# Amani Public Charter School

## April 6, 2012 Fiscal and Programmatic Impact Statement

*Addendum to the Amani Public Charter School application submitted to the New York State Education Department in response to the August 2010 Request for Proposals to Establish New York State Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents*

Amani Public Charter School
Fiscal and Programmatic Impact Statement

The Amani Public Charter School ("the School" of "Amani") will provide a significant educational benefit to the students of the Mount Vernon City School District ("the District"), fulfilling Education Law §2851(2) (d). As required by Education Law §2851(2) (q) below is an assessment of the projected programmatic and fiscal impact of the School on other public and nonpublic schools in the area.

**Fiscal Impact**

The School will have a relatively small fiscal impact on the Mount Vernon City School District, representing approximately 0.65% of the District's total operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year and approximately 2.52% of the District's total operating budget when the school is at full capacity.

Below is our modeling of the financial impact on the Mount Vernon City School District budget, based on the authorized enrollment, estimated per pupil allocation and estimated District budget.

**Potential Fiscal Impact of**
**AMANI PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**
**on the Mount Vernon City School District**

| School Year | # Students | Per Pupil Allocation [1] | Projected Charter School Cost | District Budget [2] | Projected Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011-2012 | 80 | $16,794 | $1,343,520 | $206,743,435 | 0.65% |
| 2012-2013 | 160 | $16,794 | $2,687,040 | $212,945,738 | 1.26% |
| 2013-2014 | 240 | $17,298 | $4,151,477 | $219,334,110 | 1.89% |
| 2014-2015 | 320 | $17,817 | $5,701,361 | $225,914,133 | 2.52% |
| 2015-2016 | 320 | $18,351 | $5,872,402 | $232,691,558 | 2.52% |

[1] Assumes a 3 percent annual increase from the 2012-2013 estimated average per pupil Allocated Operating Expenses (AOE). (Note: this AOE estimate is subject to unpredictable increases and decreases in any given year. )
[2] Assumes a 3 percent annual increase from the 2011-2012 budget.

We do not believe that the Amani Public Charter School will have a significant financial impact on the Mount Vernon City School District. There's no indication that positions have been cut in the 2011-12 budget. In addition, we know that the District is not currently considering any reductions in teaching staff. [3]

Furthermore, the District currently pays Charter School tuition to five charter schools: three in the Bronx, one in Harlem and one in Yonkers. The Yonkers charter school presently enrolls 23 Mount Vernon resident students. According to a Mount Vernon Board of Education resolution dated September 7, 2011; the District presently pays charter school tuition for approximately 100 students, excluding Amani Public Charter School.[4]

**Programmatic Impact**

The programmatic impact of the Amani Public Charter School on existing public and non-public schools in the District is based primarily on two types of factual evidence: (1) statement made by District representatives expressing internal District assessments of programmatic impact and (2) our own assessments based on the facts available to us and assumptions around likely outcomes.

District representatives have posited several possible programmatic impacts that The School might hypothetically have on the programs of public schools. While we do not necessarily share similar assessments of the likelihood of these programmatic impacts, we nonetheless include them as empirical data of projected impacts.

The District's former Superintendent, Welton Sawyer, indicated that some of the programmatic effects of the School would include:

> Cuts in the GED program
>
> Cuts in Pre-K programs
>
> Drawing more high achieving parents out of the District schools, this is presumed to have negative impact on those schools. [5]

While we recognize that a reduction in funding received by the District will require some reductions in expenditures (or increases in revenues) and that those invariably may have programmatic effects, based on our analysis, many of the District's assessments may be overstated.

We anticipate that there will not be a significant impact on any one elementary school program in the District because the School recruits broadly and will not draw a critical mass from any one single

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[3] January 22, 2012, Mount Vernon City School district Preliminary 2012-2013 Budget Presentation.
[4] See Exhibit A
[5] Letter Communication to the Board of Regents from Superintendent Welton Tony Sawyer, October 22, 2010

school. Mount Vernon has 11 elementary schools, and based on our projected enrollment pattern, which is 80 students per grade coming from 11 schools, we believe that our recruitment will result in geographically dispersed enrollment patterns. In the first year of operation the School drew no more than 12 students from any individual elementary school in the District. The highest number of students came from the largest elementary school, Lincoln School. The next highest amount of students are from Graham School (10 students) which is designated as a school in need of improvement. [6] Of the remaining nine elementary schools between one and eight students from each school are enrolled at Amani. We also have enrolled children from a parochial school located in Mount Vernon that closed (3 students). The rest of our students are from a number of local private schools (one student from each of seven schools), including two students from a parochial school located in Mount Vernon, which is still in operation. [7] A reduction of 6 to 12 students in any single elementary school in any given year will likely not have a direct impact on lead classroom teacher staffing and, if anything, would likely decrease class sizes. In addition, we anticipate insignificant programmatic impact to the local private schools based on our past enrollment patterns.

