



# PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Last updated: 06/27/2016

## Basic Contact and Application Information

### Page 1

**Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.**

**Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.**

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

### **Proposed Charter School Name**

(Please write out the full name for the proposed charter school, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	OnTECH Charter High School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	9-12
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	360

### **Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.**

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
--	---------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------

Proposed/Current Board Chair	Ellen Eagen	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Ellen Eagen	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

### List of Key Design Elements

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	At-Risk Student Population
2	Career & Technical
3	Project-Based Curriculum
4	Brain-Based Learning
5	Social-Emotional Learning
6	(No response)
7	(No response)
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

**If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.**

<http://www.ontechcharter.com/>

**Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.**

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	(No response)
Partner Organization 1	(No response)
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

**Proposed Board Chair Signature**

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Ellen Kamatzen Eger" in a cursive script.

**Date**

2016/06/27

**Thank you for completing this form.**



## LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY

### **I. Applicant Group Information**

- a. See Table 1, Attached.
- b. See Table 1, Attached.
- c. **Public Contact:** Ellen K. Eagen | [REDACTED]
- d. **Application History:**

OnTECH Charter High School has previously applied for a charter with the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, submitted during the 2016 SUNY Request for Proposals – March 2016. On May 30, 2016, OnTECH withdrew its application from the SUNY cycle. SUNY suggested we consider applying to NYSED. Significant modifications relate to advancing all key design elements through project-based instructional method; enhancing political support; and including wrap-around services to support the school community.

### **II. Proposed Charter School Information**

- a. **Proposed school name:** OnTECH Charter High School
- b. **Proposed school location:** Syracuse City School District (Syracuse, NY); OnTECH is not requesting to be sited in school district facilities.
- c. **Planned grades and enrollment:**

Charter Year	Grades	Enrollment
Year 1	9,10, 11	110
Year 2	9, 10, 11, 12	200
Year 3	9, 10, 11, 12	290
Year 4	9, 10, 11, 12	360
Year 5	9, 10, 11, 12	360

- d. **Proposed management and/or partner organization(s):**

OnTECH is not working with a charter management organization and does not have a formal relationship with any partner management organization. However, OnTECH has established a foundation under the not-for-profit laws of the State of New York, named Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc. (“The SST Foundation”). The SST Foundation was granted IRS tax-exempt status on February 12, 2016 (effective as of November 6, 2015).

- e. **Proposed school mission:**

- To create a community of members who aspire to and engage in life-long learning while understanding their potential as change-makers in society.
- To provide students with a bedrock of math, English and science literacy with the objective to situate all students on an educational pipeline and to have students identify as

life-long learners.

- To provide students project-based learning to develop literacy, interpersonal, social-emotional and problem-solving skills for success in educational and employment settings.
- To teach students technical skills relating to the sustainable sciences as an entry into a career pathway and/or into post-secondary schooling.

**f. School overview:**

The key design elements of OnTECH are as follows:

At-Risk Student Population

OnTECH Charter High School will serve at-risk students, students who have dropped out of the Syracuse School District program or on the cusp of dropping out or are new Americans/refugee students who, by age or prior education, have not been able to integrate into the public school district grade levels and/or have an interrupted formal education or no formal education at all.

Career & Technical

The curriculum will be project-based and connected to the region's indigenous industries and resources. OnTECH will provide job skills and career and technical teaching enabling students to attain employment upon graduation. The students will be preparing for a future that will enable them to begin a career or secure employment in growing industries in the Central New York region and/or continue on to post-secondary education. The curriculum will include the requisite subjects and graduation requirements under New York State Education Law, with a focus on career and technical training for sustainable sciences and technology, specifically in the area of agriculture, agribusiness, sustainable sciences and alternative energy.

Project-Based Curriculum

Instruction will be based on project-based learning that involves completing complex tasks that result in an artifact, an event, or a presentation. Effective product-based learning has five key characteristics:

- Project outcomes tied to the curriculum and learning goals
- Driving questions and problems lead students to the central concepts or principles of the topic or subject area.
- Student investigations and research involve inquiry and knowledge building.
- Students are responsible for designing and managing much of their own learning.
- Projects are based on authentic, real-world problems and questions that students care about and that are meaningful to them.

Project-based learning is an essential way to integrate speaking, writing, listening and reading in teaching at-risk and English Language Learners. It has proven an effective approach for students who are disenfranchised from traditional school settings. Also, project-based learning allows for students who have different levels of literacy and competencies to work effectively together and access the information from different vantage points.

### Brain-based learning

Brain-based learning is the purposeful engagement of strategies that apply to how our brain works in the context of education. The design of the OnTECH schedule is based on current brain-based research. By way of example, the school will operate on a trimester system throughout the school year. Studies show that there is learning loss during the summer causing students to lose gains in proficiency. In addition, the school day will start later in the day to ameliorate sleep deprivation in adolescents which correlates to attention deficit and depression. In response to this research, OnTECH will start the day later, allowing students to get the necessary amount of sleep. Other curriculum and operational design elements, such as the inclusion of physical activity, will address issues relating to chronic stress associated with deep poverty and individuals who have had to flee and abandon their homes.

### Social-emotional Learning

ONTECH will foster the socio-emotional learning and growth of its students. The curriculum will be infused with developing social competencies that can range from simple eye contact to the more nuanced competencies such as empathy and compassion. The profoundly multicultural nature of our student body makes the necessity for a common language of respect, compassion and perseverance between our students essential to maintaining a productive and healthy environment.

#### **g. Target population/community served:**

The specific population OnTECH seeks to serve are those students who are struggling to perform in a traditional school setting, who are on the cusp of dropping out, who have dropped out or who have had some form of interrupted education. For example, OnTECH seeks to serve students who are from our community, who have been able keep up with their cohort and who are now over-age and under-credited. These children may be at-risk for a number of reasons. In these cases earlier schooling might not have established the right foundation or might not have been the right approach or family or social issues may have impeded the students' success. In addition, OnTECH seeks to serve newcomers to our community. Syracuse receives a steady influx of refugees, and OnTECH seeks to serve those refugees who are within the high-school age range who have had minimal education or who have had an interrupted formal education and who need intense remediation and acculturation to the American education system.

