

# **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION**

## **Our Neighborhood Charter**

**Schools opening in the fall of 2013**

**See Resource Manual for Assistance**

**Due by 12 noon Friday, April 13, 2012**

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
NCDPI/Office of Charter Schools  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh NC 27601-2825  
919-807-3491

Mailing Address:  
6303 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6303



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**CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**2012 Application Process**  
To open a charter school in the 2013-2014 school year

**TIMELINE**

APPLICATION DUE DATE/TIME

- APRIL 13, 2012** A **complete** application package must be received in the Office of Charter Schools by 12 noon on April 13, 2012. If the preliminary chartering entity is other than the State Board of Education (SBE), please contact the Office of Charter Schools for guidance.
- APRIL 20, 2012** Copy of the application due to the Local LEA.
- MAY 11, 2012** LEA Impact Statements due to the Office of Charter Schools
- MAY, 2012** Public Charter School Advisory Committee receives applications and begins the process of reviewing applications ahead of their initial meeting.
- JUNE/JULY, 2012** The Public Charter School Advisory Committee meets and discusses applications. Candidates receiving the highest ratings will receive interviews.
- JULY, 2012** Charter School Advisory Committee interviews candidates and makes recommendations to SBE for preliminary charter school approval.
- SEPTEMBER, 2012** SBE votes for applicants which will begin their preliminary planning year training with final approval to be granted in March of 2013.

*The Office of Charter Schools must receive the entirely complete application package no later than **12 noon on April 13, 2012**. A copy must be submitted to the LOCAL Board pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.29B(d) within 7 days.*

**I.**

# APPLICATION COVER PAGES

NAME OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL: Our Neighborhood Charter  
 NAME OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION/MUNICIPALITY UNDER WHICH CHARTER WILL BE ORGANIZED OR OPERATED: Our Neighborhood Education, Inc  
 HAS THE ORGANIZATION APPLIED FOR 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT STATUS: Yes No X

Provide the name of the person who will serve as the primary contact for this Application. The primary contact should serve as the contact for follow-up, interviews, and notices regarding this Application.

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Donna L. Bianco  
 TITLE/RELATIONSHIP TO NONPROFIT: President  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 424 Alpine Rd  
 PRIMARY TELEPHONE: 919-545-0900 ALTERNATE TELEPHONE: 919-724-1558  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Location Proposed Charter School (LEA): Chatham

Conversion:

No: X

Yes: If so, Public or Private:\_\_\_

If a private school, give the name of the school being converted:

If a public school, give the name and six-digit identifier of the school being converted:

Description of Targeted Population:

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Low/Middle income students from nearby neighborhoods will be targeted. The proposed location eliminates transportation issues for these students. African American, Hispanic, White children from surrounding neighborhoods; Masonic Trailer Park-Hispanic, Toomer Loop-African American, Corwallis-African American, Chatham Forest-White Middle class.

Proposed Grades Served: 02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10,11,12  
 Proposed Total Enrollment: 275

Projected School Opening Year 2013 Month August

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment	Year Round
First	02,03,04,05,06,07	150	Y
Second	02,03,04,05,06,07,08	175	Y
Third	02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09	200	Y
Fourth	02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10	225	Y
Fifth	02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10,11	250	Y

I certify that I have the authority to submit this application and that I was regularly involved in the development of this application. All information contained herein is complete and accurate, realizing that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the application process or revocation after award. I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered. The person named as the contact person for the application is so authorized to serve as the primary contact for this application on behalf of the applicant.

Signature *Donna L. Bianco*

Title *Founder  
President*

Printed Name *DONNA L. Bianco*

Date *4/12/12*

## **II. TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE APPLICATION**

*Please provide a clear and precise table of contents to the proposed charter application that guides the reader through the document in correct sequence as outlined in the application provided.*

See Above

## **MISSION, PURPOSES and EDUCATIONAL FOCUS (G.S.115C-238.29A)**

### **MISSION:**

*The mission of the proposed charter school is as follows:*

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The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students that ensures students become trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.

### **EVIDENCE FOR NEED OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL:**

*Describe the community relationships forged in the preparation of the charter application. Provide information detailing how the community and parents have been involved in the formation of the proposed mission statement. Evidence of surveys, dates, times, and locations of public meetings discussing this proposed charter school can be used to demonstrate the level of public interest.*

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Relationships were forged with the residents and Town of Pittsboro and Chatham County officials in many ways. (10)

October 2011 A Pre-App meeting was scheduled and officials from Chatham County and Town of Pittsboro, including Town Planning Board member, County Fire Marshall, County Inspections Officer, Economic Development Corporation spokesperson, County Environmental Health official. All members were extremely excited to hear about the mission as well as the proposed location at 287 East Street, Pittsboro. Aspects of the proposed project were discussed.

See Attached : 65 Support Emails (20)

October 2011 Our Neighborhood School, Inc. participated in the Chatham County Business Expo. Information was shared regarding the proposed charter and a petition was started where 71 signatures were acquired which supported opening a charter in downtown Pittsboro. See Attachment: A (12)

Newspaper articles were published discussing the proposed Our Neighborhood Charter endeavors as well as the history of Our Neighborhood School, Inc. and its accomplishments.

July 12, 2007 Chatham Record -"Our Neighborhood School Combines Learning with Italian Food". One of the first articles printed about us. See Attachment: B (22)

October 2007 Chatham County Line -"Donna Bianco Best Teacher on the Planet" - . See Attachment: C (21)

July/August 2009. Chatham County Line - "What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up"- Tells the story of how Our Neighborhood School became a reality. See Attachment: D (19)

October 1, 2009 - Chatham Record, "Pittsboro Gears up for Sculpture Parade" - Our Neighborhood School was the headquarters for this event and children built and launched their sculptures in a parade. See Attachment N (23)

October 8, 2009 Chatham Record - "Chatham Chamber of Commerce Honors Business Owners with Banquet". Donna Bianco was awarded Distinguished Business Person of the Year. See Attachment: E

25

August 26, 2010. Chatham Record - "Grand Re-Opening" Restaurant changed name from Our Neighborhood School Pizzeria to Bella Donna and changed from take-out only to indoor seating. See Attachment: F

24

April 28, 2011 Chatham Record - "Pittsboro Man Plans Run" A young man with autism ran 260 miles in 14 days from Asheville to Cary to raise money for the Mariposa School for children with autism. Bella Donna had a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and raised almost \$900 See Attachment: G

26

July/August 2011 Chatham County Line - "Our Neighborhood Charter Enrolling for Fall" Written last year and has some timeline errors although generally the article is accurate. See Attachment: H

27

July 20, 2011 Sanford Herald - " Pizzeria, School Now Seeking a Charter". Another article discussing our ideas. See Attachment: J

18

September 29, 2011 Chatham Record - "New Name isn't Pittsboro Restaurant's Only Change" See Attachment: K

28

December 15, 2011 Chatham Record Teamwork Helps Local Resident Find New Job. See Attachment: L

29

March 2012 - Chatham County Line -"Our Neighborhood Charter Filing Application" - Our most recent article informing Chatham County of our goals an vision for a new charter school in Pittsboro. See Attachment: M

30

Community involvement includes an eclectic group on the Our Neighborhood Charter planning committee: 2 special education teachers with over 60 years experience; retired Chatham County Human Resource administrator, CCCC dean; paralegal secretary; bookkeeper, and a Retired US Army Colonel who has been involved in the opening of a charter in Washington DC and has also managed budgets of up to 3.9 billion dollars for the US government.

In addition a relationship has been forged in a meeting with Harrell Rentz, Principal at Woods Charter School, who offered Our Neighborhood Charter their 1000 child waiting list for potential students if necessary.

Parents of students who attended Our Neighborhood School during the past four years have been kept informed and have provided input for the formation of O...

### **GOALS FOR THE PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:**

*A description of the student achievement goals for the school's educational program and the method of demonstrating that students have attained the skills and knowledge specified for those goals. These goals should include specific and measurable performance objectives over time. A timeline should be included to highlight how the school proposes to meet its objectives.*

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ONC believes that our function is to provide a foundation for lifelong learning and to enable each student to participate effectively and responsibly in a changing world. ONC recognizes the critical role of parents, local and state governmental agencies, businesses, and the community play in helping individual students meet educational goals for becoming trustworthy stewards of their futures.

ONC believes that we must provide each student with the opportunity to:

1. learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of his or her conduct and academic performance;
2. develop the capacity to examine and solve problems;
3. foster respect and appreciation for cultural and ideological diversity and differences;
4. develop the ability to be productive in a team environment;
5. achieve high levels of success in a rigorous curriculum;
6. achieve high levels of success in a vocational curriculum;
7. acquire the skills necessary for success as life-long learners;
8. complete all "homework" assignments in an honorable and prideful manner;

#### Goals for Phase II - After-School Program 3:30-5:30

1. increase safety and supervision of children, especially for "latch-key kids".
2. create additional time for cultural and ideological diversity and differences.
3. provides opportunities for drill and mastery of basic skills
4. provides an access point for parents to acquire information regarding the curriculum or student progress
5. increases competency in subject matter presented in the classroom
6. provides further opportunities for development of social skills
7. allows extended day opportunities for community involvement.

According to Cosden, Morison, Albanese and Mcais 2001, programs which offered successful homework assistance programs had a structured setting for homework completion and instructional support for students. The information in this study suggested that structured, after-school routines were beneficial for students. It establishes effective study habits and skills to help children plan and be proactive, to aid in developing time management, self-control and discipline and demonstrates responsible behaviors (Sheridan 2009). The development of personal responsibility, finding success in school with a sense of belonging, and improving study skills are the basic needs of children today.

Demonstrating that students have attained the above skills will be determined by:

EOG's

EOC's

Teacher Evaluation/Progress Monitoring

Successful Completion of Assignments

Homework Logs/Agenda

Authentic Assessment

Nationally Normed Standardized Tests

Timeline:

Progress monitoring three times/year.

Pre-Test - Beginning of School Year

Mid-Year- Middle of School Year

Post-Test - End of School Year

Teacher Evaluation

Quarterly Report Card

Monitoring of Student Progress Ongoing.

EOG's and EOC's will follow mandated NC DPI testing calendar

Homework Logs will be checked and reinforced daily

Authentic Assessment opportunities will present themselves and take place daily



Nationally Normed Standardized Tests will be given once a year.

**PURPOSES OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:**

*State the relationship between the six legislated purposes, as specifically addressed in the NC charter school statute GS 115C-238.29A, and the proposed school's operations.*

---

See State the relationship between the six legislated purposes Download



**EDUCATIONAL FOCUS:**

*Describe briefly, limited to one page, the focus of the proposed charter school. This description will be used in public releases of information to interested parties, such as: the media, the State Board of Education, parents, school systems, and in various documents produced by the Office of Charter Schools. It must be concise and relate directly to the mission of the school.*

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ONC offers a unique educational experience particularly suited to students who either do not learn well in the normal school environment because of their learning styles or gaps in their background OR to students who achieve well in standard settings but who need greater challenges. Our focus is on hands on authentic learning, using Ed Hirsch Core Knowledge curriculum in conjunction with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, students will be involved in a unique experience which will include partnerships with local businesses and experts. This will give students novel and authentic learning environments in which to increase their social, practical and academic skills. Because of the innovative design of our curriculum, Seed to Stomach, etc., the more standard, academic skills (such as mathematics, language arts, organizational skills, practical arts) can be generalized directly and immediately to the work environments in which this knowledge will be applied. Whether students are college bound or go directly from high school to the work world, this foundation will give students the needed skills to become productive members of their communities.

## **PURPOSES OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:**

State the relationship between the six legislated purposes, as specifically addressed in the NC charter school statute GS 115C-238.29A, and the proposed school's operations.

1. Improve Student Learning
  - a. Our Neighborhood Charter will take responsibility for the academic and personal growth of our students, not only by teaching core curriculum and incorporating our vocational projects into the core curriculum, but also teaching students skills required to be good stewards and involved citizens in their community.
  - b. School will be conducted on a 10 week on, 2 week off schedule. This will give students not only longer time in the academic setting, but also time to improve their social and vocational skills.
  - c. Extended school day: Phase I ends at 3:00 p.m. each day. Phase II begins at 3:00 and after a 30 minute break with exercise and snack, students will be required to complete homework, receive tutoring, and be provided with enrichment opportunities. There will be teachers available to help with homework projects and assignments. Parents who wish to sign their child out prior to 5:30 p.m. will need to sign a waiver indicating they understand the homework assignments and will oversee the assignment at home.
  - d. Understanding that students have diverse learning styles ONC will accommodate these styles by using not only oral and visual presentations but also by using a tactile and kinesthetic teaching approach that will incorporate cooperative and active learning models. Our aim is to immerse the students in the curriculum by providing many routes of access.
2. Increase learning opportunities with high expectations for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for all students who are identified as at risk of academic failure or academically gifted.
  - a. ONC has two persons on the planning committee who are special education professionals and who have worked in North Carolina Schools
  - b. Computer assisted instruction will be used to help not only gifted student but At-Risk students master the curriculum. Kahn Academy is one such venue. Computers will also be used as a motivational tool to enhance student learning.
  - c. The academic tutoring/after school homework session in Phase II of the academic day is one of the many perfect venues for students with special needs or special talents to be given opportunities for further instruction and collaboration.
  - d. Our Neighborhood Charter's small school environment will ensure that individual attention is paid to each of our students, not only during the class instruction time but also during the after school tutoring/homework period. We will use school staff, parents, and other volunteers.
  - e. As opportunities arise community resources will be accessed to enhance the curriculum. Central Carolina Community College, Chatham County Public Library, local businesses and merchants are nearby. Many local municipal resources are within walking distance of the proposed site, (i.e. sheriff department, police department, superior courthouse, etc). There are several historical sites within the town of Pittsboro not to mention local businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants, thrift stores, antique stores, in addition to Roy Underhill's Woodwright School in downtown Pittsboro.

