

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School

Letter of Intent

I. Applicant Information

a. Lead Applicant Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Phone: 631-552-0233; Email: celestialwater@gmail.com; Mailing Address: 134-38 Maple Avenue, Suite 3K, Flushing, NY 11355; Dr. Lotus King Weiss is a parent, a teacher and a local resident of the proposed school district.

b. Public Contact:

Dr. Lotus King Weiss; Phone: 631-552-0233; Email: wholeelephantcharters@gmail.com

c. Applicant Founding Group Information:

The Leading Applicant: Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Dr. Lotus King Weiss obtained her Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Developmental Biology from the University of Florida in 1992, carried out her postdoctoral fellowship in Harvard Medical School (HMS)/Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) between 1993 to 1995, became an Instructor at Harvard in 1995 and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Genetics of Harvard Medical School/Department of surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1997. Her research focus was in the area of the molecular mechanisms underlying the regulation of all forms of cellular behaviors controlled by a class of key regulators of life, from birth, to aging, sickness and death. As a key leader in her field, she made major discoveries which were published in the cutting edge science journals, such as Science, Cell, EMBO J., is the inventor for three large patents at Massachusetts General Hospital, delivered lectures internationally, and was the first recipient for the Claflin Distinguished Scholar as a Young Scientist Mom at MGH/HMS. In 1999, Dr. Weiss relocated her entire research team to a leading Immunology Center in Seattle Washington to explore a key mechanism that links Cancer to Protein Metabolism therefore the realm of human mind, which links directly to human stress responses known to be the cause of all fetal human diseases. Due to her participation of a research project on the immune cells of the persecuted Falun Gong practitioners (www.falundafa.org), her laboratory was forcibly shut down under political pressure (www.thewholeelephant.info). Since 2005, Dr. Weiss has been residing in New York, and has been spending the past near ten years carrying out non-profit community services in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in Long Island. She is the Founder of the non-profit organization, the Whole Elephant Institute (www.thewholeelephant.info) since 2005 and has been serving as the CEO of the Korean Community Center of New York since 2009, here in Flushing. She developed the concept of Chinese Charter School in 2012 and has since been working full time on this project in all three largest Chinatowns in New York, with a main focus in Flushing, Queens. Currently, Dr. Weiss has about 24 students who have been under her private instructions and has also been building a strong Mom team to work with her in the upcoming Chinese Charter School projects. Her primary residence is in Flushing, Queens.

Ms. Angelique De Cesare is a local resident of Flushing, an English Language Tutor, and a scholar in history of Christianity (with a degree of Doctor of Divinity), with experience in many areas of health, business and culture, and with a loving heart for all children. She provides the entire team important reference about the history of Flushing and encourages the team to work hard to improve the community living environment. Angelique has been working with Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2007 on the platform of the Whole Elephant Institute. She is a key supporter of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School project and will work as Dr. Weiss' community advisor for community outreach and community fundraising in English-speaking and Spanish-speaking communities here in Flushing.

Mr. Dunzheng Yan is a local resident of Flushing and has been working with Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2012 on the Chinese Charter School project. He is a community leader and a public educator in the area of human rights, Christianity and has been an advocate for anti-discrimination and anti-defamation. As an immigrant from the Fujian Province in China, Mr. Yan is a critical supporter for the founding team in the area of community outreach to about 57 Christian Churches as well as to the largest Chinese Immigrant population in Flushing.

Ms. Thelina Qi is a local resident of Flushing and now works as a key representative of the Chinese Immigrant Moms here in Flushing to coordinate all aspects of community outreach and media contacts of the Chinese Charter School Project. Ms. Qi was an Engineer from China and has been working in the health care and business area in New York. Her expertise includes science, religion, education and business.

Mr. David Du is a local artist specialized in portrait painting and has been working in the team since 2013. Mr. Du has been playing a key role in recruiting artists to the founding team and will be directing key fundraising and community outreach activities. He will also help to recruit bilingual art teachers from China and find Chinese business investors to support the Chinese Charter School project.

