

TIMOTHY HILL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

LETTER OF INTENT

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TIMOTHY HILL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL Letter of Intent to Apply

Charter School Application

I. Applicant Information

a. Lead Applicant Name(s)

Thaddaeus Hill, M.B.A., M.S.W.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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b. Media Contact Name:

Thaddaeus Hill

thill@timothyhillranch.org

631- 369-1234 (office)

[REDACTED]

c. Founding Group:

Founding Member	Background/Expertise	Anticipated Role
Thaddaeus Hill	Businessman/Social Worker	Board of Trustees
Penny Goodale	Educator/Administrator	School Academic Director
Laura Murdocco	Social worker	Board of Trustees
Cindy Gales	Business Administration	Board of Trustees
Zachary Riyaz	Attorney	Board of Trustees
Randall Morreale	Insurance / Financial Services	Board of Trustees
Keith J. Furio	Investment Advisor/Planner	Board of Trustees

d. Board of Trustees

Thaddaeus Hill

Zachary Riyaz

Laura Murdocco

Randall Morreale

Cindy Gales

Keith J. Furio

e. Replication or Network Information: Not applicable

f. Application History: Not applicable

II. Proposed Charter School Information

- a. **Proposed school name:** Timothy Hill Community Charter School
- b. **Proposed school location:** Riverhead School District, Riverhead, New York
- c. **Planned grades and enrollment** in each of the years of the proposed charter term:

Grade	First Charter Period					Full Enrollment
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
7	5	10	25	30	30	
8	5	10	25	30	30	
9	25	40	40	40	45	
10	10	30	45	45	45	
11	5	15	25	25	30	
12	5	15	25	25	30	
Total # of students	55	120	185	195	210	

- d. **Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s):** N/A
- e. **Proposed Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Timothy Hill Community Charter School is to ensure that THCCS students have the opportunity for further success in the college of their choice and/or a viable career choice. Strategic focus on the development of social, behavioral, and organizational skills will maximize students’ academic potential and prepare them as life-long achievers.

f. School Overview

Key Elements

Timothy Hill Community Charter School will be a “no excuses” school, and thus will embrace five core elements: 1) Rigorous, individualized academics, 2) Intentional self-management focus, 3) Data-driven decision-making, 4) Therapeutic and supportive school culture, and 5) Authentic, real-world vocational integration.

1) Rigorous individualized academics. Timothy Hill Community Charter School will be an academically rigorous secondary school. The Timothy Hill Community Charter School curriculum will be based on the New York State Common Core Curriculum and will utilize self-paced as well as direct teacher instruction and project-based experiences. It is designed to challenge students

to do their best academically regardless of their language proficiency, special education status, or the academic level at which they enter the school.

Our rigorous core academic program will provide more instructional time, allowing for four hours of individually targeted math, English, history, and science studies, and an additional four hours of vocational/therapeutic/community learning experiences each day. Both academic remediation and acceleration will be enabled by a longer school day.

2) *Intentional self-management focus.* Timothy Hill Community Charter School will build into the educational program and the school day components of self-management. Individual support as well as group experiences will assist students to take accountability for safety, honesty, respect, responsibility, community, relationships, leadership, and character. Students will take responsibility for goal setting, behavior, and class assignment. The intention is to run two tracks at each class level; one for intensive behavior modification, and one for advanced privileges and opportunities. Therapeutic intervention experiences will be developed around the wide scope of available resources. Timothy Hill Ranch has 18 horses, a working greenhouse, and a 100-acre campground facility for adventure-based programming.

3) *Data-driven decision making.* THCCS will use a variety of assessment systems to measure student progress and inform instruction. These include absolute measures such as the NYS tests, value-added measure such as diagnostic and aptitude measurements, and internally developed, externally-validated periodic exams. Feedback from these measurements will inform student programming. As well, school-wide decision making will be based upon relevant data and research, including staff and board development, facilities management and acquisitions, and community interactions.

4) *Therapeutic and supportive school culture.* Timothy Hill Community Charter School culture will be based on the eight pillars of our Step-In Program: Safety, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Community, Relationships, Leadership, and Character. Staff will encourage students to self-monitor in these areas. Privileges and benefits may be earned or forfeited based on student adherence to these values. All students are valued and, regardless of background or disabilities, will be expected to achieve to their highest potential.