- f. The economy of Chatham has been changing over the past few years. Sustainable agriculture and energy are prevalent in Chatham. We are the nucleus for the entire country. We are the home to Piedmont Biofuels, and an ever-increasing number of local and organic farmers, as well as artists, and musicians. At nearby CCCC there is another valuable resource, the Natural Chef program. There students experience hands-on professional development in the areas of sustainability, nutrition, whole foods, culinary technology, sanitation, knife skills, and restaurant management as well as many other areas of culinary operations. This is goes hand in hand with our educational focus.
3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
  - a. ONC may use online instruction for courses not offered within the physical confines of the building. EdOptions and Kahn Academy are two available options.
  - b. Guest lecturers for topics of interest.
  - c. We will draw on the expertise of the local community in offering internship and hands-on experiences in specialized subjects. Students enrolled at the private, Our Neighborhood School, which closed in 2010, as well as students from the local public high school participating in the NC Standard Course of Study/ Occupational Course of Study, gained work experience as well as paid employment hours at the Bella Donna Italian Restaurant, which was affiliated with the school.
  - d. As a charter school, ONC will reach out to other local businesses to teach work and life experiences to students at all grade and ability levels. These innovative learning opportunities will include marketing, health and safety, food preparation, growing food, economics, and personal and social responsibility.
4. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including opportunities to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.
  - c. Opportunities will be provided through staff development. Before teachers are asked to assume responsibility for incorporating learning programs into the curriculum at school necessary training will occur.
  - d. Teacher workdays will provide time to organize and create an innovative learning environment. In addition to attend conferences/seminars teachers will be acquiring skills needed to implement new programs, strategies, etc., as set forth by the administration. When new skills are introduced to teachers it is important for teachers to confidently incorporate these learned skills into their instructional day.
  - e. Teachers will have opportunities to attend conferences and visit other educational settings during the school year. The three teacher workdays at the end of each semester can be used for these opportunities.
5. Provide parents and students with expanded choice in the types of educational opportunities that are not available in the public school system.
  - a. Programs such as EdOptions computer online classes are available for those courses that ONC does not have the ability to provide onsite.
  - b. Kahn Academy
  - c. ONC will provide an unparalleled experience because our collaboration with Bella Donna Italian Restaurant provides a multitude of academic, vocational and social opportunities daily.

- d. The task of monitoring homework will be integrated into the afterschool program. Homework provides a key opportunity to enhance learning, teach independent responsibility and expands understanding which at present often falls to busy parents or older siblings. By offering an extended school day with continued instruction and support, students can avoid an unsupervised latchkey situation at no additional cost to the parents.
  - e. Parents are encouraged to volunteer during the extended day, not only to assist student learning but also to acquire skills to enhance their child's learning experience.
6. Hold the schools established under this part, accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results and provide the schools with the method to change from rule based to performance based accountability.
- a. The NCDPI's accountability model will be followed. In addition, all state mandated testing will be administered. Other methods of accountability will be incorporated into the curriculum to monitor student's learning throughout the school year.
  - b. Programs will be used, such as SRA's Reading Mastery Program which has been shown to be highly effective among poor readers.
  - c. Kahn Academy incorporates the ability to monitor students with real-time class reporting and better intelligence for analyzing targeted interventions.
  - d. Rubrics will also be used as a method for following student achievement.
  - e. Vocational Rubrics will be used to evaluate the food/restaurant curriculum (Authentic Assessment)

## IV.GOVERNANCE

**NOTE:** Please answer all sections completely. Do not use "same as LEA" or "whatever the law states". Lack of proper documentation will jeopardize the application review.

### **PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION (G.S.115C-238.29E)**

The nonprofit corporation must be officially authorized by the NC Secretary of State by the final approval interview date.

Name of Private Nonprofit: Our Neighborhood Education  
Mailing Address: 424 Alpine Rd  
City/State/Zip: Moncure NC 27559  
Street Address:  
Phone: 919-545-0900  
Fax: 919-545-0920

Name of registered agent and address:  
Donna L. Bianco  
424 Alpine Rd.  
Moncure, NC 27559

FEDERAL TAX ID: 45-5020297



### **TAX-EXEMPT STATUS (501 (c)(3) (G.S.115C-238.29B(b)(3))**

The private nonprofit listed as the responsible organization for the proposed charter school has 501(c)(3) status:

Yes (copy of letter from federal government attached) :

X No

### **See Tax Exempt Status Letter Download**

**NOTE:** The tax-exempt status must be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service within twenty-four (24) months of the date the Charter Application is given final approval. (G.S.115C-238.29E(b))

### **PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (EMO OR CMO)**

If the Charter School plans to contract for services with an "educational management organization" or "charter support organization," please specify the name of the company, address, website, phone number, contact person, fax, and email:

- Please include a copy of the proposed management agreement of the specified EMO and explain how the contract will be in the best educational and financial interests of the charter school.

See Proposed EMO management agreement Download

- What other EMO/CMOs were pursued and why did the applicant select this particular one? Please include information regarding other management fees and financial/academic records that led to the selection of the proposed EMO/CMO as the best fit for this proposed school.

- 
- Provide and discuss performance and financial data from other schools managed by the management company to demonstrate how this organization is a good fit for the proposed population of students
- 

- Describe how the governance structure will be affected; if at all, by the EMO/CMO and particularly discuss how the board of directors of the charter school will govern the school independently of the EMO/CMO. An organizational chart showing the lines of authority should be included.
- 

- Explain how the contract includes measurable objectives whereby the charter school board can evaluate annually the performance of the EMO/CMO; and if necessary, terminate the contract without significant obstacles.
- 

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE NONPROFIT:** (GS 115C-238.29B(b)(3); GS 115C-238.29E(d))

The private nonprofit corporation is the legal entity that has responsibility for all aspects of the proposed charter school. Its members should reflect the ability to operate a charter school from both business and education perspectives.

**Please provide the following in this location of the APPLICATION: (Do not include as an appendices.)**

- A well-defined organizational chart showing the relationship of the Board of Directors to the parents and staff of the proposed charter school as well as any advisory council. This chart should also include lines of authority to and from any outside entity that will play a role in managing the charter school.  
See Organization Chart Download ②
  - Each founding board member must submit, in this section of the application, a one-page resume highlighting his or her experiences over the past ten or more years.  
See Resume Downloads ③
  - The proposed by-laws, which must include a Conflict of Interest Policy for board members and a stated commitment to the NC Open Meetings Law. (G.S.143.318.9 et seq)  
See Proposed By-laws Download ④
  - A copy of the articles of incorporation, if available. If not available, must be available prior to interview by SBE, so must show that it has been applied for prior to submission of application.  
See Articles of incorporation Download ⑤
  - A description of the governing board's functions, duties, roles and responsibilities as it relates to overseeing the charter school and its mission.
- 

ONC Board's functions, duties, roles and responsibilities are:

1. to approve a budget that reflects ONC's goals and board policies.
2. to approve the format and frequency of financial and programmatic reports.
3. to review monthly or quarterly financial statements.
4. to review audited financial statements.
6. to approve all of ONC's investment policies and review them annually.
7. to be well informed about ONC's finances
8. to establish mission and program direction
9. to assess compliance/progress in achieving educational outcomes agreed to in ONC charter.
10. to develop and adopt written policies
11. to review policies periodically

12. to set and review personnel policies
13. to hire the Principal and Headmaster and evaluate their performance
14. to establish/implement fundraising development plan
15. to review and approve all major grant proposals
16. to establish and communicate expectations of board membership
17. to assure effective board participation
18. to assure appropriate board involvement in decision-making
19. to promote ONC to parents and the public
20. to serve as emissary to broader community
21. to promote activities with Woods Charter and Chatham Charter School
22. to approve contract
23. to hire teachers and teacher assistants
24. to hire non teaching/non administrative staff (custodial, maintenance, etc.)

The board may authorize members to serve on subcommittees or to act as an official board representative on matters of school business or policy, however, no opinion, decision or commitment can be made by a board representative or subcommittee without the board's authorization.

**Possible Committees and Key Responsibilities:**

Board of Directors - Conducts the affairs of ONC subject to applicable education law, not for profit corporation law, and the schools charter and bylaws

Executive Committee - Facilitates effective decision-making by all board members

Finance Committee - Coordinates the board's financial oversight responsibilities

Personnel Committee - Evaluates the school leader and oversees employee grievance procedures.

Board Development Committee - Recruits new board members and oversees ongoing training of existing board members.

Resource Development Committee - Plans and implements ONC's fundraising programs.

Facilities committee - Assesses ONC's short and long-term facilities needs and presents a long range facility plan to the board.

Strategic Planning Committee - Develops a 3-5 year blueprint for the school's future.

- *Explain the decision-making processes the board will use to develop school policies.*

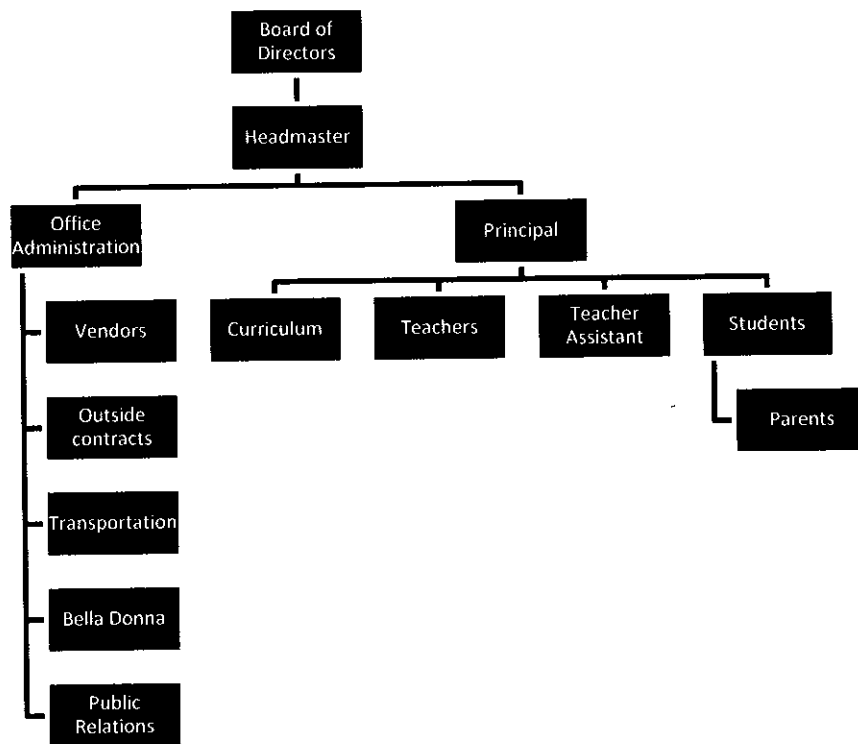
The Board of Directors will be the foundation for ONC. This board will assure all school policies support the mission and philosophy of ONC and follow state and federal laws/guidelines. When either the Headmaster or Principal identifies a gap in existing, or a need for additional policies to guide the day to day practice and procedures of Our Neighborhood Charter, the Headmaster shall communicate the need to the Board. The Board will review all recommendations for hiring presented by the Headmaster and insure that those employees are of good moral character and support the mission of ONC. Policy decisions will be discussed at length by the Board after presentations of invested individuals.

- *Portray how the board will involve parents and community members in governing the school.*

Two board members will be parents of students attending ONC, and the remaining board members will be citizens of Chatham County with at least two members from the business community. The BOD will hold an annual open meeting. Other meetings will occur according to the boards discretion.

- *Describe the organization's performance-based goals and measurable objectives for the charter school.*

# Our Neighborhood Charter Organizational Structure





**Donna Bianco**  
**919-724-1558**  
**donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com**  
**424 Alpine Road,**  
**Moncure, NC 27559**

**Objective:**

To motivate children to reach their potential and become good stewards of their futures.

**Employment**

*Bella Donna Italian Restaurant, Pittsboro, NC* *2005-Present*

Restaurateur Italian Cuisine,  
Teaching Students Restaurant Skills  
Serving general public in a full scale restaurant  
Manage 12 Employees  
Front of the house/Back of the house

*Our Neighborhood School, Pittsboro, NC* *2005-Present*

Principal/President/Classroom Teacher  
Private School – Grades 2-9

*Chatham County Schools, Pittsboro, NC* *2000- 2004*

Special Education Teacher  
Bennett Elementary School  
K-8 Resource  
Pittsboro Elementary –  
Grades 1-4  
Self-contained Multi-Categorical Classroom

*Wake County Schools, Cary, NC* *1998-1999*

Special Education Teacher  
West Lake Middle School  
6th Grade Self-contained Classroom

*Butler Shock Incarceration Facility, Red Creek, NY* *1990-1995*

Teacher  
Adult Basic Education  
Pre-GED  
Pre-Release Program

*N. Rose Wolcott Schools, Wolcott, NY* *1986-1998*

Special Education Teacher  
Self Contained EMD 3rd grade  
Grade 7 Resource  
Grades 9-12 Resource  
Grade 9 Developed and taught Alternative Education Program

*Dansville Central Schools, Dansville, NY* *1983-1986*

Special Education Teacher  
Grades 7-9 Resource

*N. Rose Wolcott Schools, Wolcott, NY* *1981-1983*

Special Education Teacher  
Grades k-4 Resource

**Education**

Associates, Psychology, Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY 1979  
Bachelors Degree, Special Education EMD, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY 1981  
Masters Degree, Special Education LD, Genesee State College, Genesee, NY 1988

Susan Myers Strong  
365 Holly Glen Rd.  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Home Phone 919-545-0162  
Cell Phone 919-685-6381  
Email bstrongsue@aol.com

**Education**

High School – Jordan High School Durham, NC	Graduated	1976
North Carolina Central University Durham, NC	Degree: MEd.	1989 (with honors)
UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC	Degree B.A.	1980
Lees-McRae College Banner, Elk, NC	Degree A.A.	1977

**Employment History**

**2008-2012 Lee County Schools, Sanford, NC - *Exceptional Education Program Specialist***

Worked directly under the Director of Exceptional Children,  
Supervised four EC Lead Teacher/Compliance Specialists,  
Provided in-service trainings in special education law and procedures,  
Performed DPI Data completion requirements,  
Provided guidance in IEP meetings to teachers, parents, and school staff,  
Worked with attorneys and schools to rectify litigious situations,

**2005-Present Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro, NC - *ABE Teacher***

Adult High School Basic Education Teacher

**1998-2008 Chatham County Schools, Pittsboro, NC - *EC Program Facilitator/Compliance Specialist***

Worked directly under the Director of Exceptional Children  
Provided in-service trainings in special education procedures  
Sat on IEP teams as Central Office representative (LEA)

**1987-1998 Chatham County Schools, Pittsboro, NC - *Special Education Teacher***

Taught special needs students in grades K-8 in a resource, separate, and inclusion setting

**1980-1987 Durham County Schools, Durham, NC - *Special Education Teacher***

Taught special needs students in a separate setting

**NC Certification**

Highly Qualified Status - State of North Carolina Professional Educator's License in the areas of:

Mentor  
Mentally Handicapped (K-12)  
Behaviorally Emotionally Handicapped (K-12)  
Learning Disabilities (K-12)  
Special Education: Adapted Curriculum  
EC Language Arts  
EC Math  
EC Science  
EC Social Studies

**Linda G. Harris**

P.O. Box 207, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312  
Telephone (919) 542-3112, Cell (919) 542-7733  
E-Mail: lgharris4@gmail.com

**Personal attributes**

I am an individual with extensive knowledge of agribusiness and industry and government personnel in both team and individual work settings. One of my personal goals is to assist others to reach their maximum potential through education, contacts, and motivation.

**Education**

Pittsboro High School, Pittsboro, N.C.  
Sanford Business College, Sanford, N.C.

