

Ms. Susie Miller Carello
SUNY Charter Schools Institute
SUNY Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Re: Support for Proxima Academy Charter School

Dear Ms. Carello:

I am writing to express my strong support for the authorization of Proxima Academy, which is seeking to open a K-8 charter school on Staten Island's North Shore, by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute.

When I was informed about the school's focus on "trauma-informed" education, with social workers on site and an emphasis on literacy and high-quality instruction, I knew it was a natural fit for this area of our borough.

I was impressed by the low student/teacher ratio, and my enthusiasm for the school was cemented when I was told about the desire of Proxima Academy to educate the whole child through social emotional learning – ensuring that students are prepared to be productive community members.

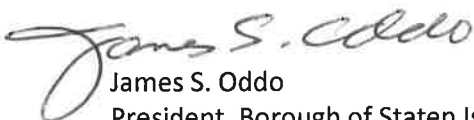
Without regard to classification or grade-level ability, students will be provided the support they need to access a rigorous curriculum, including multiple ICT classes per grade and a certified ABA on staff. If approved, Proxima will target the Stapleton/Park Hill section on Staten Island, two neighborhoods in particular which would greatly benefit from having a school dedicated to helping students develop their personal voice and pursue life's opportunities with confidence.

My staff has met with the lead founder, Bianca Cabrera, and informed me of her background in special education, her genuine passion to help these students and her diligent community outreach efforts. She was most impressive and proved more than worthy of our support for this school.

In closing, I hope that my enthusiastic support will be helpful in your decision-making process, and look forward to participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Proxima Academy Charter School.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

