prior to becoming a lawyer, she was a teacher for children with special education and English-language learning needs. Currently, Eagen is the sole-proprietor of the Eagen Law Firm and works with independent and charter schools in New York State and California, with a focus on deep poverty communities.

The OnTECH website is: [www.ontechcharter.com](http://www.ontechcharter.com). The Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc., is the development arm of the school.

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