**Work Experience**

Payroll clerk; Accountant; Quality Assurance Manager-Townsend's NC Division, HACCP Certification (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points); Assistant to Plant Manager; Purchasing Agent; Product Manager/Sales Coordinator; Local/National Sales Representative of standard commercial, organic, Halal chicken products; State and National Food Show Representative; State and National Public and Governmental Relations.

**Activities/ Awards**

President of NC Agribusiness  
President of NC Poultry Federation  
President of NC Poultry Processors  
Distinguished Service Award-Poultry Federation  
Member-Advisory Board NC State University Agriculture Foundation  
President of Chatham County Agribusiness  
Member-NC State Grange  
Elder-Pittsboro Presbyterian Church  
Church Treasurer  
Board Member-Chatham County Economic Development  
Board Member-Pittsboro, First Bank Board of Directors  
Board Member-NC Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council  
Member-NC Department of Agriculture, Commissioner's Circle

**Joni Ponsaa Pavlik**  
245 Center Grove Church Road  
Moncure, NC 27559  
919-542-6639

***Career Objective***

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To provide leadership and support for Our Neighborhood Charter.

***Work History***

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**Central Carolina Community College** Sanford, NC  
**Dean, Business and Media Technologies and Public Services** January 2008 to Present  
**Dean, Business, Technology and Developmental Studies** July 2004 to December 2007

- \*Supervise 39 full-time instructors, 1 administrative assistant and 80 adjuncts.
- \* Work with business, industry and public schools to provide education and training programs.
- \* Work with senior education institutions to develop bilateral transfer agreements.
- \* Wrote in response to SACS compliance standards for re-accreditation as assigned as well as a substantive change reports.

**Department Chair of Public Services** December 2001 – June 2004

- \* Responsible for three curriculum areas and one certificate program.
- \* Supervised 12 full-time staff and 38 part-time staff.
- \* Represented the President on the Lee County Partnership for Children Board.

**Lead Instructor of Early Childhood Education** August 2000 - December 2001

- \* Taught 15 hours in Early Childhood curriculum.

**United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina** Raleigh, NC  
**Quality Enhancement Coordinator** October 1998 - August 2001

- \* Wrote, developed, and implemented budgets and operation of two grants.
- \* Assessed childcare environments, created and assisted with implementing technical assistance plans.

**Director of United Cerebral Palsy Developmental Center** September 1994 - September 1998

- \* Developed and implemented an administrative process.
- \* Ascertained funds, budgetary planning, monitoring of local and regional funding.
- \* Prepared the center to obtain NAEYC accreditation.

**Public School Exceptional Education Teacher** August 1983 - August 1994  
Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina

***Education***

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**MS, Early Childhood Education, University of Miami**  
**B.S., Special Education, University of Southern Mississippi**

**LINDA J. BIENVENUE**  
31 Cobble Ridge Drive  
Pittsboro, NC 27312-8848  
413-695-5561  
[lindabivenue@yahoo.com](mailto:lindabivenue@yahoo.com)

**EDUCATION:** Associate in Science with High Honors, June 2006  
Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA  
Major: Business Administration; G.P.A. 3.95

**Relevant Courses:**

Human Resource Management  
Organizational Behavior  
Principles of Management  
Employment and Business Law  
Accounting I & II  
International Business  
Economics I & II  
Marketing

**Academic Achievements:**

National Scholars Honor Society  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award

**WORK HISTORY:**

Administrative Real Estate Assistant/Paralegal 1971-2002  
Murphy, McCoubrey & Auth L.L.P., Attorneys at Law  
Chicopee, MA 01013

Assistant to the Managing Partner  
Coordinated all aspects of real estate closings, including negotiations with realtors, clients, attorneys, and bank officials  
Signed all office checks with the exclusion of payroll  
Managed office supplies inventory  
Consulted with Boston Title Insurance attorneys to formulate legal decisions regarding resolution of title defects  
Proficient at Microsoft Word

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Take & Eat Food Pantry Volunteer; Shopper at Durham Food Bank for pantry for purchase and distribution of food for the needy in Chatham County  
Chatham Habitat for Humanity Volunteer; pricing donated items, stocking shelves, and working cash register

EUGENE (Gene) J. DAVIS  
Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
44 Cobble Ridge Drive  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-533-1073  
EJD5@aol.com

## QUALIFICATIONS

- 1970-1988-Served on active duty as an Army infantryman and aviator
- Commanded infantry and aviation units along with staff assignments.
- Garrison Commander, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Garrison Director Resource Management and Director for Plan, Analysis and Integration.
- Planned, coordinated and executed force protection/anti-terrorism missions for Army Installations in CONUS/OCONUS along with numerous tactical and joint operations from battalion to theater Army level.
- Program Manager for installing security systems in US Embassies and US State Department Facilities worldwide.
- Served on US State Department Security Certification Team.

## EXPERIENCES

<b>Present</b>	President/CEO, Carolina Veterans Support Group, Inc. Pittsboro, NC
<b>2005 – 2008</b>	Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Ft Myer Military Community, Ft. Myer, VA
<b>2005</b>	Director Resource Management, Ft Myer Military Community
<b>2004</b>	Director Plans, Analysis and Integration, Ft Myer Military Community
<b>2002-2004</b>	Program Manager, BP International, Inc., Centreville, VA
<b>2001-2002</b>	Defense Contractor, MPRI, Inc. ALEXANDRIA, VA
<b>1998-2000</b>	Senior Vice President (Operations), America's Promise and Communities in Schools, Inc., Alexandria, VA
<b>1997-1998</b>	Selected for a Secretary of Defense Fellowship, Washington, DC
<b>1996-1997</b>	Chief of Staff, National Defense University (NDU), Washington, DC
<b>1994-1996</b>	Garrison Commander, Ft Campbell, KY
<b>1993-1994</b>	Chief of Staff, US Army Aviation and Troop Command, St. Louis, MO

## EDUCATION

MEd, Adult Education, Howard University, Washington DC, 1984  
BS, Physical Education, Howard University, Washington DC, 1970

## **Eric J. DeJong**

103 Autumn Chase  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-533-6082

### **Education:**

- B.S. in Business Management/Systems Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point - Class of 1991
- Graduated from St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA – Class of 1987

### **Work Experience:**

- Captain, United States Army Corps of Engineers, 1991-1997
- Project Manager, RWD Technologies, 1997-1999
- Consulting Technical Manager, SAS Institute, 1999-Present
- Founder and owner of Carolina Small Business Solutions LLC providing bookkeeping, payroll, tax preparation and general business consulting services to small businesses, 2007-Present

### **Community Involvement:**

- Director, Chapel Ridge Community Association, Inc. Board of Directors, 2008-2012
- Director, West Point Alumni Association of the Research Triangle Board of Directors, 2009-Present
- Member of Chapel Ridge Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, 2008

### **Other Relevant Experience:**

- Served as a Board Member for the Windsor Park HOA in Alexandria, VA from 1992-1997. I was the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee and a member of the Finance sub-committee. The Treasurer chaired this sub-committee and we handled the budgeting and all other finance related matters.
- Served as Treasurer for the Committee to Elect Sean O'Brien. This was a political candidate committee for the Wake County School Board election in 2007. In this role I was responsible for the proper accounting and reporting of the committee's finances in accordance with NC State campaign finance laws.
- Employment as a consulting line of business manager at SAS Institute with P&L responsibility for a consulting activity. This position required me to provide periodic forecasts on both financial results and human assets utilization.
- As a Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, served as a Battalion Supply Officer. In this role I had overall responsibility for the development and execution of the organization's \$2.5 million budget. This was an annual budget cycle that required frequent forecasting and other reporting to superiors and other interested parties. I had direct approval authority over expenditures and accountability to make sure all funds were legally and properly disbursed.
- Achieved the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2006
- Member, National Association of Certified Professional Bookkeepers
- Member, American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers
- As owner of Carolina Small Business Solutions LLC, I work closely with approximately 25 small business owners in various industries including food service, medical, legal, contracting, real estate, manufacturing, advertising, and retail to provide bookkeeping, payroll, tax preparation and general business consulting.

**ERNEST D. ALSTON**

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772 East Alston Road . Pittsboro, NC. 27312 . edalston45@gmail.com . 919/542-4197

- PROFILE** Retired public school teacher and administer.  
Principal of a *School of Distinction*.  
Former *Principal of the Year*.  
Former member of the *Kappa Alpha Phi Honor Society*.
- EXPERIENCE** Biology teacher. Susie Gibson High School; Bedford, VA.  
Math and Science teacher. Carthage Jr. High; Carthage, NC.  
Biology, chemistry and physic teacher. Deep River High School; Sanford, NC.  
Assistant Principal. Lee County Schools; Sanford, NC.  
Principal. Horton Middle School; Pittsboro, NC.  
Director of Human Resources. Chatham County Schools; Pittsboro, NC
- EDUCATION** Shaw University; Raleigh, NC. B.S. in biology.  
UNC-Chapel Hill; NC. Masters in Biology.  
NC A&T State University; Masters in Driver and Safety Education.  
UNC-Chapel Hill; Certification in School Administration



# **Our Neighborhood Charter Bylaws**

**Preamble**

**Article I -Name and seal**

**Article II – Purpose of the Corporation**

**Article III – Officers and registered agent**

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- 4. Qualifications and Screening**
- 5. Attendance**
- 6. Honorary directors**
- 7. Ex-officio Directors**
- 8. Resignation**
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- 10. Vacancies**
- 11. Officers of the board**
  - a. President**
  - b. Vice-President**
  - c. Secretary**
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- 12. Term of the director**
- 13. Duties of the Director**
- 14. Compensation**
- 15. Conflict of Interest Policy**
- 16. Public Policy**

## PREAMBLE

Governance of the Corporation shall be vested in an elected Board of Directors whose prime responsibility shall be to provide leadership to the community by designing and implementing policies for the operation of the Our Neighborhood Charter which embody and promote the values and perspectives enshrined in the mission, philosophy and goals of Our Neighborhood Charter.

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to be responsible for all elements of the day to day operations of the school.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER BY LAWS

### ARTICLE I - Name and Seal

1. The name of the Corporation is Our Neighborhood Education, Inc., referred to henceforth as the Corporation
2. The Board of Directors will provide a seal of circular form bearing the name of the corporation and the words "Corporate Seal: State of North Carolina".

### ARTICLE II – Purpose of the Corporation

1. The purpose of the Corporation is to maintain and operate Our Neighborhood Education, Inc. as a non-profit enterprise within the terms specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. The purpose of Our Neighborhood Education, Inc., referred to henceforth as ONE, is to be a public charity which can engage in activities and provide services that are beneficial to the public interest focusing on the education of children.

### ARTICLE III – Offices and Registered Agent

1. The Corporation shall maintain continuously, a registered office in the State of North Carolina and may, from time to time, have an additional office or additional offices within or without the state according to the determination of the Board of Directors
2. The Corporation shall maintain, continuously within the State of North Carolina a registered agent, designated by the Board of Directors, whose address is that of the principal registered office.

### ARTICLE IV – Members

1. The Board of Directors shall serve as member of the Corporation and be responsible for all functions and affairs of the Corporation. The corporation shall have no certificate holders or shareholders.

### ARTICLE V – Board of Directors

1. **General Responsibilities and Powers:** The principal responsibility of the board is to provide leadership to the community by designing and implementing policies which embody and promote the values and perspective enshrined in the mission, philosophy and goals of the ONC. The Board of Directors holds responsibility for a number of specific jobs which cannot be delegated. These include, but are not limited to:

appointing, evaluating and if appropriate, terminating the CEO; the assurance of corporation performance, fixing the terms of employment and levels of compensation of all employees and gents of the Corporation; developing legislative strategy and providing personal presence at legal hearings; fundraising.

2. **The Foundation Board:** The Foundation Board shall be selected from the panel of formative volunteers by that person who was responsible for the creation of the school in concept and who will act as the founding president except in the case whereby this creates a conflict of interest. This Board shall serve in office until the date of the first annual general meeting following the opening of the school.
3. **The Permanent Board:** The Permanent Board of Directors shall comprise not less than five (5) and not more than ten (10) voting members. Potential members of the board may be nominated and seconded by board members, school personnel, alumni and parents or guardians, and an election take place not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual general meeting. Election is for a period of three (3) years. However, initial membership will be staggered into three approximately equal groups according to votes recorded so that the terms of approximately one-third expire after one year, one-third after two years and one-third after three years. All directors maybe re-elected to serve a successive three (3) year term after which no director may be re-elected to serve for at least one (1) year having been off the board for one year unless co-opted as an office of the board. In the event of a director's being unable to complete a term of office an election by the remaining board membership shall take place to identify a person who will complete that term. Such person subsequently will be eligible to serve two consecutive terms of office at which point she/he will be subject to the same terms of membership as those persons who have completed uninterrupted periods in office.
4. **Qualifications and Screening:** Any potential director shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a permanent resident of the USA, a resident of the State of North Carolina and shall hold at least a high school graduation certificate or its equivalent. Any qualified person seeking election to the Board of Directors must submit to a reasonable screening process conducted by the executive committee or its designates. Screening shall include the submission of a written statement which includes
  - a. Personal reasons of wanting to serve on the Board of Directors of this Corporation
  - b. A certification statement indicating they are age 21 or over, are a permanent resident of the US and a resident of Chatham County and hold at least a high school diploma or equivalent.
  - c. A certification statement of having read and understood the Articles of incorporation and the By Laws of ONE.
  - d. A statement of support for the Corporation's mission statement and perspectives.
  - e. A statement of personal background including any talents, skills or experience which will enable the candidate to contribute to the work of the board of directors.
5. **Attendance:** Regular attendance at board meetings shall be deemed necessary for effective performance of a director's functions. Any member absent from three (3) meetings in succession or four (4) meetings within twelve months shall forfeit board membership. If such a member requests reinstatement within a period of two months the Board shall have the power to reinstate by means of a simple majority vote.