5) *Authentic, real-world vocational integration.* Timothy Hill Community Charter School is committed to building individual and group pride as well as individual competencies in areas of real-world experiences. In addition to the school day opportunities to learn skills in the Ranch greenhouse, stables, and other technical and vocational skills workshops, project-based learning tied into the core academics will afford the students the opportunity to prepare authentic presentations of learning. Both the community and the individual student will benefit from this integration of academics into civic and vocational areas.

g. Briefly describe the school's target population and the community that the school intends to serve.

Timothy Hill Community Charter School's innovative approach to equipping at-risk students to succeed in life-long learning skills will target a student population in need of strong self-management skills. Critical analysis of local demographics is a determining benchmark for anticipated student enrollment.

Our student population is expected to mirror the profile of the Riverhead School District. According to the latest RSD Report Card on file, 26% of the students qualify for free and 9% for reduced lunch. Limited English Proficient (LEP) students number 6%; 13% of students were classified as students with disabilities. Census data cites that 26.8% of the population in Riverhead lives below the poverty line, substantially higher than the state average of 14.1%. Analyzing this data is critical to our outreach.

Additionally, the student population currently residing at Timothy Hill Ranch in Riverhead has the following profile: 100% qualify for free and reduced lunch, 90% have a deficit of three or more grade levels in math. Reading levels vary between third and thirteenth, with most falling two grade levels below current grade level. Social/behavioral disorders range from depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder to mood disorder. Density of population with ADHD, depression, or mood disorder traditionally have fallen between 30-50%. While these percentages are naturally higher than the percentages in the overall school district, it is our intent to offer Timothy Hill Ranch's professional services for behavioral/social disorders to a wider range of students from the district who could benefit from such an opportunity.

Applications for THCCS will be accepted from any family interested in participating. Preference for acceptance will be given to Timothy Hill Children's Ranch residents, and then secondarily to students from local school districts within the fifteen-mile radius of the school campus. In subsequent school years, we will give priority to siblings of students already enrolled. We expect to be an attractive school choice option for students who experience learning and behavioral challenges in a traditional school setting.

III. Enrollment and retention of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced price lunch program.

The goal of our school is to provide an individualized approach to learning for every student. We believe that this approach will attract percentages of English language learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students that are comparable to or greater than those currently served by the Riverhead School District and the surrounding area school districts. It is our hope that Timothy Hill Community Charter School will be the school placement of choice by parents and local school districts alike as we seek to meet the needs of this special population of secondary-level students.

Recruitment will involve the distribution of information to locations and persons most involved in educational decision making for at-risk students. Timothy Hill Ranch is already well-known, not only locally, but nationally, for its work with at-risk teens. Supportive and collaborative

relationships will be developed with key school personnel at each school district within our target radius.

Additionally, community awareness will involve radio and TV coverage, local civic group presentations and participation, and local church and religious group presentations. These presentations and literature published will be in languages that reflect the population of the area. The translators used for these presentations will be valuable resources in identifying and reaching targeted populations. The print media will provide substantial coverage as well to inform and identify potential students.

By providing a positive and supportive school culture that embraces students of all ethnic groups and ability and performance levels, it is our belief that local families and school districts alike will assist in recruitment efforts as the reputation of Timothy Hill Community Charter School develops.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

As the first secondary level charter school on the eastern end of Long Island, we anticipate a high interest in our school for families seeking an alternative to traditional public school options. Indeed, numerous inquiries and requests have already come to the attention of the Timothy Hill Ranch staff from families and organizations seeking a viable alternative for students struggling with placement in traditional public school environments. The THCCS Founding Group has begun an outreach initiative in order to ensure that families, parents and community leaders are aware of our purpose and plans. Among the initial contacts to assess community support, leaders of the initiative have presented information to the local Rotary Club, a local media publisher, and the school leadership at the Riverhead Charter School. Documents attesting to outreach to these agencies are attached. As the initiative goes forward, several community outreach efforts are planned. Support from elected officials and community organizations as well as families of potential students will be secured. These various constituencies are expected to provide valuable feedback as well as collaborative work efforts together with the planning team.

Signature of Lead Applicant

Date

Print Name