#### **h. Replication of high quality school models: N/A**

### **III. Enrollment and retention of students**

OnTECH will create a plan to attract and recruit its students who are (a) those identified in the school's mission (b) Students with disabilities (c) English language leaders; and (d) learners eligible for free and reduced price lunch program. Key elements of our plan are as follows:

- OnTECH will implement authorizer-approved lottery preferences for ELLs and/or FRPL.
- OnTECH has created an advisory board that includes representatives of the different refugee groups. At this point, members of the Congo, Karen community, Burmese and

Somali have representatives on the advisory board.

- OnTECH will continue its conversations with the District and demonstrate efforts to work collaboratively with the local district Committees on Special Education to educate them about the services, settings, and special program features available at the school. The Office of ENL of the Syracuse School District has expressed that the District is in need of options for their at-risk populations, especially for the refugees in our area.
- OnTECH will disseminate outreach materials including, but not limited to, information about the school, information on how to apply to the school, and contact information for the school for stakeholders to reach out to with further questions, that are accessible to all parents in the languages representative of the many ethnic groups in the city. OnTECH has already contacted a local translating service to assess which languages for which they can provide services.
- OnTECH will target mailings, radio, and newspaper advertising in languages prevalent in City.
- OnTECH will disseminate by outreach materials including, but not limited to, information about the school, information on how to apply to the school, and contact information to organizations that support the refugees in the community such as Interfaith Works, Catholic Charities, White Branch Library, Hopeprint, and other agencies. These agencies interface with the refugees upon settlement into the area.
- OnTECH will reach out to the mosques and churches that refugees attend and ask to address the audiences in their native languages.

It is to be noted that by definition many of the students who come as recent refugees will have the status of free and reduced lunch and as ELL; however, it is likely that they will need to be tested to determine if they have disabilities. Research shows that such identification may be difficult due to the lack of formal or interrupted education. OnTECH plans to implement a rigorous intake model and the SIOP model (Sheltered Construction Observation Protocol) to ensure that students are being properly identified and educated.

OnTECH will create a plan to retain its students who are (a) those identified in the school's mission (b) Student with disabilities (c) English language leaders and (d) learners eligible for free and reduced price lunch program. Key elements of the plan are as follows:

- The bylaws will include a parent and student representative on the board (non-voting) to ensure that the Board is apprised of concerns and praise of the school.
- Board meetings and minutes will be translated into languages that can be understood by the community
- Translators will be available during open houses and other school events.
- Google language translator dropdown will be added to school's website.
- All materials explaining the ELL and SWD programming and supports available at the school will be translated.
- School materials, including enrollment materials, will be translated into the predominant language of the communities served.
- The Board and the administration will rely on the advisory board that will include representatives of the refugee communities.
- Efforts to close the achievement gap as evidenced by data will be explained to parents;

parents will be educated about the American education system.

- Students will have employment opportunities through school. Opportunities will be tethered to mastering competencies and attendance.

It is to be noted that a key aspect of OnTECH will be to create a sense of community so that students, who feel disenfranchised, feel welcomed and engaged in their education and their community. The school community will also embrace families. It is a common concern that refugees come to our community and remain isolated. Community will be created through school events (e.g., family dinners), hosting service events (e.g., citizenship classes, housing legal clinics) and providing a place of gathering (e.g., computer lab, community gardens). School culture will be inclusive supporting retaining families.

#### **IV. Public Outreach and Community Support**

- a. See Table 2, Attached.
- b. Our initial assessment is that students, themselves, are interested in a school like OnTECH. Parents have signed our petitions and attended our community meetings; for many, however, it is a struggle to understand the educational process – not only because, as refugees, they do not speak English, but because they do not understand formal education. However, many students, themselves, have attending our meetings, some with high-school age siblings. The have asked for further meetings and asked questions (by email and phone) regarding OnTECH. They have been vocal that they need a school that will engage them, not turn them away – a school that supports them. We will continue to access the parents through their children and hold special meetings with community groups for parents, translating information about the school.

OnTECH can meet its target enrollment because there is student demand for programming for over-age/uncredited students who are struggling through high school or dropping out, reaching limited proficiency and thereby cutting short any possibility of making a livable wage and getting out of poverty. According to 2015 data published by NYSED, of the 2011 cohort in SCSD, 66% of the ELLs did not graduate on time and 23% dropped out. This data indicates that ELLs are at risk and contributing in a significant way to the drop-rate out rate in Syracuse. Additionally, the SCSD has a number of at-risk students who could benefit from this type of alternative school. In the 2011 cohort, 194 students dropped out and 328 are still in school after 4 years. In addition, according to the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (WRAPS – Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System), from 2001-2012, 7,210 refugees came to Onondaga County. In the last two years, 732 refugees in the age range of 14-19 settled in Onondaga County.

#### **V. Proposed Board Chair Signature and Date**



Ellen K. Eagen, OnTECH Board  
Chair

06/28/2016  
Date

APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Ellen Eagen	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Stephen Kimatian	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Robert Gardino	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
John Stegeman	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Samuel Rowser	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP IN****\*Minimum of 5 members must be desig**

<b>CURRENT EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)</b>	<b>PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or None)</b>
Education Attorney, Professor of Law	Legal, SPED, ELL, Charter Schools	Trustee
Lawyer, Business (Tech Start Up)	Legal, Finance, Business	Trustee
Librarian/Onondaga Public Libra	Education/Literacy	Trustee
Educator/Administrator MPH	Education, Anthropology, Cu	Trustee
Ex. Dir./ On Point for College	Education, Career Pathways,	Trustee

**INFORMATION****nated as Trustees**

<b>PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)</b>	<b>LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)</b>
Chair	3	Yes
Treasurer	3	Yes
Trustee	3	Yes
Trustee	3	Yes
Trustee	3	Yes