Ms. Julia Du is a media artist and a photographer and has been working in the team as the meeting coordinator and secretary for Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2013. As the young talent in the team, Julia will play key roles in bringing young talents from the local communities to support the education, community outreach and fundraising of the Chinese Charter School project.

Mr. Noah Wang Genatossio is a young talent on the team from Seattle Washington and has joined the Chinese Charter School founding team since 2013. His expertise includes social media arts, music and journalism. Raised in a background of both Jewish culture and Chinese culture, Noah shoulders the responsibility to bring unique perspectives to the design of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School and therefore will play key roles in advising Dr. Lotus King Weiss during the process of the completion of the final application of this Chinese Charter School. Noah will also use his music talent for fundraising and participate in community outreach activities as well as teacher recruitment efforts.

Dr. Michelle Thompson is a new member of the founding team recently just joined the team. She has been recruited onto the team for her vast expertise in establishing Charter Schools and in carrying out non-profit work in Education Management Organizations. She is the Founder of the Institute for School Excellence and has been the key force in successfully establishing five Charter Schools. Dr. Thompson will

work closely with Dr. Lotus King Weiss in completing the full application of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School and will be a key advisor for the work of Education Management Organization of the proposed Chinese Charter School.

Mr. David Lee is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Asian American Professionals New York (NAAAP) and has recently joined the founding team to provide expertise in community education, public outreach, business management and fundraising.

d. Initial Board of Trustees Information:

All founding members listed above shall serve as the initial Board of Trustees.

e. Replication or Network Information: N/A

f. Application History:

The mission of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School was first established in the Summer of 2012, during the Round Two submission, under the name “The Whole Elephant Charter School”. However, the design of the school was only limited to the Elementary School with a different proposed number of student enrollment. The full application was accepted in early August 2012 by the Charter School Office of DOE, but was immediately taken out from the list for further review after local media coverage of the lead applicant, Dr. Lotus King Weiss, who was soon labeled by the Chinese Media to be associated with “Falun Gong”, a name targeted for hate propaganda by the Chinese Communist Government since July 20, 1999. Chinese Government controlled media in China openly defamed Dr. Lotus King Weiss and the proposed Whole Elephant Charter School. Soon the full application was taken out from the list for future review. The indicated reason was the lack of sufficient signatures of the Member of Board of Trustees. By then, six out from seven members of the Board of Trustees decided to withdraw from the work, due to their concerns of becoming the subject of hate propaganda. All further attempts to resubmit this application have been rejected since then, during the fall of 2012 (Round 3), the fall of 2013 (Round 2). This is the forth time of our attempt to submit our intent to CSO of DOE to establish the Whole Elephant Charter School, now under the new name of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School and includes enrollment of K-12. In the spring of 2014, we also submitted a letter of intent to the SUNY authorizers, who rejected the letter with the reason that we lacked evidence for sufficient community outreach efforts.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed School Name: The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School (WECCS)

b. Proposed Location: Community School District 25, Queens, New York; we will request to be sited within the school district facilities.

c. Planned Grades and Enrollment in 1st to 5th Year of Operation

Grades	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year5
K	20	30	40	50	60
1	20	30	40	50	60
2	20	30	40	50	60
3	20	30	40	50	60
4	20	30	40	50	60

5	20	30	40	50	60
6	20	30	40	50	60
7	20	30	40	50	60
8	20	30	40	50	60
9	20	30	40	50	60
10	20	30	40	50	60
11	20	30	40	50	60
12	20	30	40	50	60

Total	260	390	520	650	780
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d. Proposed Management or Partner Organization:

The Whole Elephant Institute, the Korean Community Center of New York, the New Tang Dynasty Television Station (www.ntdtv.com), the Kanzhongguo Newspaper (www.secretchina.com), the Epoch Times (www.epochtimes.com), and the Institute for School Excellence will be the partner organizations.

e. Proposed School Mission:

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School carries out the mission to establish an innovative education system which integrates the most frontier science of the West with the ancient science of mind-body-spirit from the East, with a goal to bring out the Master within each child whose unique passion and talent will be cultivated to blossom and whose mind will be cultivated to reach true maturity with great wisdom of human life and the universe.

f. School Overview

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School (WECCS) plans to open in September 2015 with a total enrollment of 260 from K-12 and increase to a total number of 780 by 2019, following all necessary rules and regulations of the public charter schools. The key spirit of our school is rooted within the Myth of “the Blind men and the Elephant”. Flushing is known to be home of Freedom of Religion and now hosts religious establishments of all kinds from all over the world. The predominant population of local residents used to be primarily the Jewish people and now yield to the Chinese immigrants. However, Flushing is the home for people from all over the world with many different nationalities and ethnicities. Children in this community are naturally presented with the phenomena of the “Blind Men and the Elephant”, due to language and cultural barriers. Even within the same ethnic group, within the same family, and within the same spiritual group, conflicts are frequent due to the Blind Men Syndrome. In the past over two years, the founding team of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School has been presented vividly with such a Syndrome which has been blocking the final approval of this application. However, after integrating the community feedbacks from all different directions, our founding group is now mature enough to bring talents of all areas to establish such an innovative education platform for delivering wisdom and harmony to the community and to train future great scientists. On this platform, we will deliver all subjects of education required by the core curriculum of New York State for public schools through a novel education method different from the current public school classroom formats. Instead, the Master-Disciple format from the ancient Chinese Martial Art School will be applied to deliver the knowledge at all grades, from K to 12. Based upon extensive research in

this community, it is clear to us that the immigrant children can learn English much better and quicker when they are taught by the teachers who are fluent in speaking their own native languages. It is also clear to us that most immigrant children are forced to give up their own culture, spiritual practice and language for “fitting” into the current public education system. Such “de-rooting” education method is the cause for the risk of academic failure and major psychological stress of many talented young minds. Thus the entire design of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School is based upon the education art of respecting the native culture and language of the immigrant students in this community. Considering the current large amount of new Chinese immigrant children who are fluent with Chinese but are facing academic failure due to their lack of English language skills and the fact that the local public schools are not providing adequate amount of bilingual teachers for these students, we have designed the Chinese Charter School education model to bridge such a gap. In addition, our education will also attempt to bridge the gaps between different subjects in modern science, the gaps between ancient science and modern science, the gaps between different ethnic groups with different spiritual practices, and the gaps between science, religion and art.

g. Target population and Community Served: all children in Flushing, especially the new immigrant children from Fujian Province and now facing academic failure due to lack of sufficient English language skills.

III. Enrollment and retention of students

We have been building a broad network of community Moms who have demonstrated strong interest in our education model and philosophy. About 400 Moms will be recruited onto our Flushing Mom’s Club, which will be delivered all updated information about our school as well as professional English language training. This club serves as our team for enrollment and retention of students with disabilities, English learners and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch program.

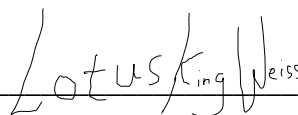
IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

a. Public Outreach: The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School has been broadly introduced to the local community of Flushing, as well as to the other two China towns in New York through delivering fliers, emails, community meetings, website posting. About 57 churches in three China towns as well as in Staten Island are informed with the news and methods of community feedbacks are provided. We also have set up booths in the local playground. The most important method of our community outreach is “word of mouth” through our Mom’s Club.

b. Community support: Every person we introduced our fliers and talked about our school has shown support and expressed their genuine wish for our school to be approved as soon as possible. In the past two years, we have approached hundreds of parents who expressed their interest in sending their children to our Chinese Charter School. A list of these parents and the proof of such support will be submitted in the full application.

V. Lead Applicant Signature and Date Signed

Dr. Lotus King Weiss Signature _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lotus King Weiss". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.

Date: July 6, 2014