

February 2, 2016

Erik Joerss
Director of Governmental Affairs
New York City Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
New York, NY 10006

Dear Mr. Joerss;


Let me say at the outset that I support any school – public, charter, or private – that gives Staten Island students a greater chance of success. I, therefore, give my support to the New York City Charter School Center as they explore ways to assist us in achieving this goal.

I want Staten Island parents to have a variety of local school choices. The reality, however, is that the greatest outcry amongst parents and advocates has been that we need a school that better meets the needs of students who are having difficulties in reading, including those with dyslexia. With that in mind, we have met with parents, parent advocates, community leaders, students, and the Department of Education to discuss how we can bring such a school to Staten Island.

My staff and I had the opportunity to visit the Community School in Teaneck, New Jersey, a renowned example of a school successfully educating students with difficulties in reading. The visit was so inspirational that we decided a charter school must be proposed, located on Staten Island, that would not only provide our students the ability to attend school in their own communities, but also better meet their academic needs.

The NYC Charter School Center has shown a strong commitment to equipping charter schools with training, professional development, resources and expert guidance so that they may effectively educate students with special learning needs. I, therefore, give my unequivocal support to this fine organization in their quest to make this school a reality.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