**Table 2: Public Outreach Information**

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
2/19/2015	Letter Outreach; In person meeting	EKE met with Michael Melara Executive Director of Catholic Charities and Felicia Castricone, Program Director of the Resettlement Services.	Refugee community	EKE provided presentation and solicited feedback; entity has concerns about high school student not being placed in high school because lack of records and credits; this has been an ongoing problem; before CC can take a position would like to be informed by discussion with district; note that students want the high school experience, not GED program	Research/follow up on other local agriculture opportunities in the area/note following up proves information is hard to access	3
11/29/2015	Email/Contact via website	email	Mark Cass on behalf of North Side Learning Center	Few questions in advance of your community meeting:  Can you tell me who some of the principal organizers are?  Are you affiliating with a national charter school organization? If so,	E. Eagen responded: Mark, We are not members of a national organization. We are a community group of educators, lawyers and business people from Syracuse. You will see the press	2

				<p>which?</p> <p>What is your timetable?</p>	<p>release on our site that tells you more. Some of the individuals who are starting this school will be at the presentation tomorrow night. Will you be able to attend? If so, you could meet me and the involved individuals in person. If not, perhaps we can set up a time to talk so we can answer all of your questions. Timetable is to open for fall of 2017. We are hoping to obtain the charter by spring 2016 and have a year to plan before opening our doors.</p> <p>We would love to have you involved.</p> <p>Ellen Eagen</p> <p>Follow-up with meeting week of December 21</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

11/30/15	Sent flyers to community organizations, invited refugee communities, media release, ad in paper. Hosted a public community meeting to introduce OnTECH Charter High School to the public	Pastime Athletic Club – 1314 N Salina St, Syracuse, NY  Media Coverage of event:	All community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how do you create community with different refugee groups?</li> <li>- is this school just for refugees?</li> <li>- What is the funding source</li> <li>- Have you communicated with the FFA</li> <li>- Morrisville Ag school</li> </ul>	special focus with be given to creating community- especially with regard to refugee groups that came from conflict – reaching out to guidance from Seeds for Change FFA curriculum will be incorporated Follow up with Morrisville	22
11/30/2015	Email/Contact Via Website	Email/ Janel Lucas	Local Educators	When does your School anticipate opening? Are you currently taking applications?	Responded opening on or about August 2017 if get charter and not taking application yet. Asked if would she like to be on email distribution list (E. Eagen 11/30/15)	2
11/30/2015	Community Meeting Card (from community meeting)	Email and Phone/ Elizabeth Allen/SUNY EOC	Local Education Pipeline	I am still unclear about who is eligible - - just refugees? What is the age limit?	E. Eagen called E. Allen on 12/1 and had discussion regarding role of EOC. Asked whether she thinks we are duplicating local efforts and she said no. E. Allen believed that refugee community would find meaning in an ag curriculum. She raised question of	2

					hosting an urban garden (will incorporate). Asked whether I had connected with CCE (Yes). E. Allen told me a story of how a local refuge gained knowledge and went back to village to help with building wells and purifying water. Discussed possibility of letter of support; E. Allen encouraged me to talk with Morrisville State College	
11/30/2015	Community Meeting Card (from public meeting)	Community meeting/phone John Sindoni/ Barclay Damon LLP	Local Philanthropy	Hoping to help in any way. Not an educator but would be willing to help with community support (financial and otherwise). Great concept that has been carefully thought out.	Will follow up with J. Sindoni if application is accepted to work on fundraising	2
12/1/15	Phone call received in response to media	Phone/ Theresa Spain Cornell Cooperative Extension	Local Ag education	Some local agriculture projects	E. Eagen contacted T. Spain to discuss role of CCE, viewpoint of school and how CCE and OnTECH could collaborate; addressed key points about OnTECH; T. Spain provided information on	2

					agriculture education resources and continues to be a resource; invited E. Eagen to participate in farm to school initiative webinar with Cornell; decided to determine type of relationship with CCE; T. Spain offered to connect with Morrisville	
12/1/2015	Email/Contact Form via website	Email/Rena Youngblood/Association of American Educators	Local Educators	I just read the article about your plans for OnTECH Charter High School. I was with the Georgia Charter Schools Association for seven years before moving to the Association of American Educators. Georgia has a charter school called, International Community School. Like you, they have a focus on the refugee population that makes up about 50% of the student body. <a href="http://icsgeorgia.org/">http://icsgeorgia.org/</a> . I thought you might be interested in knowing about another school with a similar mission. Good	E. Eagen Reviewed website and returned email thanking; in touch with admin at charter school in George to discuss specific issue regarding gaining trust with community	2

				luck with your petition. I love your mission and focus.		
12/1/2015	Email/Contact Form via website	Email and House Meeting/ Tom Brown/Truxton Academy Charter School	Charter group	Perhaps we should meet. We have working on a community based ag charter for the past year. Truxton Academy.	Contacted 12/1/15; research school; playing voice tag (E. Eagen 12/1); E. Eagen meets with group; discuss charter application process but how schools could benefit by being in same locale	7 (meeting) 1/16/16
12/1/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Email/ Multiple Community Meetings/ David Flagg	Local educator	Dear Mrs. Ellen Eagen,  I was excited to see a charter school for immigrants was under consideration but disappointed that the schools goal was to prepare immigrants for work in agriculture. I grew up on a farm in Massachusetts, farmed for many years, and spent ten years as Director of Field Services for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Since moving to Syracuse nine years ago I have come to know many	E. Eagen responded on 12/1/15, Thank you for your message. In fact, I agree with you entirely. If you review the PowerPoint on the website you will see that we are talking about agribusiness and listed several technical career-paths including hydrologists and water technicians - we are not talking about agriculture in the traditional sense of milking cows and picking berries. We	2

				<p>immigrant students. I tutored students at the Butternut Street Police Community Center and tried to start a parent teacher student organization at Public Service Leadership Academy (PSLA) at Fowler.</p> <p>At PSLA, some of the most successful students were immigrant students. Their academic performance often exceeded that of American students. On the other hand, some older immigrant students are placed in grades based on their age rather than their previous education. One fourteen year old with little or no education in Africa was immediately placed in the eight-grade at Grant Middle School near the end of the school year and the next fall into the ninth grade at Nottingham High School. At the time,</p>	<p>are working with the trade union and also Future Farmers of American to create a very sophisticated, highly technical curriculum. Your response makes me think we did not get this point across clearly enough. I thank you for this feedback because it is exactly what we need to better articulate the program. It sounds like you have a wealth to offer. Please consider being involved. Thank you again for your feedback. I will call you later in the week.</p> <p>D. Flagg continues to come to community meetings and provide feedback</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	---	--