6. **Honorary Directors:** Honorary Directors may be elected by the serving board from among former directors who have supported the Corporation with distinction and from among distinguished friends and major contributors to ONE who have not served previously as directors. Honorary directors shall be invited to attend board meetings but shall not be eligible to vote.
7. **Ex-officio Directors:**
  - a. The board of directors shall have discretionary authority to co-opt not more than three (3) ex-officio members who might be expected to contribute particular benefits of experience or expertise. Such members will not be eligible to vote on any motion. Any ex-officio member will be appointed for a period within a single academic year but she/he will be eligible for annual re-appointment.
  - b. The CEO shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member whose position will be renewed annually subject to resignation or termination.
8. **Resignation:** A director may resign at any time by submitting notices in writing to the President.
9. **Removal:** A director may be removed from office with or without cause by a majority vote of the serving Board of Directors. In the event of removal, a new director or new directors may be elected to serve the unexpired term at the same meeting.
10. **Vacancies:** Any vacancy arising from resignation or removal may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. The person elected shall serve the unexpired term of the director being replaced. At the end of that term the new director shall be eligible for election for up to two (2) consecutive terms.
11. **Officers of the Board:**
  - a. **President** – The Board of Directors shall elect annually, at the Annual General Meeting, a president, from among the serving members of the board. The president will chair all meetings of the board and perform other duties as directed by the board. The president shall have the right to exercise a casting vote in any vote of board members which has resulted in a tie.
  - b. **Vice-President** – The board of directors shall elect annually, at the Annual General Meeting, from among its serving members, a vice-president who will act as a substitute for the president on occasions(s) of her/his absence.
  - c. **Secretary** – the board of directors shall elect annually at its Annual General Meeting from among its serving members, a secretary. The primary duty of the Secretary will be to keep an accurate record of the proceedings and actions of the Board and to determine the agendas for board meetings in consultation with the President and the CEO. The Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date record of the names of all persons who are the Directors of the Corporation, together with details of their places of residence. These records shall be open to inspection as prescribed by law. The Secretary shall be the keeper of the Seal of the Corporation and be responsible for its correct use as prescribed in these By Laws or required by law.
  - d. **Treasurer** – The Board of Directors shall elect annually at its Annual General Meeting a Treasurer who shall have custody of all funds, property and securities of the Corporation, subject to such regulations as the Board of Directors may impose. The Treasurer shall receive and give receipts for monies payable to the Corporation and shall deposit all monies into such bank(s), trust companies or other depositories as selected by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall

sign all receipts and vouches and all checks and bills of exchange issued by the Corporation together with such officer or officers as have been designated by the Board, except in cases where by the signing has been assigned definitely by the Board or these By Laws to another officer or agent of the Corporation. If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give bond for the correct conduct of her/his duties in such sum and with such surety as the Board shall decide. The cost of the bond will be determined by the Corporation.

12. **Term of the Directors:** Each Director shall serve for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is appointed. Each Director is eligible for re-election to a second successive term of three (3) years after which she/he will not be eligible for re-election until after one (1) year of absence from the Board of Directors.
13. **Duties of the Directors:** It shall be the duty of each Director to:
  - a. Register her/his correct address, telephone numbers and preferred e-mail address with the Secretary of the Corporation
  - b. Meet as required by these laws
  - c. Appoint and remove, supervise the duties of and, except as provided otherwise in these By Laws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any of all officers, agents and employees of the Corporation.
  - d. Carry out any duties imposed on the Board of Directors collectively or individually by law or these By Laws.
14. **Compensation:** No compensation shall be awarded to any Director except in relation to a contract. Expenses incurred by a Director in the performance of Corporate duty may be approved for payment by the Board of Directors.
15. **Conflict of Interest:** The board of Directors affirms that the directors, officers, administrators, faculty and other employees of ONC have an obligation to exercise their authority and to carry out the duties of their respective positions for the sole benefit of ONC. They should avoid placing themselves in positions in which their personal interests are, or may be, in conflict with the interests of ONC. Where a potential conflict of interest exists, it shall be the responsibility of the person involved or any other person with knowledge to notify the Board of directors of the circumstances resulting in the potential conflict so that the Board of Directors can provide such guidance and take such action as it shall deem appropriate.

No Director who directly or indirectly is involved in a potential conflict of interest shall be counted in determining the existence of quorum at any meeting of the Board where the potential conflict is considered, nor shall the Director vote on any action of the Board regarding that potential conflict.

Areas of potential conflict of interest are:

- a. Financial Interest.
  - i. Ownership by the individual directly or indirectly of a material financial interest in any business or firm from which ONE obtains goods or services, or which is a competitor of ONE.
  - ii. Competition by the individual, directly or indirectly, with ONE in the purchase or sale of property or any property right or interest.
  - iii. Representation of ONE by the individual in any transaction or activity in which the individual, directly or indirectly, has a material financial interest.

- iv. Any other circumstances in which the individual may profit, directly or indirectly, from any action or decision by the School in which he or she participates, or which he or she has knowledge.
  - b. Inside Information
    - i. Disclosure or use by the individual of confidential information about ONE, its activities or intentions, for the personal profit or advantage of the individual or any person.
  - c. Conflicting Interests Other Than Financial
    - i. Representation as director, officer, agent or fiduciary of another company, institution, agency or person in any transaction or activity which involves ONE as an adverse party or with adverse interests.
  - d. Gifts and Favors
    - i. Acceptance of gifts or favors from any firm or individual which does or seeks to do business with, or is a competitor of, ONE under circumstances which imply reasonably that such action is intended to influence the individual in the performance of her/his duties.
- 16. **Public Policy:** whereas the public bodies that administer the legislative, policy-making, quasi-judicial, administrative, and advisory functions of North Carolina and its political subdivisions exist solely to conduct the people's business, it is the public policy of North Carolina and of ONE that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of these bodies be conducted openly.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF  
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATION, INC.  
A CHARITABLE NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

I, the undersigned natural person of the age of eighteen (18) years or more, acting as incorporator for the purpose of creating a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina as contained in Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina entitled "Nonprofit Corporation Act" and the several amendments thereto, and Chapter 55D of the General Statutes of North Carolina entitled "Filings, Names, and Registered Agents for Corporations, Nonprofit Corporations, and Partnerships", do hereby set forth:

1. The name of the corporation is Our Neighborhood Education, Inc. ("Corporation").
2. The Corporation is a charitable corporation within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. §55A-1-40(4).
3. The period of duration of the Corporation shall be perpetual.
4. The specific and primary purposes for which the Corporation is organized and for which it shall be exclusively administered and operated are to receive, administer, and expend funds for charitable, scientific and educational purposes in connection with the following:
  - A. To receive gifts, grants and contributions; and
  - B. To engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes except as restricted herein.
5. To accomplish the foregoing charitable, scientific and educational purposes, and for no other purpose or purposes, this Corporation shall have the power:
  - A. To sue and be sued, complain and defend, in its corporate name;

B. To purchase, take, receive, lease, take by gift, devise, or bequest, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use, and otherwise deal in and with real or personal property, or any interest therein, wherever situated;

C. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, transfer, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of its property and assets;

D. To acquire, by purchase, subscription, gift, will, or otherwise, and to own, hold, vote, use, employ, sell, mortgage, lend, pledge, or otherwise dispose of, and otherwise use and deal in and with, shares and other interests in, or obligations of, domestic or foreign business corporations, associations, partnerships or individuals, or direct or indirect obligations of the United States or of any government, state, territory, governmental district, or any municipality or of any instrumentality thereof;

E. To make contracts and incur liabilities, borrow money, issue its notes, bonds, and other obligations, and secure any of its obligations by mortgage or pledge of or other forms of security upon all or any of its property, franchises, and income;

F. To lend money for its corporate purposes, invest its funds from time to time, and take and hold real and personal property as security for the payment of funds so loaned or invested;

G. To have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect any or all of the purposes for which the Corporation is organized; and

H. To make contributions or gifts to other corporations (foreign and domestic), trusts, community chests, funds, foundations, or associations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific or educational, cultural or artistic purposes, or for the public welfare, no part of the net earnings of which inures to



the benefit of any person or individual, when such contributions or gifts are authorized or approved by its Board of Directors ("Board").

6. The Corporation shall not have members.

7. The address of the initial registered office of the Corporation is: 424 Alpine Road, Moncure, Chatham County, North Carolina 27559. The name of the initial registered agent of the Corporation at the above address is Donna Bianco, a citizen and resident of North Carolina. The address of the initial principal office of the Corporation is 424 Alpine Road, Moncure, Chatham County, North Carolina 27559

8. The number of persons constituting the Board shall be specified in the Corporation's Bylaws from time to time, but shall not be less than one (1) and not more than twelve (12). The initial Board shall consist of one (1) person. The name and address of the person who is to serve as the initial director is:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Addresses</u>
<u>Donna Bianco</u>	<u>424 Alpine Road</u> <u>Moncure, NC 27559</u>

Each member of the initial Board shall serve until the first meeting of the Board of the Corporation or until their successors are elected and qualified in the manner and for the time provided in the Bylaws of the Corporation. No director of the Corporation shall have any personal liability for monetary damages arising out of an action whether by or in the right of the Corporation or otherwise for breach of any duty as a director. All directors and officers shall be immune from personal liability for monetary damages for breach of any duty as director or officer to the fullest extent allowed by law, including that immunity set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§1-539.10, 55A-2-02(b)(4), and 55A-8-60, or any successor provisions of law.

12. The private property of the incorporator, directors and officers shall not be subject to the payment of corporate debts to any extent whatsoever. In furtherance and not in limitation of any of the powers conferred by statute, the Corporation is expressly authorized to carry on its business and to hold annual and special meetings of its Board in any of the states, territories, or possessions of the United States or the District of Columbia.

13. At any time during which this Corporation shall be classified as a "private foundation" as that term is defined by §509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws:

A. The Corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in §4941(d) of the Code or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws;

B. The Corporation shall make distributions of such amounts for each taxable year at any time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax imposed by §4942 of the Code or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws;

C. The Corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in §4943(c) of the Code or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws;

D. The Corporation shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under §4944 of the Code or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws; and

E. The Corporation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in §4945(d) of the Code or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

14. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles of Incorporation, the Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, conduct or carry on any activities not

permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from federal income taxation under §501(c) (3) of the Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they hereafter may be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under §170(c)(2) of the Code and regulations as they now exist or as they hereafter may be amended.

15. The Corporation reserves the right to amend, change, or repeal any provision contained in these Articles of Incorporation or to merge or consolidate this Corporation with any other nonprofit corporation in accordance with law and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board, as then constituted; provided, however, that any such action shall be calculated exclusively to carry out the objects and purposes for which the Corporation is formed, and all rights herein conferred or granted shall be subject to this reservation.

16. Upon the dissolution and liquidation of the Corporation, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Corporation, distribute all of the net assets of the Corporation in the following manner and order:

A. First, to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and which has established its tax-exempt status under §501 (c) (3) of the Code or the corresponding provision of any subsequent federal tax laws, as selected by the Board;

B. Second, as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the Board for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of §501(c)(3) of the Code or the corresponding provision of any subsequent federal tax laws.

Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of general jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located exclusively for such

purposes for which the Corporation was organized, or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine.

17. The name and address of the incorporator is: W. David Mannheim, 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina 27607.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this the 2 day of April, 2012.



W. David Mannheim, Incorporator

Organizational goals and measurable objectives should describe and measure the effectiveness and viability of the organization.

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The performance based goals for Our Neighborhood Charter will support the mission to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students that ensures students become trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners. In order to embrace our mission, ONC will implement the following performance based goals:

1. Provide a curriculum which encompasses opportunities for students to develop academic, social and vocational skills.
  2. Provide an opportunity for the generalization of these skills.
  3. Provide an opportunity for students to meet and surpass the NC Standard Course of Study requirements.
  4. Provide students with vocational enrichment and community involvement.
  5. Provide a successful educational opportunity enrolled at ONC
  6. Provide financial guidance for all budget revenues and expenditures.
  7. Provide opportunities for teachers to earn CEU credits and continue educational endeavors.
  8. Provide parents open-door opportunities in which to establish a comfortable level of involvement and confirm the importance of parents in children's education..
- Describe how the governing board will ensure that current and future board members avoid conflicts of interest.
- 

Conflict of interest will be avoided by a clause in the bylaws and policies, See attached: BYLAWS

**ADMISSIONS POLICY** (G.S. 115C-238.29B(b)(4); G.S. 115C-238.29F(d)(1))

Provide a description of the policies and the procedures for admitting students to the proposed charter school, including specific details of the enrollment lottery plan, statutorily allowed preferences, a plan to develop clear procedures for withdrawals and transfers, as well as subsequent marketing strategies to reach all demographic groups.

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See Attached: ONC Lottery and Admissions Policy



## V. EDUCATION PLAN

**NOTE:** Answer all sections completely, include your answers in this section of the application, do not include as an appendices. Do not use "same as LEA" or "whatever the law says". The State Board of Education shall give priority consideration to the applicants who demonstrate potential for significant, meaningful innovation in education. Give explanations. Lack of proper documentation will jeopardize the application review.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM:** (G.S. 115C-238.29F (d))

Provide a detailed description of the overall instructional program, including the following:

- Educational theory, foundation of the model, and proposed innovative offerings.
- 

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study will take priority in the education foundation at ONC.

# Our Neighborhood Charter

## Admissions Policy and Lottery Procedures

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the practice of a fair and equitable lottery procedure at Our Neighborhood Charter.

### Definitions

**Late Application:** after the Application Deadline but before the beginning of school.

**Lottery:** a publicly posted and publicly conducted random drawing from names of student applicants desiring admission to Our Neighborhood Charter

**Lottery Adult:** means the independent adult who actually draws ID-numbered objects representing student applicants from a container that contains ID-numbered objects for all students. A Lottery Adult cannot have family members, immediate or extended, employed at ONC, on the Board of Directors at ONC, enrolled at ONC, applying for a seat at ONC.

**Sibling Preference:** A sibling of a student already enrolled at Our Neighborhood Charter and who seeks admission is accepted without requirement of going into a lottery. Any other eligibility criteria and guidelines stay in place, however.

**Waiting List:** a list of applicants desiring admission when space becomes available.

### Lottery

Our Neighborhood charter will admit a new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class of 25 students for the next academic year. An eligible student must be 7 years old on or before the first day of classes for the academic year in which a parent/guardian is making application. When the number of applications exceeds the number of openings, we will conduct a lottery to determine those students who will be admitted or put on the waiting list. We will follow the steps outlined below to ensure this procedure is equitable to all applicants.

Current ONC students do not need to re-apply for admission, but they are required to submit a commitment letter for the following school year. This commitment letter is due by 12 noon on the last Friday of February in order to determine any additional opening for the lottery.

### Underlying Considerations:

1. Students will be automatically admitted for the next school year to our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class if that class does not reach full enrollment by the application deadline date. If full enrollment for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is not reached by the deadline date, the school will continue to receive applications for that grade as long as necessary to complete full enrollment. Applications received after the deadline date will be enrolled in order of receipt.

2. Siblings refer only to those perspective students who have siblings currently enrolled at Our Neighborhood Charter and who will at ONC in the academic year for which the lottery is being conducted.
3. If a student applying to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and has a sibling already enrolled in a higher grade, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sibling will automatically be admitted.
4. Twins or multiples will be treated as one application. Their names will be assigned on the same card.

#### **Process to determine the number of students to be accepted**

1. The administrative team at ONC will determine the number of available openings in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the next school year by the first Friday of March of the application year.
2. Names of all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade applicants will be entered into a spreadsheet with information from their applications
3. From the pool of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade applications, pull applications of prospective students who have one or more sibling enrolled at ONC and highlight their names in yellow on the spreadsheet.
4. From the remaining pool of applicants, the appropriate number will be randomly select to achieve a class size of 25 students.

