



News Release

SUNY Charter Schools Committee Votes to Renew 13 Charter Schools and Close 1 Charter School

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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New York – Today, the SUNY Board of Trustees' Charter Schools Committee ("Committee"), acting on behalf of the full SUNY Board of Trustees, approved the SUNY Charter Schools Institute's recommendations to renew 13 SUNY Authorized charter schools: 12 in or around New York City – in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan; and 1 in Upstate New York - Rochester.

The Committee voted not to renew 1 SUNY authorized charter school in Buffalo.

SUNY authorized charter schools currently serve over 86,000 students and their families.

While honoring the efforts of everyone at Oracle, the Charter Schools Act ("the Act") requires authorizers to hold schools accountable for creating and maintain strong schools. After thirteen years of operation, Oracle is not able to show it meets the requirements of the Act and is likely to improve student achievement in the future.

Joseph Belluck, Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee, stated, "This decision was not taken lightly. The Committee thoroughly considered information submitted by Oracle and listened carefully to the words of the school community. At the end of the day, as Trustees of the State University of New York, it is our duty to uphold the requirements of the Charter Schools Act. After 13 years in operation, I expect a school chartered with a mission to prepare students for college to actually prepare students for college and be able to show that it does so consistently. I expect SUNY charters to exceed the performance of their local districts, especially when they come to renewal for the third time. At a certain point, dollars given to charter schools that are not performing should be returned to the district."

"We make the non-renewal recommendation honoring the dedication of the Oracle board, but at the same time New York's Charter Schools Act requires us to recommend non-renewal due to Oracle's inability to enroll, retain and support the academic success of children that choose Oracle," said Susie Miller Carello, Executive Director of the Charter Schools Institute. "A successful charter high school does not lose half of its incoming freshman before graduation from 12th grade. A successful charter high school does not see 75% of teachers turnover. We understand how challenging a school closure can be for students, families and staff and the Institute works with all the schools closed by the Trustees to support students in making smooth transitions to new educational settings."

Brief summaries of each decision follow. The resolutions and renewal recommendation reports can be found here: <http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/meetingNotices.cfm>

Renewal

- **Brooklyn Ascend Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2008. The elementary grades are located in private leased space located at private leased space at 205 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, NY in New York City Community School District 18. The middle school grades are located in private leased space at 123 East 98th Street Brooklyn in New York City Community School District 17. The school received its original charter from the New York City Schools Chancellor. The school currently serves students from Kindergarten through 11th grade. Brooklyn Ascend received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Bushwick Ascend Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2010. The elementary grades of Bushwick Ascend are located in private leased space at 751 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY and the middle school grades are located in private leased space at 2 Aberdeen Street, Brooklyn NY. Both locations are in the New York City Community School District 32. The school currently serves students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Bushwick Ascend Charter School received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Canarsie Ascend Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2013. The elementary school grades are located in private space at 9719 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The middle school grades are located in private space at 744 East 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY. Both locations are in New York City Community School District 18. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Canarsie Ascend Charter School received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Bronx Charter School for Better Learning (Bronx)** opened in fall 2003 and operates out of a co-located New York City Department of Education building located at 3740 Baychester Avenue-Annex, Bronx, NY in Community School District 11. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Bronx Charter School for Better Learning received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Brooklyn Dreams Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2010 and operates out of private space located at 259 Parkville Avenue, Brooklyn, NY in the New York City Community School District 22. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Brooklyn Dreams Charter School received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2003 and operates out of private space at 856 Quincy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY in the New York City Community School District 16. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School received a full-term five year renewal.
- **Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2009. The elementary grades of Coney Island Prep are co-located in a New York City Department of Education building at 8787 24th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The middle school grades are co-

located in a New York City Department of Education building at 501 West Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The high school grades are located in privately leased space at 294 Avenue T, Brooklyn, NY. All sites are located within New York City Community School District 21. Coney Island Prep's original charter was approved by the New York State Board of Regents. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Coney Island Preparatory Charter School received a full-term five year renewal.

- **East Harlem Scholars Academy Charter School II (Manhattan)** opened in fall 2013, and operates out of a co-located in a New York City Department of Education building at 1573 Madison Avenue, New York, NY in New York City School District 4. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. East Harlem Scholars Academy Charter School II received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Family Life Academy Charter School (Bronx)** opened in fall 2001, and operates out of private space located at 14 West 170th Street, Bronx, NY in New York City Community School District 9. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Family Life Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Harlem Village Academy Charter School (Manhattan)** opened in fall 2003. The elementary grades operate out of a private space 74 West 124th Street, New York, NY. The middle school grades are co-located in a New York City Department of Education building at 244 West 144th Street, New York, NY. The high school program is shared with Harlem Village Academy Leadership Charter School, located in a private space at 35 West 124th Street, New York, NY. All three sites are in New York City Community District 5. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Harlem Village Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **PAVE Academy Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2008, and operates out of a leased private facility located at 732 Henry Street, Brooklyn, New York in New York City Community School District 15. Having applied for its original charter from the New York City Schools Chancellor, PAVE's original charter was approved by the New York State Board of Regents. The school currently serves students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. PAVE Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men (Rochester)** opened in fall 2010, and operates out of owned adjacent facilities located at 1290 Lake Avenue and 1302 Lake Avenue, Rochester, New York in the Rochester City School District. The school currently serves students in 7th through 12th grade. University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **UFT Charter School (Brooklyn)** opened in fall 2005, and operates out of a co-located New York City Department of Education building at 800 Van Siclen Avenue, Brooklyn in Community School District 19. The school currently serves students in 9th through 12th grade. UFT Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.

Non-Renewal

- **Oracle Charter School (Buffalo)** opened in fall 2005, and operates out of a leased private facility located at 888 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY in the Buffalo City School District. SUNY Trustees granted Oracle a short-term renewal in 2009 and ended the schools 7th and 8th grade programs. In 2012 the school received a full five-year renewal. Oracle Charter School was not renewed and it will close at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

About the SUNY Charter Schools Institute

SUNY is the largest charter school authorizer in New York State and the largest university-based charter school authorizer in the country. The SUNY Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities under the New York Charter Schools Act (the "Act"). Guided by the rigorous standards set by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Institute's oversight of SUNY authorized charter schools is comprehensive, including: evaluating initial applications for the opening of charter schools; ongoing oversight and evaluation of operating schools; conducting a comprehensive evaluation when a school applies to renew its charter; and reporting to the school and the public on each school's performance and progress. Charter schools in New York trade greater autonomy in exchange for greater accountability for academic outcomes. Each charter school has a charter contract that is signed by its board of trustees and the authorizer of the school. As part of the contract, the accountability plan for each school establishes the academic goals that must be met and how those goals will be measured. Contracts last a maximum of five years as set by the Act. In order to continue operating, a charter school must apply to renew its charter at the end of each charter term. Receiving approval to continue operating is the core of accountability required by the Act. To learn more about the Institute, visit www.newyorkcharters.org

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