				<p>he had limited knowledge of addition and subtraction and virtually no knowledge of multiplication or division. A year later he was placed in an Algebra one class. He failed Algebra. He dropped out of school.</p> <p>The immigrant student community certainly needs a school aligned with their special needs but also designed to allow them to realize their academic potential. The goal should be at least high school graduation post-graduation technical training or for many, preparation for four year college admission.</p> <p>I urge a reconsideration of the new charter schools goals. Immigrant students have huge abilities.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

12/2/2015	Email/Contact Form via website	Phone/ Rachel Hoffman/Syracuse University	Media	Hello, I was in touch with you yesterday regarding setting up a phone interview today. I was hoping you were still available to talk with me. I am available between now and 3:30. Or, I am available between 11:30-12:30 tomorrow (Thursday) morning. I look forward to hearing from you.	RH reporter at Syracuse University; conducted interview; (E. Eagen 12/3)	2
12/4/2015	In person meeting	House Meeting/ Cyprien Mihigo	Refugee Group	Discussion with S. Kimatian and C. Mihigo about status of the school and issues relating to Congolese. C. Mihigo explains soil study relating to nutrient in soil in homeland; correlation with ag studies	Curriculum – point Soil study/nutrition/plants relating to home country	2
12/7/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Email/ Mary Mitchell	Educators	Hi! I am a former SCSD ELL teacher who at one time had a vision of creating a charter school for the refugee population in Syracuse as well. Although my dreams	12/7 E. Eagen contacted Mary to set up time to meet (follow-up necessary)	2

				<p>never came to fruition, my passion for these people and seeing them succeed is very strong. I am not sure if there is any way that I can be involved in this project that you are undertaking, but the more information I read about it the more I feel the need to reach out to you. Are there employment opportunities opening to be a part of this? I missed the forum where you presented to the community, but I would love to catch up on any info you have available. The refugees in this community are so deserving of a better education and this looks like it is just what they need! Thank You for your time!</p>		
12/8/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Hanna Horvath/Syracuse University	Media	My name is Hanna Horvath and I am a beat writer for the Daily Orange, covering events	Returned call and conducted interview (E. Eagen 12/8)	2

				happening in the Syracuse area. I was wondering if I could speak to someone regarding the development of this school and the effects it will have on the community.		
12/8/2015	Phone call from Ray Rinaldi	Pond Street property In person meeting	Real Estate	Consider space for facility	E. Eagen return call 12/9 to discuss facility. R. Rinaldi discuss gym as a meeting spot for refugees; facility remodeled, Pond Street; will check out	7
12/9/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Kevin Walker/C&S Companies	Sustainable Sciences Business	This is a great idea. How do you plan to connect with the local employers to identify the potential job opportunities and identify the appropriate skill sets your students will need to meet the associated job requirements?	E. Eagen 12/10 response: Dear Mr. Walker, We are still in the planning phase and this is an excellent question. First, based on the curriculum we are developing students' skills to connect them with industry in the summer prior to the junior year. We will meet with the potential employers and then we will retro design the courses to fit the skills needed. We are reaching out to	3

					<p>individual employers/ We are also working with local group to set up a group meeting with employers. If you have any ideas, we would appreciate them; Continue to work with Mr. Walker in establishing MOU with local entities that will provide business experience to youth</p>	
12/10/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Phone/ In Person meetings/ Katie Scott	Community Member; advocate of refugee	<p>Invitation: The Butternut Community Police Center is having their Christmas Party for refugees next Friday at Grant Middle School from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. I believe this is our 5th year, we have had as many as 800 people, last year it was around 600. We provide a very simple dinner for families and they get their picture taken with Santa, and each child gets a gift or two. They sign up ahead of time so we can schedule them.</p>	<p>Accepted invitation (E. Eagen 12/10); will arrive at 3:30 p.m. to help set up and volunteer</p>	<p>1; E. Eagen attend Christmas Party and meet 20+ members of the refugee community and discuss issues. Refugees are very concerned about living situation – poor housing. OnTECH will consider wrap around services</p>

				<p>My husband and I help set up at 3:00, first time at this school. It might be a nice way for you to meet more refugees, talk to director of the Center, Officer Ken Burdick and other people who volunteer there and with other groups. Plus we have people from Rite Aid who help set up, serve and take down as well as other volunteers. If you are interested, you can call my cell at 657-3634.</p>		
12/10/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Email/Katie Scott	Community Member	<p>First of all, I heard feedback from the Refugee Community that they loved your recent presentation.</p> <p>I was wondering have you also reached out to the Community Foundation and Gifford Foundation for their support, financial and guidance. I have found them a tremendous asset in various projects I</p>	Returned email and thank K. Scott; added Gifford to fundraising list; CF on list (E. Eagen, 12/10)	2

				<p>have been involved in on the North Side. In fact, they sponsored last summer a bus where they took us to a farm in East Syracuse who shares their land for free for various refugee groups to grow crops and can then share it with their community. An added benefit was it enabled people from other countries to work and get to know each other and how much they have in common in this new setting. They even had meals where they shared special foods from their native country. It was an amazing experience and a professor and student from ESF helped with the farm.</p>		
12/10/2015	Email/Contact Form Via website	Email/John Manganelli	Community Member	<p>What criteria will be used in the selection of potential students? Is there an entrance / qualifying exam? I have seen in the past charter schools that get such an</p>	Emailed response E. Eagen 12/10, re statutory requirement of lottery	2

				overwhelming response that they need to institute a lottery; should such a case arise is a similar situation planned?		
12/18/2015	Attendance of community event	Community Event/ Butternut Community Police Center	Political	EKE attended Butternut Community Police Center's Christmas Party that hosts refugee families	Met and discussed OnTECH with County Legislator Peggy Chase; Jai Subedi of Nepalese community; EKE will follow up	50+
12/29/2015	Small community meeting	Somali Bantu Community Center	Refugee Group	EKE met with community group at Somali Bantu community office. In attendance were representatives of the Burmese, Ethiopian and Somali communities	Members were enthusiastic and offered space for future meetings; discuss literacy issues and housing issues. Note culture differences to be attentive to – eye contact, etc.	9
12/30/2015	Email/Contact Form Via Website	Phone Meeting/ Deborah Jeanne Sergeant	Media	Hello. I'm a writer for Lancaster Farming Northeast. We distribute in print to New York and New England. I would like to interview a representative of OnTECH for a feature. The phone interview would take about 30 minutes. I would also like a few photos to accompany the article. Could a representative of	1/3 schedule interview relating to article in farming magazine	2