#### **Lottery process**

1. Admissions applications will be due by 12 noon on the third Friday of April. The lottery will be conducted on the fourth Saturday of April by the Lottery Adult.
2. The lottery event will be videotaped. In the event of any discrepancy, the video tape will be regarded as the official record of admitted and waitlisted students.
3. Name cards will be generated from an admissions spreadsheet prepared from each individual application. A card with each applicant's first and last name will be contained in grade-specific envelopes.
4. The names from each envelope will be placed into a large tumbler/container and selected one at a time to fill each class roster.
5. After the total number of students to be accepted has been reached, all remaining cards/names will be drawn and the order of students on the waiting list will be recorded according to the order in which cards/names are drawn.
6. Letters are sent offering positions to student selected during the lottery. Parents must respond accepting or declining these offers. Families who are present at the lottery will be directed to pick-up their enrollment/registration packet containing their offer letter. Families who are unable to attend the lottery will receive their enrollment/registration packet in the mail.
7. Each family will be reminded that the enrollment confirmation forms are due by 5:00 p.m. on the First Friday of May in order to secure their place at ONC.
8. Any family failing to submit their documentation for enrollment/registration by the deadline will forfeit their place at ONC.

**How does sibling preference affect the waiting list?**

A sibling of an already enrolled child may be offered admission before any child on the waiting list.

**Is there ever tuition?**

No

**How do the parents know the lottery is fair?**

Procedures are in place to assure the lottery and selection of students is random and fair:

In the half-hour before the lottery, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to examine the lottery devices and certify that their child's card is in the lottery. Only the Lottery Adult will pull the cards from the drum. All applicants will receive notification of their status. It is the responsibility of the school and the lottery adults to monitor applications prior to the lottery and to conduct the lottery in such a way as to eliminate the possibility of bias or over-enrollment in any grade.

**What if my child is enrolled and we move? Can we continue at ONC?**

Yes, parents who move retain their child's place unless they are unable to provide the transportation necessary to have their student in school on a daily and timely basis.



Organizational goals and measurable objectives should describe and measure the effectiveness and viability of the organization.

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The performance based goals for Our Neighborhood Charter will support the mission to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students that ensures students become trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners. In order to embrace our mission, ONC will implement the following performance based goals:

1. Provide a curriculum which encompasses opportunities for students to develop academic, social and vocational skills.
  2. Provide an opportunity for the generalization of these skills.
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  4. Provide students with vocational enrichment and community involvement.
  5. Provide a successful educational opportunity enrolled at ONC
  6. Provide financial guidance for all budget revenues and expenditures.
  7. Provide opportunities for teachers to earn CEU credits and continue educational endeavors.
  8. Provide parents open-door opportunities in which to establish a comfortable level of involvement and confirm the importance of parents in children's education..
- Describe how the governing board will ensure that current and future board members avoid conflicts of interest.
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**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM:** (G.S. 115C-238.29F (d))

Provide a detailed description of the overall instructional program, including the following:

- Educational theory, foundation of the model, and proposed innovative offerings.
- 

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study will take priority in the education foundation at ONC.

Core Knowledge, developed by E.D. Hirsch will be integrated throughout as it has an element of ethnic and cultural diversity.

In addition the vocational aspect will co-occur as another primary focus. Students will be able to watch the progress as food moves from "Seed to Stomach". The nutritional educational component of ONC is created to introduce and support children of all ages as they learn how to make healthy food choices, participate in the flow of food from "Seed to Stomach" and learn vocational skills. At the cornerstone, ONC will have classes that focus on food and its nutrition, exploring how food can be used to heal and nourish our bodies. Our students will experience a different relationship to food and its properties, therefore becoming more engaged and aware. We believe that early exposure to healthful foodstuffs will create a greater sense of health in all aspects of their lives. In addition we will have classes that focus on meeting our fruits and vegetables, food combining and special diets. ONC will offer courses on food politics past and present, recipe and menu planning and take field trips to local farms and markets. They will also be involved in the local farmers market procuring a booth and selling the produce that they grow. A "beefed" up nutrition education is one objective of ONC and another reason why our curriculum is one step ahead.

Bella Donna Italian Restaurant is committed to providing lunches to all regardless of a child's ability to pay. Students will either pack their lunches or buy the lunch offered by Bella Donna. All children who buy their lunches will do so with a "cash card" which parents will load with funds at the beginning of each week. Students who do not have the means to pay will still have a "cash card" which will show a negative balance in the finance office, but will not disallow the students to purchase lunch. Students will never know whether there is funding loaded onto their cards or not. An initiative will be started asking community members to pay for a child's lunch for a day/week/year.

As the mission of ONC is to develop productive citizens or basically perform tasks in a real world situation, many of ONC's assessments will be Authentic Assessment in addition to traditional assessment. Authentic Assessment focuses on developing higher order of thinking and analytical skills. Student should be able to integrate what they learn, demonstrate creativity, and work collaboratively. Oral and written expression skills will also be emphasized.

ONC will take a comprehensive and preventative approach using a vocational model. Currently, NC Public Schools are focusing on vocational programs at the high school level. The difference is that ONC will start this focus earlier with the "Seed to Stomach" initiative allowing students to be immersed in the nuances of farming and nutrition. Using a preventative model, instead of a deficient/discrepancy model will allow our disadvantaged, at-risk youth to participate routinely in academic and vocational activities which will lead to successful learning.

- *Teaching approach, class structure, curriculum design, courses of study, sample daily schedule, pillars of the school culture, and instructional methodology that align with the school's mission.*

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See Attached: ONC Day Schedule

14

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, "Help wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018," 62% of jobs available to high school graduates and high school dropouts will be in the food service industry. Out of 61 million high school graduates and dropouts, 16 million will be working in the food and personal services industry. Our "Seed to Stomach" curriculum will expound upon the needs of a healthy lifestyle.

Phase II - After School Program

Students who are successful in a YMCA or YWCA or the Boys and Girl clubs are far more likely to

## Our Neighborhood Charter Day Schedule

7:15-8:00	Before School Care/Breakfast
8:00-8:15	Attendance
8:15-8:30	School Wide Brain Gym
8:30-10:00	Subject Area
10:00-11:30	Subject Area
11:30-12:30	Lunch
12:30-12:45	Brain Gym
12:45-2:15	Subject Area
2:15 – 3:00	Subject Area
3:00 – 3:30	Break – Snack/Exercise
3:30 – 5:30	Homework, Tutoring, Enrichment
5:30	School Closes

be successful than their counterparts who are not involved in such institutions (Jarrett, 1995; Putnam, 2004). They discourage youth from participating in dysfunctional behaviors. Our program will:

1. increase safety and supervision of children, especially for "latch-key kids".
2. create additional time for cultural and ideological diversity and differences.
3. provides opportunities for drill and mastery of basic skills
4. provides an access point for parents to acquire information regarding the curriculum or student progress
5. increases competency in subject matter presented in the classroom
6. provides further opportunities for development of social skills
7. allows extended day opportunities for community involvement.

According to Cosden, Morison, Albanese and Mcasis 2001, programs which offered successful homework assistance programs had a structured setting for homework completion and instructional support for students. It establishes effective study habits and skills to help children plan and be proactive, to aid in developing time management, self-control and discipline and demonstrates responsible behaviors (Sheridan 2009). Successfully completed homework aids in the development of personal responsibility, finding success in school with a sense of belonging, and improving study skills which are the basic needs of children today.

ONC will use cooperative learning among peers which is an approach to organizing activities into a combined academic and social learning experience. It differs from group work and has been described as "structuring positive interdependence". If students work in groups to complete tasks collectively they learn how to capitalize on each others resources and skills. This also changes the teacher's role from giving information to facilitating students' learning. (Ross 1995)

Five essential elements are identified for the successful incorporation of cooperative learning in the classroom. Brown & Ciuffetelli Parker (2009) and Siltala (2010)

1. Positive interdependence - Students must fully participate and put forth effort within their group. Each group member has a task/role/responsibility therefore must believe that they are responsible for their learning and that of their group
2. Face-to-Face Interaction - Member promote each others success. Students explain to one another what they have or are learning and assist one another with understanding and completion of assignments
3. Individual and Group Accountability - Each student must demonstrate master of the content being studied. Each student is accountable for their learning and work, therefore eliminating social loafing
4. Social Skills - Social skills that must be taught in order for successful cooperative learning to occur. Skills include effective communication, interpersonal and group skills
5. Group Processing - Every so often groups must assess their effectiveness and decide how it can be improved

ONC will be using the cooperative learning model.

- *Demonstration that selected goals are clear, specific, measurable, ambitious and attainable.*

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Student achievement goals

ONC students will achieve to their maximum potential, academically and vocationally.

Methods to Determine if Goals have been achieved:

Teacher Observation  
Authentic Assessment  
End of Grade Test 80% mastery  
End of Course Test 80% mastery  
Pre Test  
Post Test  
Nationally Normed Standardized Test  
Portfolio of Student Work  
Cooperative Learning Group

Students will:

Comprehend material presented  
Demonstrate problem solving  
Apply and Generalize Learned Skills  
Demonstrate and Generalize Seed To Stomach curriculum  
Demonstrate academic proficiency in core academics Hirsch, Kahn, Seed to Stomach, SCOS  
Demonstrate Personal and Social Responsibility  
Students will demonstrate appropriate conduct in school, vocational and community settings.  
Demonstrate knowledge regarding career opportunities  
Meet or exceed State performance standards.

- Entrance and exit requirements as well as graduation requirements (if the school is to be high school).

Entrance Requirements shall include:

Copy of Birth Certificate  
Proof of Residency  
Immunization Records

If transferring from another LEA;

Official transcripts from all previous schools  
Reason for transfer  
IEP if applicable  
Notice of suspension or expulsion

Exit requirements

22 units will be required for graduation from high school. If NCDPI changes their pathway requirements, this is subject to change.

English (4 units) English I,II,III,IV

Mathematics (4 units) Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Caculus, Caculus or AP Statistics.

Science (3 units) Physical Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics

Foreign Language (2 units) Two units in the same language

Health and PE (1 unit) Health and Physical Education

Electives ( 6 units) Career and Technical or Vocational or Arts Education Electives

# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2013-14

August 21, 22,23	Teacher Workdays
August 26	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Begins
September 2	Labor Day – No School for Teachers or Students
October 14	Columbus Day – No School for Teachers or Students
November 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Ends
November 4 -15	Track Out for Students
November 4	Teacher Workday
November 5	Report Cards Due
November 14, 15	Teacher Workdays
November 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Begins
November 28, 29	Thanksgiving – No School for Teachers or Students
December 23 – January 1	Christmas – No School for Teachers or Students
January 20	Martin Luther King – No School for Teachers or Students
February 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Ends
February 10-14, 24-28	Track Out for Students
February 10, 27, 28	Teachers Workday
February 11	Report Cards Due
February 17-21	Presidents Week – No School for Teachers or Students
March 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester Begins
April 18 – 25	Easter – No School for Teachers or Students
May 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester Ends

# 2013-14 Academic Calendar

**July**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

**October**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

**January**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31			

**April**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30					

**July**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

**August**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31		

**November**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30		

**February**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

**May**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31		

**August**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	

**September**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30

**December**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30

**March**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

**June**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30

**September**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30

School In Session

<b>May 15-28</b>	<b>Track Out for Students</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Teacher Workday</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Report Cards Due</b>
<b>May 26</b>	<b>Memorial Day – No School for Teachers or Students</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester Begins</b>
<b>June 30-July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day – No School for Teachers or Students</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester Ends</b>
<b>August 11-22</b>	<b>Students Track Out</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Teacher Workday</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Report Cards Due</b>
<b>August 21-22</b>	<b>Teacher Workday</b>



- *The school calendar (must provide instruction for a minimum of 185 instructional days) (G.S.115C-238.29F(d)(1)) and how it coincides with the tenets of the proposed mission.*
- 

ONC's schedule of 10 weeks on and 2 weeks off allows for 191 school days. 2.5 hours of Phase II after-school program permits another 477.5 hours of school throughout the year which in turn translates to an additional 68 school days (using a 7 hours school day model). This computes to 259 school days.

See attached: ONC Calendar Year 2013-14



The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students that ensures students become trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.

- *A concise description of any evaluation tool or test, if any, that the proposed charter school will use in addition to any state or federally mandated tests and how this data will be used to drive instruction and improve the curriculum over time for the benefit of students.*
- 

In addition to the state/federally mandated tests, ONC will apply at least one nationally normed test, such as the California Achievement Test, Iowa Basic Skills Test or the Metropolitan Achievement Test to enable the school to document individual and school wide progress against national averages.

A skills based inventory, such as the Brigance Inventory of Basic Skills, may be used for at-risk/exceptional students.

- *Provide an overview of the professional development needs associated with the mission and proposed instructional program. Be sure this discussion matches with the funding of the budget section.*
- 

There are many avenues for teacher/staff training  
NCDPI Professional development options, [www.ncpublicschool.org](http://www.ncpublicschool.org)  
[www.learningforward.org](http://www.learningforward.org),  
CEC conference,  
Cooperative Learning Training- <http://www.kaganonline.com/>  
PAL - Peer Assisted Learning Team - training  
"Seed to Stomach" curriculum training

- *An explanation of how the school will provide assistance to students that are not performing at expected levels to ensure the continued progress of student growth. The applicant needs to define their "expected levels" of performance and delineate a plan accordingly.*
- 

Student expectations will be high. We will expect grade level or above grade level performance but also for at-risk students we will focus on student growth. Students will not be able to leave school until all homework is completed or the parents sign a waiver indicating that they understand the homework assignment and are committed to overseeing its completion. This after-school time will be one of nurturing, mentoring, teamwork, cooperation and social interaction. Children may work in groups or independently. Teachers and parent volunteers and many senior volunteers will be onsite as

information resources and to provide guidance for assignments. This will also be a time for tutoring, project completions and enrichment studies.

Students not achieving at grade level shall be given extra instruction in Phase II Extended day. Teachers will work with parents and students and discuss students progress. Conferences will be held and discussion will focus on the issue behind the lowered performance level. Causes may include social, emotional, academic reasons. Each student presents a different set of challenges and must be dealt with as an individual. What works for one child may not necessarily work for another. Volunteers, peer tutors, and parent involvement will be implemented as needed. Incentives, motivators, reteaching opportunities, or simply goal modifications may be put into place.

The set up of the ONC curriculum which includes tactile and hands on learning opportunities will provide an environment for at risk children to thrive. This is an environment that will cater to individual learning style and focus on strengths while remediating needs as well as offering challenges to our gifted population. Our small nurturing respectful environment will allow at risk students a feeling of safety and security in which they will feel comfortable taking risks. Phase II extended day time will provide at risk and students with continued learning opportunities beyond the school day.

- *Details in how the proposed charter plans to involve parents and community members within the school.*
- 

With a location in downtown Pittsboro, students will get to know the town, will be able to walk to local businesses to interview business owners and complete specific projects. High school students will be matched with local businesses for job shadowing and volunteer opportunities. There are numerous non-profits in Pittsboro which students will research so that they can understand the parameters, needs, and audience of these non-profits as well as the nuances of funding and performance. Parents and senior volunteers will be used as chaperones for these excursions as well as Phase II After School Program.