We project the School will have several positive programmatic effects on the Mount Vernon City School District, by providing a model of efficient and responsive education for underserved students. We will offer to share our effective practices with the District schools and to help them improve, hopefully increasing program quality for all students in the District. Furthermore, we have already seen some of our practices being emulated by the District. As an example, Amani offers a Saturday Academy. We have seen that some Mount Vernon public schools began running Saturday Academies this year. Specifically Holmes, Lincoln and Traphagen elementary schools for the first time ever offered Saturday programs this year. We believe that the presence of an alternative public school option will have a positive impact on the programs of other public schools in the community. Furthermore there is some evidence that increasing educational options for families tends to drive up overall educational quality. [8]

We believe that The Mount Vernon City School District has not made any significant reductions in staff or changes in security as a result of the Amani Public Charter School. The District warned that they would be forced to make cuts to the Pre-K program as a result of the loss of funds from the School. [9] However, as of March 2012, the District continues to offer its Pre-K program and is enrolling children in the program for the 2012-2013 school year. There have not been significant cuts to the program.

With respect to non-public schools, the School is not anticipated to have an effect on these institutions as the overwhelming majority of its students will come from low-income families that would not have the means to pay for private school. In a survey of families as to why they chose

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[6] January 22, 2012, Mount Vernon City School district Preliminary 2012-2013 Budget Presentation.
[7] See Exhibit B
[8] Everyone Wins: How Charter Schools Benefit All New York City Public School Students *Civic Report 60, October 2009.*
[9] –Letter Communication to the Board of Regents from Superintendent Welton Tony Sawyer, October 22, 2010

Amani, 20% of the parents noted that they enrolled at the School because they were seeking an alternative to the District's public schools. The city's population is largely disadvantaged—i.e. the median household income in Mount Vernon is a full $24,000 less than the average for Westchester County, and the Census Poverty Index is not only 3 basis points above the average CPI for New York State but also a whopping 10 points higher than that of Westchester County. 76% of the District's middle school students are eligible for free and reduced lunch (78% of Amani's presently enrolled students are eligible for free and reduced lunch). We believe that these parents would not be able to choose private school and therefore there would not be a significant programmatic impact on non-public school enrollment. [10]

In addition we do not anticipate a significant programmatic impact, in particular due to the fact that the non-public elementary schools in Mount Vernon are exclusively religiously-based programs and do not provide an affordable alternative for the majority of the School's students.

[10] Sources for the school and community demographic data include the New York State District Report Card, Accountability and Overview Report for Mount Vernon City School District, 2007-08; the New York State District Report Card, Comprehensive Information Report Card for Mount Vernon City School District, 2007-08; and the Mount Vernon School District: Demographic Study, Arete Educational Consulting, September 2008

Exhibit A

**AMENDED -- ELIMINATED AMANI CHARTER SCHOOL**

# RESOLUTION

**Resolution No. _____**

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE, WAYS and MEANS** **TAB NO. 21**

Offered at the *"Regular Business Meeting"* of the Mount Vernon Board of Education, held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

## AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CHARTER SCHOOLS

**RESOLVED:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, this Board of Education approves the following Charter Schools for payment:

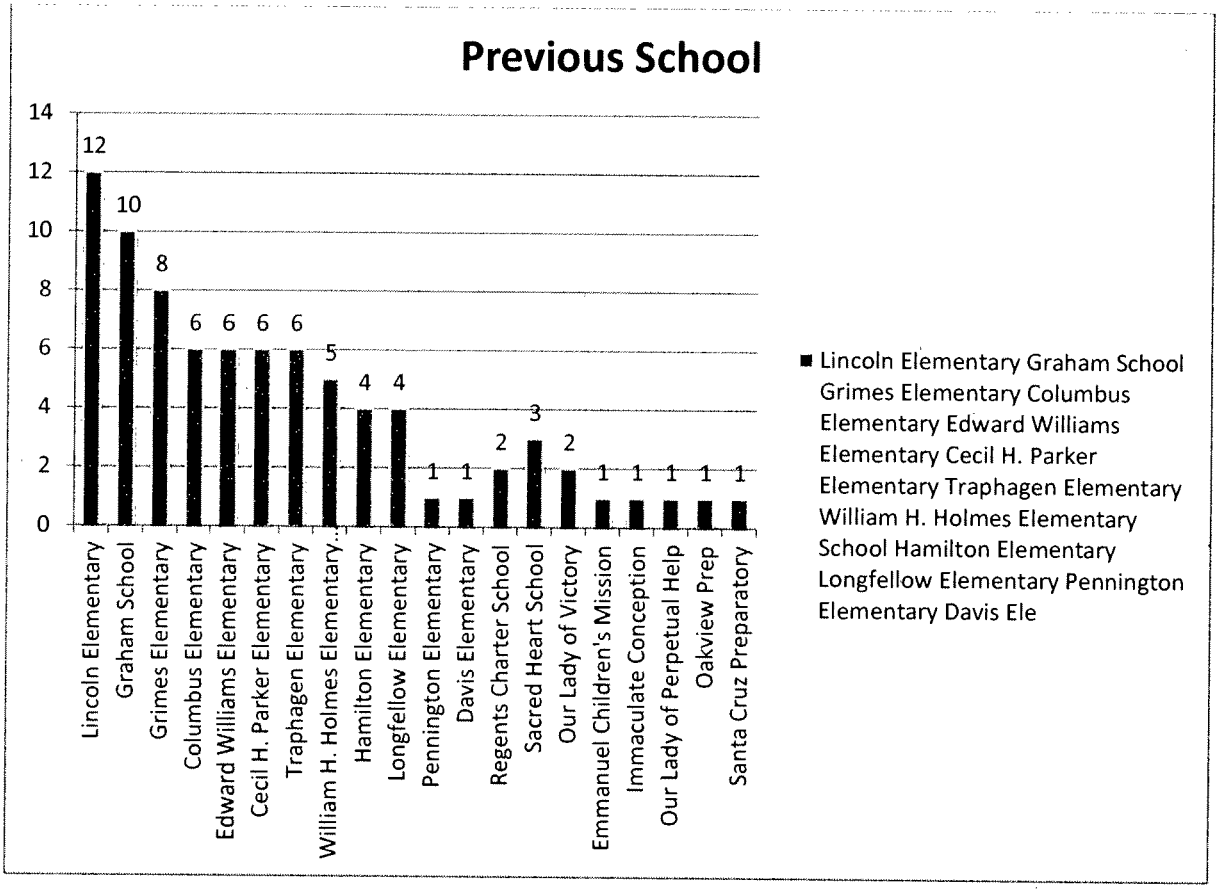
| SCHOOL | AMOUNT PER PUPIL PER YEAR |
|---|---|
| Bronx Preparatory Charter Schools | $16,794 |
| Carl C. Icahn Charter Schools | $16,794 |
| Charter School of Educational Excellence | $16,794 |
| The Bronx Charter Schools | $16,794 |
| The Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem | $16,794 |

Budget Code: A92815 4010 00

**ABSTRACT**
Total estimated students are 100.

Submitted by: Ingerman Smith,LLP
Approved by: W.L. Sawyer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

EXHIBIT B


Previous School
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Lincoln Elementary
Graham School
Grimes Elementary
Columbus Elementary
Edward Williams Elementary
Cecil H. Parker Elementary
Traphagen Elementary
William H. Holmes Elementary...
Hamilton Elementary
Longfellow Elementary
Pennington Elementary
Davis Elementary
Regents Charter School
Sacred Heart School
Our Lady of Victory
Emmanuel Children's Mission
Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Oakview Prep
Santa Cruz Preparatory
Lincoln Elementary Graham School Grimes Elementary Columbus Elementary Edward Williams Elementary Cecil H. Parker Elementary Traphagen Elementary William H. Holmes Elementary School Hamilton Elementary Longfellow Elementary Pennington Elementary Davis Ele