				OnTECH contact me to set up a phone interview? Thank you for your time.		
12/30/2015	Meeting with Sam Rowser, Ex. Dir. On Point for College	In person/ OnPoint Office	Community/Under-credited & overage population	Meeting with S. Rowser, E. Eagen and S. Kimatian. Discussion regarding career and job readiness  See Minutes	Will continue discussion with aim for MOU for OnPoint to be involved with college and career readiness and ask Mr. Rowser to participate at board level	2
1/02/2016	In person meeting	Local Coffee shop	Refugee	Adel Almohamad, refugee from Iraq. Experience with agriculture and teaching at university level; employed as factory worker	Follow up and asked/confirmed will sit on Advisory Board - will assist with material relevant for child population; has knowledge about curriculum	2
01/04/2016	Email/Contact Form Via Website	Email/ Dirk Tillotson	Charter	greetings was interested in the refugee focus of the school and think that is a huge need, we run non profit that supports apps in NY and would be happy to chat some about your proposal-- dirk-- NY charter school incubator-- shoot me an email or give me a call if you would like to chat-- best of luck in any event 510-366	Communicate with Dirk and to meet in Oakland, California re assistance	1

				6902		
01/05/2016	Email/Contact Form Via Website	Email Evelyn Tamela	Community Member; works with refugees	<p>Upon hearing the news of a charter school adapted to the needs of our refugee population, I knew I needed to become involved. I currently work with the Center for New Americans at InterFaith Works here in Syracuse and have taught various levels of English and basic financial literacy. Please add me to any list-serve to receive additional information, meetings and updates on the progress towards establishing this new educational alternative for this worthy group of New Americans. I look forward to becoming involved.</p>	Follow-up conversation on how Ms. Tamela would like to be involved; discussed way to outreach to various refugee populations	2
01/06/2016	Email/Contact Form Via Website	George Dale	Educator	<p>I am very interested in becoming involved in your school. I taught high school for 8 years and am now working as an instructional</p>	EKE to set up tentative March meeting to discuss distance learning and credit accumulation; need to follow up; review standards to	2

				designer/eLearning specialist at Upstate. I have a deep interest in education design and reform. Please let me know how I can contribute.	determine the possibility of incorporating distance learning	
02/18/16	Community Meeting; Sent flyers to community organizations, invited refugee community groups, sent email notification to over 150 persons. Purpose to receive continued feedback from public.	Northeast Hawley Development Association	Northside (Syracuse) residents and community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students present liked science curriculum and job skills</li> <li>- mental health issue relating to job loss</li> <li>- agriculture of interest</li> </ul>	Note employment important to refugee communities; incorporate ag + science; follow up with Morrisville State College; consider wrap around services dealing with mental health	23
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Scott Emery (315) 546-4886 <a href="mailto:scott.emory@mshallaassociates.com">scott.emory@mshallaassociates.com</a>		Organization: Hope Point Do you support this school? Yes Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes	EKE and Fran Coudriet follow up with Scott regarding how to quantify feedback and analyze feedback. Participation with Scott in IDEO design; follow up with Scott re working with local literacy groups	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Virginian Felleman <a href="mailto:vfelleman@cazenovia.edu">vfelleman@cazenovia.edu</a>		Organization: Literacy CNY Do you support this school: Yes, if the focus is refugees Do you have any questions about OnTECH? Why not partner with OCC like the Vo-Tech did?	Notified of meeting at JobPlus on March 15 to discuss with tutors issues relating to difficulties of adult remediation.	2

				Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes		
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Day Nyar Wah <a href="mailto:Daynyarwah607@gmail.com">Daynyarwah607@gmail.com</a> 315-403-2076	Refugee community	Organization: Karen Community of Syracuse Do you support this school choice? Yes Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes	Reach out to get involvement	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Sah Poe Wah <a href="mailto:wahsahpoe@gmail.com">wahsahpoe@gmail.com</a> 315-396-9588	Refugee community	Organization: Karen Community in Syracuse Do you support this school choice? Yes Do you have any questions about OnTECH? Can the age range be extended a little bit to 22 or 25 years old Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes, a lot of people especially from the Northside of Syracuse	Reach out to get involvement; must consider extension of services for students beyond high school	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Kayla Kelechian <a href="mailto:Kleeshee101@gmail.com">Kleeshee101@gmail.com</a> 315-285-9874	Refugee community	Organization: Karen Community of Syracuse Do you support this school choice? Yes Do you have any questions about OnTECH? What can we do to ensure the students both	Have lunch with Kayla on 2/16 as well with W. Isome. Discuss issues with uneducated young adults. Not welcomed in school community. Continue with discussion having Kayla sit on Advisory	3

				refugees/new Americans get preference or are allotted space and benefit from this program? Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes	Council.	
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Nancy Aye <a href="mailto:shwenhninsi17@gmail.com">shwenhninsi17@gmail.com</a> 315-412-8742	Refugee community	Organization: Burmese/Karen Community Do you support this school choice? Yes Do you have any questions about OnTECH? No, however this is school that our community need Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes	List serve and discuss follow up meeting with Burmese community	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	David Flagg <a href="mailto:dwflagg@rcn.com">dwflagg@rcn.com</a> 978.501.2831	Educators	Organization: Retired Do you support this school choice? Undecided Do you have questions about OnTECH? Yes Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes	Add name to list serve; communicate with David on phone; feels as if high school may be too late to capture students	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	Donna Koury <a href="mailto:Doko22@hotmail.com">Doko22@hotmail.com</a> 446-5336	Educators	Organization: SEOC/Literacy CNY Do you support this school choice? Yes Do you have any	Add Name to List serve; continue to discussion re meaningful relationship with OCC	2