- *Describe how the school will meet the needs of gifted, at-risk children, English language learners by explaining the proposed school's process for identification and service of these students.*
- 

If students come into our school with an already established plan for either gifted or at-risk, that plan will be implemented. For students with no pre-existing plan, the teacher is on the front line to assess performance and spot difficulties. Once a teacher determines that a child is having difficulty or the curriculum seems less challenging, as for an AG student, that teacher will bring the student and his or her identified areas of need to the PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) team. The teacher will ask for feedback, ideas, suggestions, interventions and strategies from the other team members so that these children can be better assisted, in and outside of the classroom.

AG, EC and ELL students will be given opportunities to participate in a full range of courses to meet their needs. These opportunities include but are not limited to:

Kahn Academy

Ed Options

Virtual Public School

- *Discuss any proposed extra-curricular activities to be offered by the school and how these offerings match the over-all mission of the school.*
-

Students will be immersed in the everyday running of a local restaurant as well as other businesses, non-profits, and arts-related institutions in Pittsboro and Chatham County. Pittsboro has dancers, potters, painters, photographers, musicians, etc., and is a rich community to draw upon.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION** (G.S.115C-106)

*The charter school must accept special needs children under the federal legislation Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 Et seq.) and the state legislation (G.S. 115C-106 Et seq.). The proposed school will abide by the charter school legislation, G.S. 115C-238.29F(g)(5), as stated below:*

*A charter school shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability. Except as otherwise provided by law or the mission of the school as set out in the charter, the school shall not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, disability, race, creed, gender, national origin, religion, or ancestry.*

*Provide a clear and thorough explanation of the procedures the proposed charter will follow to insure compliance of the above laws. As part of this section, the plan should include how you will identify and meet the needs of your projected students (at-risk, gifted/talented, English language learners, and students with disabilities) in a manner that aligns with the overall curriculum, instructional approach, and mission.*

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ONC mission for exceptional children is to assure that each student with disabilities will receive an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. ONC will comply with The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law ensuring services to children with disabilities under Part B. ONC will contract with the LEA for assessments and work together with the families writing student IEPs.

ONC will:

Hire a teacher with special education certification

Work with the LEA to obtain screenings and current assessments.

Assist families in finding and drawing upon resources available to them locally and statewide.

Mandate teachers and Related Services Personnel will serve the children in their least restrictive environment.

Team with therapists to assure the student is receiving ongoing treatment as deemed appropriate in the classroom

Complies with the ADA.

ONC will comply with all federal and state regulations, policies and procedures regarding the education of Exceptional Education students. These students will receive appropriate instruction in their least restrictive environment, using their Individualized Education Plan as a foundation for services. Non-identified students deemed in need of special education services will flow through the referral process as mandated by federal and state regulations.

It is the belief of ONC that the curriculum set forth in this charter will work in conjunction with and blend with the learning styles of a majority of special education students. These unique learners often learn best by a tactile, kinesthetic approach to instruction. The restaurant based job curriculum will provide a model and new opportunities for these unique learners. Modifications and accommodations will be provided to enhance learning. Academic and functional goals will be addressed and incorporated into the curriculum for each of these students. ONC will not discriminate against any student based on ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability. It is our belief that special education students will flourish in this environment.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE** (G.S.115C-238.29B(b)(12); G.S. 115C-238.29F(d)(4 and 5))

*Provide drafts, included in this section, of student handbooks and other policies governing student conduct and discipline. Include policies and procedures governing suspension and expulsion of students. Specifically address these policies with respect to exceptional children. Also describe how a parent could appeal the decision of a school administrator through a grievance process.*

---

When parents disagree with the actions of school employee, they shall have the right to grieve that issue or situation. Their first course of actions should be to discuss the situation with the school employee with whom they disagree. If they are unable to reconcile the situation with the employee, they should request a meeting with his/her immediate supervisor, which in most cases would be the Principal. After the meeting with the Principal, if the parent/guardian is still dissatisfied they should request a meeting with the Headmaster. After the meeting with the headmaster, if dissatisfied they should request a meeting with the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet with both parties before making a decision. The decision of the board should be written and a copy shall be sent to both parties and the Headmaster. All meetings will be private and adhere to confidentiality. If a grievant is having representation (including an attorney) advance notice shall be given to the principal. ONC may then have legal representation. The decision of the Board is final.

See Student handbooks and other policies governing student conduct and discipline Download



### **TIMELINES**

*Please create and describe a detailed start-up plan, identifying major tasks, timelines, and responsible individuals for accomplishing those tasks.*

See Time Line Download



**PRIVATE SCHOOL CONVERSIONS:** *complete ONLY if the proposed charter is a private school conversion.*

- *Provide a detailed description of the existing private school's financial status.*

---
- *Describe the rationale for converting from a private entity to a public school. Include information regarding how the proposed charter school will be nonsectarian in nature and will be open for all students (not just those currently attending the private school).*

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- *Depict and analyze the current enrollment trends of the school over the past three academic years.*

---
- *Document and expound upon evidence that the existing private school is successful in student achievement. Base this explanation upon academic data available through summative assessments.*

---
- *Explain the proposed charter school's expected staff turnover due to the statutory requirements for teacher licensure and highly qualified status.*

**ONC STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**  
(G.S.115C-238.29B(b)(12); G.S. 115C-238.29F(d)(4 and 5))

Provide drafts, included in this section, of student handbooks and other policies governing student conduct and discipline. Include policies and procedures governing suspension and expulsion of students. Specifically address these policies with respect to exceptional children. Also describe how a parent could appeal the decision of a school administrator through a grievance process.

Education is the primary purpose of public schools. In order for teachers to teach and students to learn, an atmosphere conducive to learning must be consistently maintained. A climate of discipline conducive to serious study and respect for oneself, other people, and property must exist in order to satisfactorily meet the needs of students. Students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate to the school setting, complying with not only State and Federal laws, but the Student Code of Conduct, Board Policies and ONC school rules governing student behavior and conduct.

ONC will have collaboration between students, parents and school staff. At all times students are expected to understand and comply with the codes of conduct. Students are given greater responsibility and held to higher standards of accountability as they mature and rise through the grades in our school community. Teachers, administrators and school staff are expected to model, teach, and enforce appropriate codes of conduct. Parents are expected to work with the school to promote understanding and compliance with appropriate codes of conduct and respect for school staff. All members of the ONC community will treat each other with respect and work to create a safe environment that is conducive to learning and healthy development. School property and personal property must be respected. State and federal laws will be followed. The disciplinary code of conduct will be implemented on school grounds at all times and off-site locations during school sponsored events. ONC has established a tier model for categories of disciplinary code violations. Listed below are examples and may not include all possible situations. For repeated problems, consequences will be progressive.

**Tier 1 : Disciplinary code violations**

These violations are the least severe, and include but are not limited to:

- Failure to comply with faculty or administrative directives
- Possession of devices not allowed on campus (I-pods, mp3s, cell phones, PSP, ect.)
- School dress code violations
- Public displays of affections beyond "a quick hug or a handshake."

Potential consequences of Tier 1 violations include:

- Verbal warning from faculty at the time of the infraction and the direction to change the behavior
- Confiscation of the electronic device which will be returned only to the parent with a reminder of the school policy regarding electronic devices
- Conference with principal and parents if necessary after repeated violations.
- Students who violate the dress code/uniforms a first or second time will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate clothing.

- Student found in violation for the third time will be referred to the principal. The principal will schedule a parent conference to discuss the persistent problem, and discuss and agree to a solution. A third offense under this code may be considered a Tier 2 violation.

#### Tier 2 – Disciplinary Code violations

The following are considered conduct violations which, while they do not cause direct physical harm to others, constitutes a threat to the personal or educational rights of others, or a disruption of the educational process. Tier 2 violations include but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate physical contact
- Disruption of the classroom
- Insubordination including repeated Tier 1 violations
- Defacement of school property or the personal property of another member of our learning community.
- Emotional abuse of others, including teasing and bullying, whether verbally, in writing, through a cell phone/computer, music or other electronic device.
- Sexual, racial, religious harassment, whether verbally, in print, through cell phone/computer, music or other electronic device.
- Plagiarism or cheating
- Truancy or skipping class

Consequences of Tier 2 violations include:

- Immediate referral to the principal
- Notification of parent/guardian
- Isolated lunch
- Restitution of the violation during the after school homework session, limited to 5:30 p.m.
  - Cleaning/repairing defaced school property
  - Writing apology letter
  - Researching a replacement behavior with a written response
  - Community service
- Possible suspension from school for a period of one (1) to five (5) days, at the discretion of the principal. Before the student is allowed to return to school, the principal may require a re-entry meeting with student and parents/guardian to review the expectations of behavior.
- Each individual teacher has the discretion to decide if schoolwork missed during this suspension can be turned in for credit at a later date.

#### Tier 3 – Disciplinary Code violations

These are the most severe and are of a nature so serious as to violate state and federal laws and/or cause danger or harm to individuals or to school or personal property.

Tier 3 violations include but are not limited to:

3. Follow teachers directions during classes including field trips and outside of classes on school grounds
4. Complete all work assigned by the teachers
5. Complete all work prior to leaving school unless excused by teacher/principal

*Provide drafts, included in this section, of student handbooks and other policies governing student conduct and discipline. Include policies and procedures governing suspension and expulsion of students. Specifically address these policies with respect to exceptional children. Also describe how a parent could appeal the decision of a school administrator through a grievance process.*

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---
- *Explain the proposed charter school's expected staff turnover due to the statutory requirements for teacher licensure and highly qualified status.*



# Timeline

## August 2012

- Develop Media Plan
  - Create school website at [www.ourneighborhoodcharter.com](http://www.ourneighborhoodcharter.com)
  - Principal and Headmaster recruitment begins
  - Teacher/Teacher Assistant Recruitment begins
  - Fundraising Plans
- Interviews for Headmaster
  - Hire Headmaster
- Formalize Board of Directors
  - Adopt By-Laws
  - Develop Organizational structure and responsibilities
  - Assign Committees
    - Resource Development Committee (RC)
    - Executive Committee (EC)
    - Finance Committee (FiC)
    - Personnel Committee (PC)
    - Facilities Committee (FaC)

## September 2012

- Develop/complete School Handbook (PC)
- Develop/complete Registration Form (PC)
- Develop/complete Grievance Form (EC)
- Open enrollment press release to local media (EC)
  - Chatham News Record
  - Chatham County Line
  - News and Observer
  - Sanford Herald
  - Chatham Chatlist
  - Wake-Up Wednesday
  - Fundraising email
  - Kiwanis Club, Bynum Ruritan presentations
- Fundraising Event (RC)

## October 2012

- Develop job descriptions for all staff (PC)
- Complete Application Packet (PC)
  - Registration Form
  - School handbook
  - Immunization Forms
  - Parent Volunteer Talents Survey
- Meet with Heads of Democratic and Republican Parties in Chatham (EC)
- Continue Public Relations with Community (All)

- Fundraising Event (RC)

#### November 2012

- Curriculum Development Incorporating Vocational Aspect (Headmaster)
- Continue Public Relations with Community (All)
- Develop/complete Parent Volunteer Talents Survey (Headmaster, PC)
- Develop Health and Safety Packet (Headmaster, PC)

#### December 2012

- Begin Groundbreaking building at Main Street Station (All)
- Curriculum Development Continues (Headmaster, PC)
- Fundraising Event (RC)

#### January 2013

- Begin Registration and Enrollment (Headmaster)
- Interviews for Principal (Headmaster)
- Continue Public Relations Initiative (All)

#### February 2013

- Hire Principal (Headmaster, EC)
- Curriculum Development (Principal, Headmaster)
- Fundraising Event (All)

#### March 2013

- Contact Hertz School Supply for Furniture Delivery date (building has already been designed and furniture quote is in) (FaC)
- Fundraising Event (All)

#### April 2013

- Enrollment Period Ends
- Conduct Lottery if needed (Principal, Headmaster)

#### May 2013

- Send registration packets to all prospective students (Headmaster, Principal)
- Uniforms Ordered (Headmaster, Principal)
- Interviews for Teachers/Teacher Assistants (Headmaster, Principal)
- Order Supplies (Principal)

#### June 2013

- Hire Teachers/Teachers Assistants (EC)
- Set up classrooms (Teachers, Principal, Teacher Assistant)

#### July 2013

- **Finalize Staff Placement (Headmaster, Principal)**
- **Begin Teacher/Teacher Assistant Training (Headmaster, Principal)**

**August 2013**

- **Open House**
- **Complete Staff Training (Headmaster, Principal)**
- **Press Release for Grand Opening (EC)**
- **Parent Orientation (Principal)**
- **First Day of School (All)**

## VI. BUSINESS PLAN

### **PROJECTED STAFF:**

*Provide a list of positions anticipated for the charter school; (e.g., principal or director; support staff; teachers, part-time and full-time; paraprofessionals/teaching assistants, clerical, and maintenance.).*

Position Name	Job Description
--Administrator(S)	2 - One Principal and One Headmaster - who will also be involved in the after school program
--Clerical	1- Data entry, clerical
--Teachers	8.5- one per grade level, one and a half positions for the after school program, one special education teacher, adding 1.5 teacher each year.
--Librarians	0
--Guidance	0
--Teacher Assistants	8.5 - one per grade level one one special education assistant
--Custodian	.5
--Maintenance	0
--Food Service	0
--Bus Driver	0
--Other	1 - ESL Teacher
School Crossing Guard	4 - Volunteers

*Discuss how the school will develop, mentor, retain, and evaluate staff in a format that matches the school's mission and educational program. Please include a timeline, steps to be taken, and a lead contact.*

ONC will have competitive salaries, hire majority of highly qualified teachers. Teachers will have a voice in the policies of the school. ONC will provide teachers with a private retirement plan and private health insurance options. ONC will develop a mentoring plan for first year teachers. We will also draw upon the numerous retirees in this area since teaching at a charter not involved with the NC Retirement System, will not affect their benefits. Quarterly evaluations performed by the principal.

An attached Teacher evaluation form from Cleveland County Schools will be updated and used at ONC. See Attached: Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument

*Also include the following information for the proposed charter school:*

- *Process to advertise for and employ members of the school*

Create website [www.ourneighborhoodcharter.org](http://www.ourneighborhoodcharter.org), of which we already own the domain name. Website will have information regarding our vision and employment opportunities listed.

Advertise in Sanford Herald, Chatham News/Record, News and Observer, Chatham County Line

Send press releases with employment opportunities to surrounding colleges: UNC-G, UNC-CH, Duke, Elon, NC A&T, NC Central University, NC State, Appalachian State University

The Board of Directors will develop a questionnaire and rubric for Headmaster and Principals to use during interviews.

---

The site where the proposed school will be located has 4 neighborhoods which will be targeted.