				<p>questions about OnTECH? Many Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes</p>	<p>and use of remediation testing for accountability standards.</p>	
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	<p>Douglas Randall  <a href="mailto:Bflo66@yahoo.com">Bflo66@yahoo.com</a>  315-720-1005</p>	Educator/ESL	<p>Organization: ESL Tutoring  Do you support this school choice? Yes  Do you have any questions about OnTECH? How can we follow the progress of this venture? How can we help?  Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes</p>	<p>Add name to List serve; schedule a morning meeting with tutors at JobPlus on March 15</p>	2
02/18/2016	Community Meeting – NEHDA	<p>Praja (Raj) Shapkota  <a href="mailto:shapkota@gmail.com">shapkota@gmail.com</a>  315-447-3354</p>	Refugee	<p>Organization: Bhutanese Community of Syracuse, Inc.  Do you support this school choice? Yes  Do you have any questions about OnTECH? How can you reach out to various ethnic groups of immigrants/refugees?  Do you know people who can benefit from a school like this? Yes  Professors at SUNY ESF/SU</p>	<p>EKE follow up with Praja to discuss operations of the school and explain that there is no fee. Discussion re meeting families of Bhutanese in March, tentatively scheduled for March 15; follow up with Praja and Bhutanese community to discuss participation on Advisory Council.</p>	2

				Workers at Catholic Charities & Interfaith Works		
2/18/2016	Letter Outreach; In Person Meeting w/EKE	Renate Dunsmore Manager of White Branch	Refugee/Literacy/Community	Reviewed PowerPoint and solicit feedback; has concerns that many of the refugee population never fully integrate; believes education is key; would like the school to be on the north side – walking distance is important for access; provide data relating to refugees coming into area	Will provide letter of support	2
2/19/2016	Letter Outreach; In Person meeting w/EKE	David A. Skeval, the Executive Directors of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, Katherine Korba, MLA Environment & Community Development Team Coordinator of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County and Kristina Ferrare, Program Coordinator for Urban Agriculture.	Agriculture Education	EKE review PowerPoint information and solicit feedback; Entity was eager to partner and identified other programs to try to connect with; provided information regarding Jubilee Farms and Salt City Farms  See Minutes	Follow-up re partnership	3
2/19/2016	Letter Outreach; In person meeting	EKE met John Eberle, Vice President of Grants and	Community/Literacy	EKE provide PowerPoint presentation;	Will follow up with literacy director at Community	3

		Community Initiatives of the New York Community Foundation.		Discussion of literacy programs throughout city and concerns relating to organizations not working together in the city	Foundation to discuss young adult initiatives; communicated with Hope Print (literacy group); follow up meeting March 2 with literacy consultant; discuss writing a white paper to educate community re charter schools	
2/20/2016	In person meeting	EKE went to store of Jai Subedi, Nepalese leader and employed at Interfaith works as case worker	Refugee	Informal discussion about school; met high school students who attend store; high school students will graduate this June but can barely speak English; like sciences and opportunity to go to college; currently do not know how to pursue college	Will schedule community meeting to engage parents and student and obtain feedback	2
03/24/16	Community Meeting; Sent flyers to community members and JobsPlus! Tutors and ESL instructors. Purpose to share and receive feedback from area ESL teachers and educators	JobsPlus, 677 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202	ESL teachers and educators. Community organizations that serve the refugee populations of Syracuse, NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- comments: this is necessary, positive and feedback</li> <li>- some anti-charter feeling dispels</li> </ul>	<p>Need to make sure market in a way that dispels anti-charter sentiment</p> <p>Tap into the local groups that are doing literacy work</p>	15+

3/24/16	Letter outreach; Meet with Superintendent Sharon Contreras Jackie Le Roy, Office of ENL, World Language and Bilingual Education	Syracuse City School District Headquarters, 725 Harrison St, Syracuse, NY 13210	School District	Discussed plans of OnTECH; explained focus was on complementing initiatives of the District; discussed issues around new Americans	Will reach out to the school board; will ask authorizer to call S. Contreras; J. Le Roy followed up re statistics of students; discussed SIOP remediation approach	3
3/26/2016	Karen Community Meeting –  E. Eagen invited by pastor G. Riina to talk to community; showed PowerPoint and discussed programming	Saint Stevens Church, Syracuse, NY	Refugee	Many students, young adults were present. Many concerns related to 20-something group that was told could not enroll in school and given alternative school settings that were dead ends; not in hourly-wage jobs with no future; desperate for future; still dreaming and want help	Will consider wrap around and additional services beyond high school; need to study how to develop proper and accountable budget	25
05/12/16	Media release, email to community members and groups. Public hearing at SCSD in regards to OnTECH Charter High School	Syracuse City School District Headquarters, 725 Harrison St, Syracuse, NY 13210	All public	Positive feedback re support from the city	Statutory requirement satisfied	14
6/1/2016 6/5/2016	Future Farmers of America State Conference attended by S. Kimatian	Syracuse, NY	Agribusiness	Stressed development of leadership skills and other farming issues	Positive support from students; discussion of how to create ties between OnTECH and other chapters of the FFA to enhance	

					project based and blended learning classrooms	
6/1/2016	Congolese Community Meeting  With S. Kimatian	Emmanuel's Grocery Store, 507 Pond St., Syracuse, NY	Refugee	Met with C. Mihiglo and individuals of the Congo because they wanted to present a plan of how farming could be an important party of their community's livelihood. Right now they have a small plot in Onondaga County for growing vegetables and then selling the produce in their markets. If they could develop a large farm it could be a place where students would learn and also provide jobs for their community. It was for this reason they wanted to partner with OnTECH.	Research access of property through city and state; consider long term plan of developing farm property; begin with urban garden.	3

6/19/2016	In Person house meeting: Stephen Kimatian Ellen Eagen Cyprien Mihigo Lazare Sebankunzi	312 Sedgwick Drive	Refugee/AG	Discuss potential of adult refugees in OnTECH plans; need for work; mental health issues in community; discuss creation of a farm property out of the city for educational usage	Reach out to County Executive office to ask about property usage.	3
6/19/2016	Conversation with Karen Patricio	Phone conversation	Education/Ag	K. Patricio is a Cornell grad; working on Masters of Teaching at Ithaca College in Ag. Program; S. Lighthall suggested OnTECH as a school for K. Patricio to work with; discussion focuses on parent and community outreach initiatives	Will continue to work together to address specific issues of urban ag program and way to facilitate community outreach	2
6/23/2016	Send Outreach Letter BOCES Superintendent, Mr. Jody Manning		Education	Waiting on response		2
6/23/2016	Send letter to SCSD Board of Education: President Derrick Dorsey, Vice President Patricia		Education	Waiting on response		7

	Body, David Cecile, Mark Muhammad, Rita Paniagua, Dan Romeo, Katie Sojewicz					
--	---	--	--	--	--	--

**Sample 2A - 1 : Informed Community**



# Charter High School

a not-for-profit high school in Syracuse

to be established under

New York State Charter and Education Law

# The Vision of OnTECH

---

OnTECH envisions the following for our community:

- ❖ More students graduating from high school
- ❖ More students graduating with employable skills
- ❖ More students getting jobs upon graduation
- ❖ More local businesses hiring graduates, increasing regional employment statistics
- ❖ More citizens aware and educated about topics that impact our future including issues relating to sustainability sciences
- ❖ More young adults building careers and lives in CNY and giving back to our community

# The Educational Mission of OnTECH

---

The mission of OnTECH is:

- ❖ to identify, reach and teach students who thrive in non-traditional school settings
- ❖ to provide meaningful instruction for at-risk students including the refugee and new American populations
- ❖ to help students integrate effectively into a school environment and our community
- ❖ to provide students skill-based and project-based instruction, graduating them with meaningful, job-related skills.

# Key Educational Attributes of OnTECH

---

- ❖ Older students will not be counseled out; they will be encouraged to get a high school diploma even if it takes more than four years.
- ❖ Students will have educational opportunities all year round.
- ❖ Students will be given job opportunities while they are in school.
- ❖ School will be a community.

# Education Model: Career & Technical

---

- The trend of CTE schools across the county is that students can learn more effectively through a contextual-based instruction where the subject and content of the curriculum is based on a discipline of study.
- The philosophical basis of the OnTECH curriculum is to choose subjects of study that are indigenous and relevant to the Central New York region and its industries.
- OnTECH will be a career and technical school offering courses in science and technology that will give students the hands-on and critical thinking skills they need to get gainful employment or to continue with their education after graduation.

# Agri-business, Water, Sustainable Sciences and Alternative Energy: Local Import

---

- ❑ Environmental and sustainable sciences have growing importance on a national scale as well as being highly relevant to our region.
- ❑ Agriculture has been a core of CNY industries ever since the advent of the Erie Canal.
- ❑ There are over 3,500 farms and 200 food processing plants in the CNY region, accounting for over 4,000 jobs.
- ❑ CNY has one of the most extensive water resources in the United States.
- ❑ Development of alternate energy including wind, solar and thermal energy sources has been growing throughout the CNY region.

# Curriculum

---

The OnTECH curriculum will draw upon the following career pathways:

- ❑ Agribusiness Systems
- ❑ Biotechnology systems
- ❑ Sustainability Sciences
- ❑ Environmental Sciences
- ❑ Food products and food processing systems
- ❑ Alternative Energy Sources

# Nature of Employment

---

- ❑ Agri-business includes farming and dairy operations, crop production, animal production, fish hatchery production, forestry, biofuels, food processing, nursery and landscaping.
- ❑ Hydrology includes water quality, waste water treatment, farming, aquaculture and hydroponics.
- ❑ Alternate energy includes the development of wind, thermal and development of solar power.

# Potential Employment Classifications

---

- ❑ Agri-business
- ❑ Farming and Dairy Operations
- ❑ Beverage Manufacturing/ Breweries
- ❑ Aquaculture / Hydroponics
- ❑ Vineyard Worker
- ❑ Hydrologist
- ❑ Environmental Technician
- ❑ Water / Air Quality Technician
- ❑ Water & Waste Water Systems
- ❑ Nursery and Greenhouse Workers
- ❑ Forest Conservation
- ❑ Power Systems Technician
- ❑ Wind / Thermal Technician
- ❑ Photovoltaic Technician

# Education Partnerships

---

## ❑ Morrisville State College

Morrisville is at the forefront of agriculture and renewable energy programs at the secondary level and has agreed to partner with OnTECH.

## ❑ Future Farmers of America (NYS FFA)

three Secondary school Agricultural Education programs in New York State are composed of essential components: classroom instruction, supervised work experience, and integrated student leadership development activities through the Future Farmers of America. The NYS FFA is an intercurriculum student organization for students interested in agriculture and leadership.

## ❑ Association of Building Contractors – NCCER

The National Construction Center for Education Resources offers certification in power generation, wind turbine, solar photovoltaics, alternative energy and green environment.

# Summary of Key Points

- ❖ Letter of Intent will be filed with the SUNY Charter Institute (the authorizer).
- ❖ If we receive a charter, the school would open on or about August 2017.
- ❖ The location of the school will likely be the west or north side of the City.
- ❖ The target population is at risk, under-credited and over-age students but everyone can apply.
- ❖ The school will grow year by year. At capacity it will be approximately 320 students.
- ❖ Proposed grades are high school (9-12 grade cohort).
- ❖ The school will be a career and technical school preparing students for job employment, developing their careers and preparing them for higher education.
- ❖ Curriculum will focus on sustainable sciences and technology, specifically agriculture and will draw upon resources of regional agribusiness.

# We want to hear from you!

*We are actively seeking comments, feedback and ideas about our program.*

## **Call:**

315-256-2461 (cell phone of Lead Applicant, Ellen Eagen)

## **Write:**

Sustainable Sciences and Technology Foundation

312 Sedgwick Drive, Syracuse, New York 13203

## **Email:**

[info@ontechcharter.com](mailto:info@ontechcharter.com)

*All feedback – positive and negative – is welcome and will be responded to.*

Sponsored by the  
**Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation, Inc.**

# Sample 2A - 2 : Public Meeting Notice



an exciting  
new high school  
**YOU'RE INVITED**



**7:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, November 30, 2015**  
Pastime Athletic Club | 1314 N. Salina Street

Join us as we discuss plans for an exciting new charter school in Syracuse.