1. Masonic Trailer Park- two blocks to the northwest; a neighborhood of predominantly low income Hispanic families with many school age children.
2. Toomer Loop Road - one block southeast, a neighborhood of predominantly African American families with many school age children.
3. Cornwallis - one mile to the south, mixed races; predominantly African American; low income housing; Habitat for Humanity homes
4. Chatham Forest - One hundred acre subdivision three blocks northeast, predominantly White, middle class, blue collar.

*Marketing to potential students and parents is vital to the survival of a charter school. Reaching the full capacity for enrollment will be critical to obtain the necessary financial resources to keep your school viable and operating efficiently. In addition, it is required by law that charter schools provide equal access to all students. Read the charter school State Statute regarding admissions GS 115C.238.29F(g) (1-7) carefully. Describe how the board will market the school to all populations (including various community ethnic groups, teachers and other employees, and the general public) to ensure that the school fully complies with the State Statute to mirror the diversity of the local education agency.*

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Door to door campaigns will occur in the Masonic, Toomer Loop, Cornwallis neighborhoods. Reaching as many as these families as possible is of the utmost importance. The Chatham Forest families will reasonably be notified via newspaper articles and advertisements in the Chatham Record, Chatham County Line, Sanford Herald, News and Observer newspapers. We have been highlighted in both of these newspapers numerous times over the past year during our quest to complete the application. The Masonic group will be the least apt to find out about us, initially, in newspapers because of limited English. The Chatham Chatlist, which is a Chatham centric blog which reaches 3,000 e-mail addresses daily, will also be a venue in which we will solicit students.

**The numbers in the following tables are projections, or estimates, and do not bind the State to fund the school at any particular level.**

*For the first two years the State will fund the school up to the maximum projected enrollment for each of those years approved in the projected enrollment tables. However, in subsequent years, the school may increase its enrollment only as permitted by G.S. 115C-238.29D(d), that is, an increase of 20% per year based on the previous year's enrollment. Any increase above 20% must be approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with G.S. 115C-238D(d).*

*In the following tables, please list for each year and grade level, the numbers of students that the school reasonably expects to enroll. In addition, please indicate any plans to increase the grade levels offered by the school over time and be sure these figures match those on the initial cover page. In describing your budgetary assumptions, explain the analysis utilized to project these specific enrollment figures. If your budget projections are lower than anticipated, how will the school adjust this budget and what is the determined break-even point for student enrollment?*

Woods Charter School presently has a 1000 child waiting list. According to Harrell Rentz, Principal at Woods, they have no plans to expand and are very happy with the 500 child limit that they currently possess. Mr. Rentz has also indicated that their 1000 child waiting list, if needed, would be available to ONC. ONC can continue to function with less than 25 students as our break even point has been calculated to be approximately 19 students. The overwhelming community support indicates that acquiring 25 students per grade level should not be a huge issue. ONC will embrace students with special needs. Our budget projections are well below the budget allotment and we expect at least 5-12% Exceptional Children population which will increase our budget.

*Also, in narrative format, explain how your spending priorities align with the school's mission, curricular offerings, transportation plans, and professional development needs. Be able to depict in chart format and discuss in a narrative how the school will maintain a small, contingency reserve and operate using sound fiscal practices. As you construct the budget, include any and all documentation about cash on hand, bonds, real estate, or grants as part of this application package.*

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ONC has no cash on hand, bonds, real estate or grants at this time. Our spending priorities are teacher salaries and student curriculum. We are offering teachers, depending on experience, \$40,000 plus \$5000 per teacher for private health insurance and retirement benefits. Happy teachers make happy students, happy students make happy parents. ONC has solicited the services of Eric Dejong, Small Business Pro, LLC, for the day to day financial operation and Andrea L. Donahue of Charter Financial Services, LLC for audits and consultation.

**PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2013-14 through 2017-2018**

IDENTIFY LEA FROM WHICH STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY COME

List LEA #1 – 190

List LEA #2 – 530

List LEA #3 – 010

Grade	2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017			2017-2018						
	LEA 1	LEA 2	LEA 3	LEA 1	LEA 2	LEA 3	LEA 1	LEA 2	LEA 3	LEA 1	LEA 2	LEA 3	LEA 1	LEA 2	LEA 3				
Kindergarten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Grade 01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Grade 02	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 03	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 04	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 05	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 06	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 07	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 08	0	0	0	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 09	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2	1	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2	1	22	2	1				
Grade 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2	1				
Grade 12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
LEA Totals	132	12	6	154	14	7	176	16	8	198	18	9	220	20	10				
Overall Total Enrollment	150						175						225						250

**Budget: Revenue Projections 2013-14 through 2017-2018**

INCOME:	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
REVENUE PROJECTIONS					
--State ADM Funds	\$669,966	\$781,627	\$893,288	\$1,004,949	\$1,116,610
--Local Per Pupil Funds	\$365,399	\$426,298	\$487,198	\$548,098	\$608,998
--Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--Grants*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--Foundations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--Private Funds*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--Other Funds*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,035,365</b>	<b>\$1,207,925</b>	<b>\$1,380,486</b>	<b>\$1,553,047</b>	<b>\$1,725,608</b>

\*If you are depending on these sources of funding to balance your operating budget, please provide documentation, such as signed statements from donors, foundations, etc., on the availability of these funds.



**Budget (continued): Revenue Projections 2013-14 through 2017-2018**

**SHOW CALCULATIONS  
FOR FIGURING STATE  
AND LOCAL DOLLARS  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
CHARTER SCHOOL**

See <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/stats/index.html>  
(OR Click on: Agency Website: Division of Financial Services, Reports and Statistics, Statistical Data

*The formula for figuring these allotments can be found in the Resource Guide.*  
Chatham County -\$4466.44 Adj. \$ADM plus \$2435.99 \$ADM Local = \$6902.43

\$6902.43 x 150 = 1,035,364.50

These numbers were kept constant for the next four years with no changes in the ADM. The changes only came with the number of students enrolled which increase because of the additional classroom added each year.

**Budget (continued): Expenditure Projections 2013-14 through 2017-2018**

BUDGET EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Personnel Total # Of Staff And Projected Costs	21.5 \$752,500	24.5 \$850,000	27.5 \$947,500	30.5 \$1,045,000	33.5 \$1,142,500
--Administrator(S)	2 \$115,000	2 \$115,000	2 \$115,000	2 \$115,000	2 \$115,000
--Clerical	1 \$30,000	1 \$30,000	1 \$30,000	1 \$30,000	1 \$30,000
--Teachers	8.5 \$340,000	10 \$400,000	11.5 \$460,000	13 \$520,000	14.5 \$580,000
--Teacher Assistants	8.5 \$212,500	10 \$250,000	11.5 \$287,500	13 \$325,000	14.5 \$362,500
--Custodian	.5 \$15,000	.5 \$15,000	.5 \$15,000	.5 \$15,000	.5 \$15,000
--Maintenance	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0
--Other	1 \$40,000	1 \$40,000	1 \$40,000	1 \$40,000	1 \$40,000
Employee Benefits	0 \$42,500	0 \$50,000	0 \$57,500	0 \$65,000	0 \$72,500
Staff Development	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,500	0 \$6,050	0 \$6,655	0 \$7,320
Materials And Supplies	0 \$50,000	0 \$20,000	0 \$20,000	0 \$20,000	0 \$20,000
Office Supplies	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000
Instructional Equipment	0 \$50,000	0 \$25,000	0 \$20,000	0 \$20,000	0 \$20,000
Office Equipment	0 \$10,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000
Testing Materials	0 \$7,000	0 \$7,000	0 \$7,000	0 \$7,000	0 \$7,000
Insurance	0 \$2,400	0 \$2,400	0 \$2,400	0 \$2,400	0 \$2,400
Utilities	0 \$12,000	0 \$13,200	0 \$14,520	0 \$15,972	0 \$17,569
Rent	0 \$70,000	0 \$70,000	0 \$70,000	0 \$70,000	0 \$70,000
Maintenance & Repair	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000
Transportation	0 \$1,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000
Marketing	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000	0 \$5,000
Food/Cafeteria Supplies	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0	0 \$0
Professional Development	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000	0 \$2,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	21.50 \$1,019,400	24.50 \$1,064,100	27.50 \$1,165,970	30.50 \$1,273,027	33.50 \$1,380,289

**BUDGET NARRATIVE:**

*Please include additional information that showcases all assumptions for your budgetary calculations. For instance, you may start the first year with 10 teachers but plan to add 2 teachers each year. The increase may be seen in the budget; however, the specific assumptions are missing beyond the projected first year. Use this space to explain, in depth, your budget calculations for years 2 through 5.*

---

Each year one teacher and one teacher assistant will be added to cover the additional grade level.

There will be a salary freeze for the first 5 years for all staff and administrators, unless the board deems it prudent to spend additional monies on salaries.

Administrative salaries will remain constant, \$60,000 for Headmaster, \$55,000 for principal, for the first 5 years unless the board makes a decision to increase during that time. After the 5th year, a 10% salary increase will/may be added to each salary.

Clerical salary will begin at \$30,000 and will remain at \$30,000 unless the board deems it prudent to spend additional monies on salaries.

32

See Attachment: Furniture Proposal from Hertz Design Center for Main Street Station, to be funded through fundraising efforts.

Teachers will receive an average salary of \$40,000 during the first 5 years, unless the board deems it prudent to spend additional monies on salaries.

Custodial will be half time position with a salary freeze for the first 5 years unless the board deems it prudent to spend additional monies on salaries.

Maintenance is included in the lease.

Staff development will increase by 10% each year.

The majority of office supplies, instructional equipment, office equipment will need to be purchased the first year; additional years will not be as costly.

**WORKING CAPITAL and/or ASSETS ON DATE OF APPLICATION**

<i>Cash on Hand</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Certificates of Deposit</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Bonds</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Real Estate</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Capital Equipment</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Motor Vehicles</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<i>Other Assets</i>	<u>\$\$</u> .00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$\$</u> .00

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

Not Applicable

See Financial Statements Download

**SCHOOL AUDITS:**

**PROGRAM AUDITS: GS 115C-238.29B(b)(6)**

*Describe the procedure and method for evaluating the overall effectiveness of the proposed charter school program as related to the mission of the school.*

---

The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students that ensures students become trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.

Program audits will be ongoing. It is a necessity to continue to evaluate the ONC programming to ensure students are making good growth and the mission of ONC is being upheld.

Data including teacher evaluations, state testing, grade level assessments and authentic assessment data will be analyzed. Conversations with stakeholders, i.e. staff, parents, students will be continuous.

See Program Audit Download

**FINANCIAL AUDITS: GS 115C-238.29F(f)(1)**

*Describe the procedure and method for conducting an independent financial audit for the proposed charter school. Give the name of the firm approved by the NC Local Government Commission (GCC) that will conduct the audit. Include the complete mailing address, telephone number and fax number.*

---

Financial Audits will be performed by:

Charter Financial Services, LLC  
Andrea L. Donahue  
504 Wheddon Crossway  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
919-645-8045

ONC will follow the standards in accordance with the standards generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable to financial audits contained in the Governmental Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the US.

See Letter from Auditor Download

**CIVIL LIABILITY AND INSURANCE** (GS 115C-238.29F(c))

*State the proposed coverage for:*

Comprehensive General Liability	\$3,000,000
Officers and Directors/Errors and Omissions	\$2,000,000
Property Insurance	\$300,000
Motor Vehicle Liability	\$1,000,000
Bonding	\$0
Minimum amount:	\$250,000
Maximum amount:	\$250,000

Other

If you, as an applicant, have already received quote from an insurance organization, please provide a copy within the appendices.

See Insurance Quote Download

See Resource Manual for Minimums allowed by SBE Policy.

**TRANSPORTATION** (G.S. 115C-238.29F(h))

*Describe in detail the transportation plan that will ensure that no child is denied access to the school due to lack*

of transportation.

A majority of the students will be culled from a 1 1/2 mile radius of the proposed school site which allows many of them the option to walk to school. School crossing guards will be posted at key points around the community to assist students who choose to walk. ONC will present parents with carpooling options by maintaining a list of participating parents and coordinating these efforts.

**FACILITY** (GS 115C-238.29D(c))

*Describe the facility in which the school will be located. Include information on how the site is appropriate to your structural program. Note that the SBE may approve a charter school prior to the school's obtaining a facility; however, students may not attend school and no funds will be allocated until the school has obtained a facility and has provided a valid Certificate of Occupancy for Educational use to The Office of Charter Schools.*

Main Street Station presently is comprised of two, two-story 9,000 square foot buildings. It is located 3 blocks east of the Pittsboro traffic circle. A third building already has footings, electric and sewer rough-in. The third building would house ONC. It is the building furthest from Highway 64 Business and is close to a small side street, Saulisbury Street.

**See Floor plans, photos, etc of the facility Download**



Name of the facility (if known): Main Street Station

Address: 287 East Street

City/State/Zip: Pittsboro NC 27312

Description of the Facility:

Total square feet: 9,000

Number of Classrooms: 11

Number of Restrooms: 4

Other Rooms: Library 24'x12'

Lounge 16'x12'

Principal Office 16'x12'

Office Reception 16'x10'

Conference Room 24'x14'

Auditorium: none

Gymnasium: none

Music Room: none

Art Room: none

Laboratory: 19'x13'

Ownership: Fee Simple or  Lease

If the facility is to be leased, provide the following information:

(a) Term of the Lease: 10 year

(b) Type of Lease: owner willing to lease to own

(c) Rent: \$ 7,000/month per month

Name of Landlord: Heath Williamson

Address: 287 East St

City/State/Zip: Pittsboro NC 27312

Phone: 919-795-1681

Fax: 000-000-0000

Document inspections for the following:

(a) Fire: See Fire Inspection Download



For Sale	For Lease	Sales Comps	Property Records	Local Info	Add Listing	My LoopNet
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#1 in Commercial Real Estate Online

Mobile Become a free member Log In

**287 East St, Pittsboro, NC, 27312 - Available for Lease**

Office For Lease

View this active lease listing or start a search to find more properties for lease.

For Sale For Lease Sales Comps Property Records

Office

Pittsboro, NC

Search

Advanced search

Browse More Listings in Office For Lease, Pittsboro, NC or North Carolina

Office Property For Lease

**Main Street Station****287 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312****Total Space Available:**

22,500 SF

**Rental Rate:**

\$14 /SF/Year

**Min. Divisible:**

500 SF

**Max. Contiguous:**

22,500 SF

**Property Type:**

Office

**Property Sub-type:**

Office Building

**Building Size:**

18,000 SF

**Building Class:**

A

• Find Out More...