OnTECH Charter High School is being designed to serve new American immigrants and refugees, as well as students looking for a non-traditional learning environment.

This school will be a place where students will learn skills to get a job upon graduation or continue on to higher education. Students will apprentice with businesses and obtain employment while earning a high school diploma.



## CURRICULUM FOCUS



ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCES



AGRICULTURE  
& AGRIBUSINESS



NEW ENERGY  
SOURCES

[ontechcharter.com](http://ontechcharter.com)

Sponsored by Sustainable Sciences & Technology Foundation

## Sample 2A - 4 : Comments Received & Impact

### OnTECH COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES Thursday, February 18, 2016

#### NORTHEAST HAWLEY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS 101 Gertrude Street, Syracuse, NY 13203

A community informational meeting was held at the NEDA headquarters on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Printed flyers were prepared to advertise the meeting and were distributed in the Northside neighborhoods at key locations. Among the locations for the flyer distribution were the Catholic Charities Northside CYO offices at 527 N. Salina Street, NEDA headquarters at 101 Gertrude Street, the Catholic Diocese headquarters at 240 E. Onondaga Street and On Point for College at 240 E. Onondaga Street. NEHDA also dropped off flyers at the locations of its members in the Northside area. In addition, flyers were posted at food markets on Court Street, Townsend Street and Butternut Street all in the Northside neighborhood. Flyers were also electronically sent via email to several organization including Jobs Plus and On Point.

The meeting was attended by 20 individuals including new immigrant students who had recently graduated high school, students in high school and parents of children in school, teachers and curriculum instructors for ELL and individuals in the community who were interested to know about the school.

After those attending had arrived and had discussions among each other, the meeting was commenced at 7:10 PM. Ellen Eagen, lead applicant for OnTECH Charter High School, welcomed everyone and asked each of the attendees to give their name, a short comment on their background and main interest for attending. She then presented the purpose, mission and proposed curriculum of OnTECH through a PowerPoint presentation that covered key aspects of the school including that application was to SUNY Charter Institute for opening of August 2017 for high school level students. She explained the purpose of the charter was to be a true community based school that was integrated as a partner in the community. After the presentation, the meeting was opened to questions and the attendees were invited to give their opinions and suggestions about the school and to ask any questions they had about its plans.

One question was whether there was a preferred location. Ms. Eagen explained that a location in the Northside area of Syracuse was desirable because it was the home of the great majority of new American immigrants. Having an outdoor opportunity for the students to play and also to have a school garden was also an important consideration. She opened up the discussion to the group regarding other locations in the City. Many thought that the Northside was preferable but also discussed James Street.

A member of the Bhutanese community, Praja Shapkota, stated that OnTECH's focus on agriculture, as many immigrants would very favorably view part of its curriculum because they came from agrarian communities. Additionally, he said many of the tasks on a farm and in the agricultural area are ones that can be learned and then practiced with modest language skills.

Praja also said a very sad situation in the refugee community was that because there was not an opportunity to work for many or them, they had become depressed and a significant number

were on anti-depressant medication. He asked whether adults and children in their early 20's could participate in the school community. The group discussed the need for this age group to be assisted. Ms. Eagen discussed the funding of the charter and explained that public funds come in to service high school students. If we can properly segregate funds we could assist other groups. She said that she would raise this issue with the finance group that they had retained to assist with the application.

Another attendee, from the Burmese community said that many of the refugees come here without education suited to their grade level and he wanted to know if the school was going to address this problem. He mentioned that a science-based curriculum would attract refugees.

Ms. Eagen said she was glad to hear that point because the instruction at OnTECH would take into account the challenge of the over age and under credited student. She explained there have been discussions with other organizations, such as On Point for College, and EOC, which would be able to support the education of students who aged out of the New York State guidelines but still needed further instruction to graduate from High School. She explained the concept of the educational pipeline and making sure students stayed on track.

Another question related to the age group of students and wanted to know whether the school could start at the elementary level. Ms Eagen explained that while it could be a possibility at some point, those refugees who entered the school district at a younger age had a good opportunity to learn English at an early age and would be able to better integrate into the traditional school system.

A suggestion was made by attendee, David Flagg, for OnTECH to engage in discussions with the Farm Bureau, an agency he had been employed by for many years. He said the relationship with the Future Farmers of America that OnTECH had developed was good, but that the Farm Bureau would add another area of expertise. Ms. Eagen thanked him for the suggestion and said she would look into the possibilities.

Mr. Flagg also cited several sad stories within the public school system where the students could not be given the level appropriate math curriculum because it was not part of the school's teaching and as a result those students were assigned to math classes that were totally unsuited for their current level of knowledge. Not being able to pass those courses led to their not graduating or dropping out of school. He wanted to know how OnTECH would handle this situation.

Ms. Eagen explained to him that the school is very much dedicated to addressing that problem. It was the intention of OnTECH to classify students more by their level of knowledge and not by their age only, so that the instruction would always be relevant to their knowledge.

Another attendee, Scott (with literary organization Hopeprint), asked what was being done to survey the needs of the community. Ms. Eagen said that there had been many conversations with community organizations and individuals asking about their needs and what they thought was important. She said that OnTECH was always looking to increase their database of knowledge about the community needs. Scott suggested that some research organizations could be used. A

discussion ensued about the difficulty in doing an accurate survey because of the language barrier and sometimes difficulty of locating all the refugees. Ms. Eagen discussed the IDEO-human design element of their approach but wanted to learn more about any analytical approach.

A reference was made to a study on new immigrants by the Onondaga Citizens League and Ms. Eagen thanked the person for that information and said the OnTECH would look into that report.

Kayla, a representative of the Burmese community, said she listened closely to what OnTECH planned to offer as its curriculum and she commented that the kind of education proposed was terrific, that the programs being offered to her knowledge and experience was revolutionary and that it meshed perfectly with the needs of the community. Ms. Eagen thanked her for the comment and asked for her to stay involved.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM. Some attendees stayed longer to further talk and discuss their interest in OnTECH and partake in the refreshments.