Last Verified 4/3/2012 Listing ID 16495705

1 Space Available

Display Rental Rate as Entered ▾

**Space 1**

• Space Available:

22,500 SF

• Rental Rate:

\$14 /SF/Year

• Space Type:

Office Building

• Additional Space Types:

Restaurant

• Min. Divisible:

500 SF

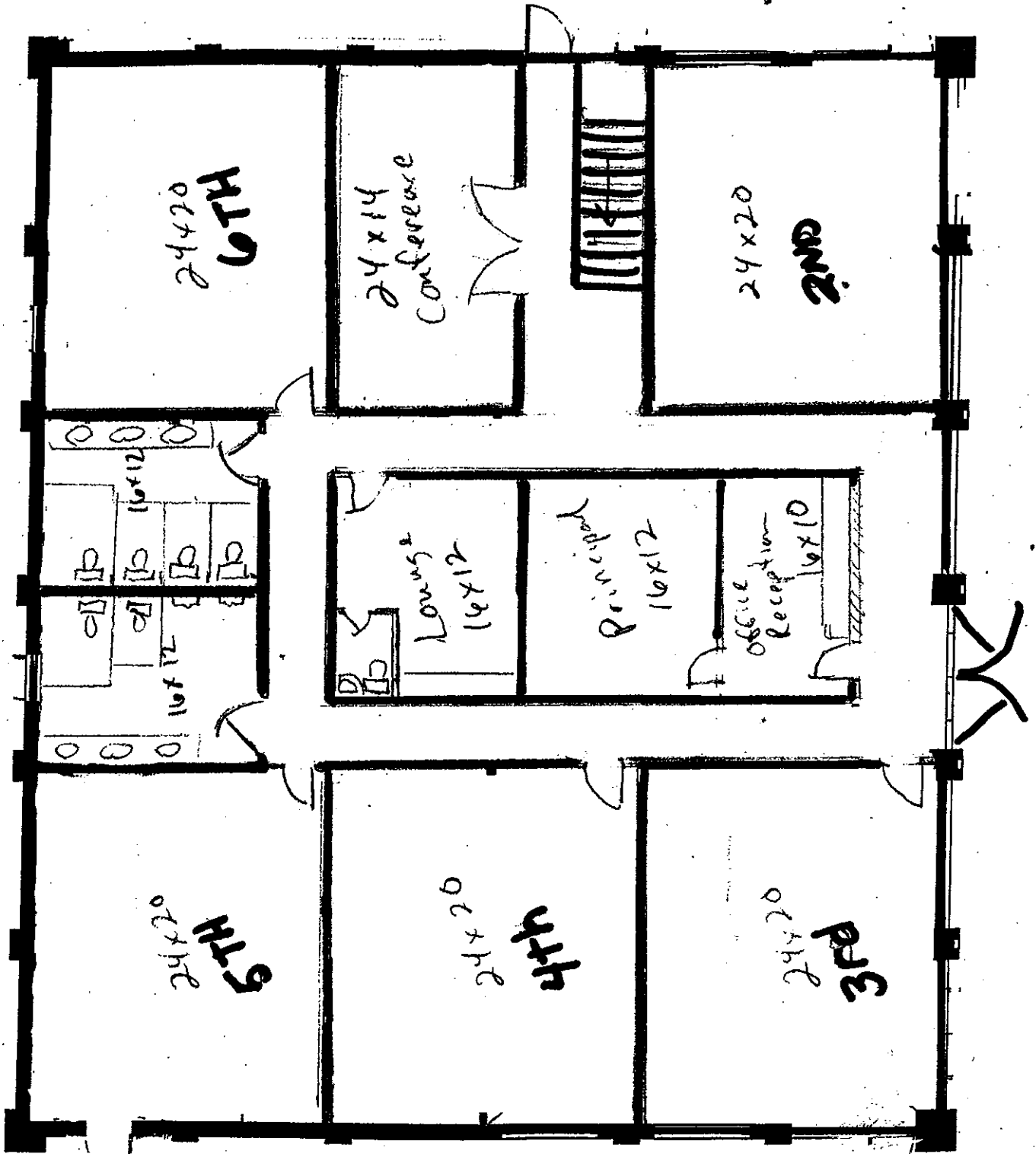
• Max. Contiguous:

9,000 SF

• Lease Type:

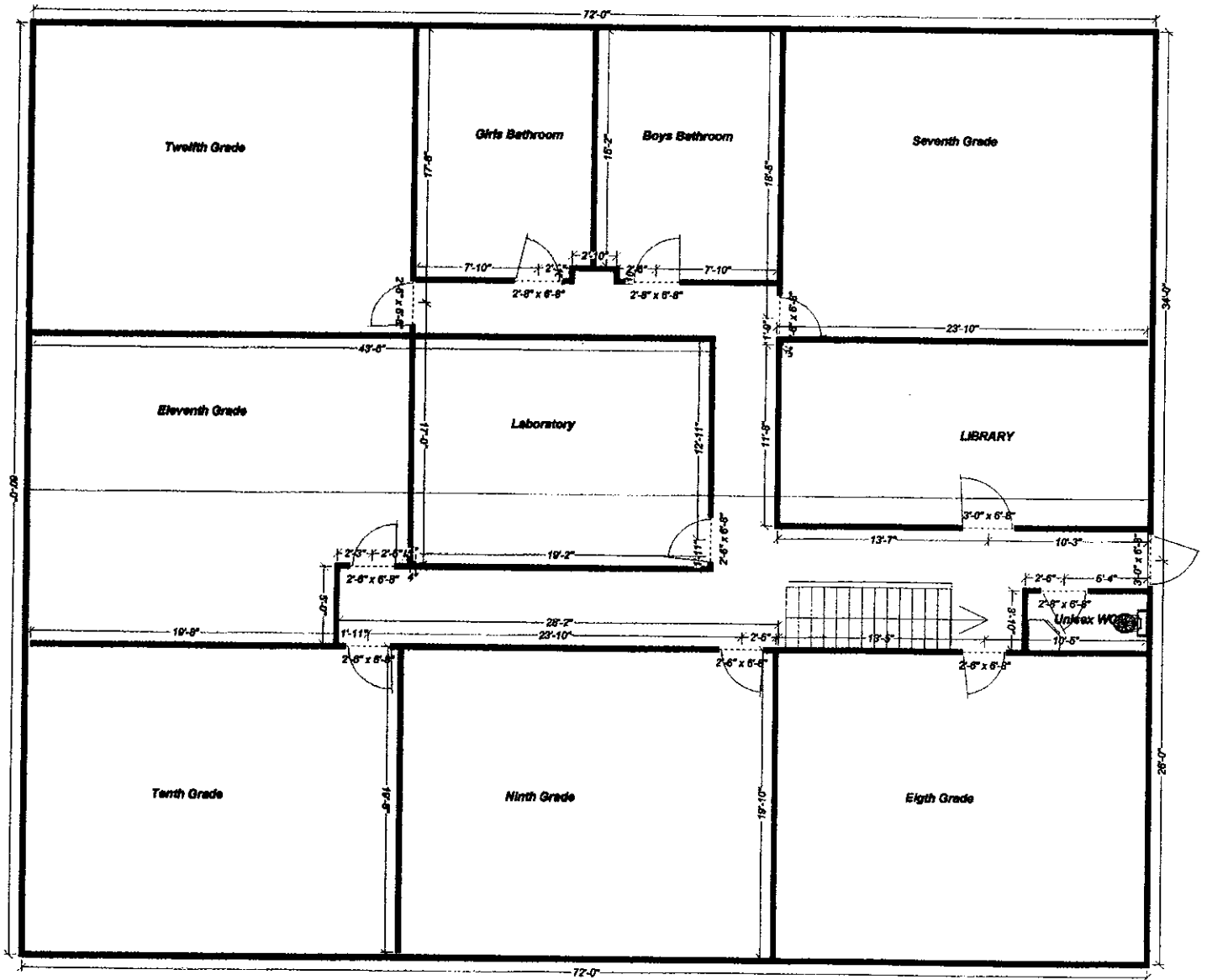
Modified Net

# 1st Floor





# 2nd Floor



(b) *Safety*: See Safety Inspection Download

(c) *Handicapped accessibility*? See Handicapped Accessibility Download

*Describe how the maintenance will be provided for the facility.*

---

Rental fee covers all expenses except power, janitorial and connectivity for phone and internet.

*Describe the method of finding a facility if one is not readily available at this time including information about the spatial needs of the school to best suit your adopted educational program and instructional methodologies. Does the applicant have a facility contingency plan should their initial efforts not be successful?*

---

Heath Williamson, landlord at Main Street Station, has indicated that it would take 4 months to finish the already started third building which will house ONC. If there is a timing issue, there is another section in the 2nd building at Main Street Station which is 4500sf. which would house the first year of 150 students.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (G.S. 115C-238.29F(a))**

*Describe how the school plans to adhere to the requirements of the health and safety laws and regulations of the federal and state governments. Address how the proposed charter school will meet the following requirements:*

- **Safety**

---

The safety of all ONC staff and students is of the utmost importance. ONC will follow local and state health codes. The schools health and safety policies will include but not limited to the following:

ONC will develop a handbook which parents will sign indicating they have read and understood the contents.

Each ONC employee, volunteer, contractor, board member or any other individual deemed to have access to students will be required to undergo a criminal background check prior to being considered for employment.

A Crisis Intervention Plan will be developed for Board approval to assure policies for responses to emergencies and natural disasters, including but not limited to fires, hurricanes, severe weather, tornadoes, bomb threats. A "Black Box" with a copy of all student/faculty information shall be easily accessible during any emergency with one person responsible for procuring and checking attendance.

ONC will comply with all State policies set forth for Local Safe School Plans.

ONC will require uniforms for all students which helps identify students as members of ONC which is especially helpful in emergency situations and community outings.

ONC will strictly function as a tobacco free institution.

ONC will develop and implement a safety plan for student pick-up/drop-off.

ONC will designate a first aid/nurses area for dispensing medication and one person will be in

charge.

ONC will monitor sex offenders living in our community.

ONC will monitor any indications of child abuse and notify DSS

ONC will not tolerate bullying and much of the curriculum will be infused with proper social behaviors and responsibilities. Bullying will be dealt with in-house unless the behavior is deemed criminal in which case law enforcement will be involved.

- *Immunization of Students*

---

ONC will require that all students be immunized prior to the beginning of classes. Parents will be asked to provide records of completed immunizations at the time of enrollment. When necessary ONC will help parents arrange immunizations with local health practitioners. ONC will outline all required immunizations and provide local health department resources when needed. ONC will provide parents and guardians with information on meningococcal and influenza and its vaccines, in accordance with State mandates.

- *Fire and Safety Regulations*

---

ONC will comply with regulations set forth under NC State law. ONC will meet all state, and county building code standards. ONC will cooperate with local fire marshal, Mr. Tom Bender to ensure all fire prevention precautions are met. ONC will incorporate monthly fire drills with students as part of the school safety plan as well as mock tornado drills. The school will have regular health inspections from Chatham County Environmental Health Department.

- *Food Inspections*

---

ONC will comply with all guidelines set forth by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture and directives from the local health department. Bella Donna Italian Restaurant, a certified commercial restaurant will provide lunches/snacks for all students.

Parents will be able to bring only commercially made foods.

Students will be involved in growing, preparing many of their foods and snacks through the Seed to Stomach curriculum

- *Hazardous Chemicals*

---

Hazardous chemicals will be clearly labeled and safely stored in a locked cabinet. Any chemicals associated with science programs will have locked cabinets for storage and eyewash and shower equipment to deal with hazardous chemical spills and accidents. ONC will outline procedures of use, storage and disposal in accordance with established state statutes.

- *Bloodborne Pathogens*

---

ONC staff will be provided with training and printed materials and receive certification regarding blood-borne pathogens in accordance with state statutes. Training and printed materials will be provided for all future employees. There will be a materials kit in each classroom and office space to be used in case of blood-borne incidence.

- *Diabetes care plans*

---

Will be on file in the nurses station/front office.

- *Providing students in grades 9-12 with information on how a parent may lawfully abandon a newborn*

---

A pamphlet with the following information will be dispersed to students and parents of students in grades 9-12:

North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services has information regarding Safe Surrender Law. North Carolinian's Safe Surrender Law allows an overwhelmed parent to surrender a newborn to a responsible adult and walk away. The baby will then be placed in a loving home.

An infant up to 7 days old may be surrendered to any responsible adult.

Safe surrender is anonymous and legal.

<http://www.safesurrender.net/>

Call 1-800-FOR-BABY. In an emergency, call 911.

- *Providing parents and guardians with information about:*
  - *Meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their vaccines at the beginning of each year*

---

Pamphlets will be provided at the beginning of school and will be part of the enrollment packet. The following link shows numerous pamphlets in both English and Spanish which will be distributed to the students/parents.

[http://www.immunize.nc.gov/PDFs/Childcare\\_children\\_childcare\\_shotsFINAL.pdf](http://www.immunize.nc.gov/PDFs/Childcare_children_childcare_shotsFINAL.pdf)

- *Cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, human papillomavirus, and the vaccines available to prevent diseases*

---

Pamphlets will be provided at the beginning of school and will be part of the enrollment packet. The following link shows numerous pamphlets in both English and Spanish to educate young women and their families.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm#printable>

## VII.

# LEA IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.29B(d), the charter school applicant must submit a copy of the application to the LEA in which the school will locate within seven days of the submission of the application to the Office of Charter Schools. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application to the LEA first so that proof of submission can be included in the complete application packet. The LEA may then submit information or comment directly to the Office of Charter Schools for consideration by the State Board of Education.

Please attach to this application a return receipt, or other documentation, verifying the applicant's timely submission of a copy of this application to the LEA.

See Return receipt or other documentation Download

## VII APPENDICES (OPTIONAL)

You may include numbered and indexed appendices to provide additional information that you believe will assist the State Board of Education in the consideration of your application.

See Appendix Download

## IX. SIGNATURE PAGE

The foregoing application is submitted on behalf of Our Neighborhood Education, Inc. The undersigned has read the application and hereby declares that the information contained in it is true and accounts to the best of his/her information and belief. The undersigned further represent that the applicant has read the Charter School Law and agrees to be governed by it, other applicable laws, and SBE regulations.

Print/Type Name: Donna L Bianco

Position: President/Founder

Signature: Donna L Bianco

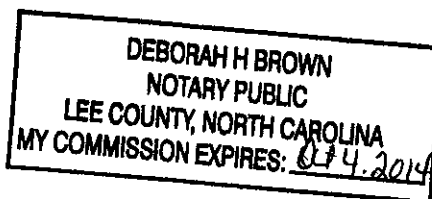
Date: 4/13/12

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

13 day of April, 2012.

Deborah H Brown  
Notary Public Official Seal

My commission expires: Oct 4, 2014.



## Submission of Application to LEA

Chatham County Schools, LEA for Our Neighborhood Charter, was closed for business during the week of April 9-13. A copy will be hand delivered to the LEA upon the re-opening for business, Monday, April 16, 2012. A copy of the return receipt signed documentation will be mailed to:

NC DPI/Office of Charter Schools

301 N. Wilmington Street

6303 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-6303

# Qualifications Required for Individual Positions

## **Headmaster - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Will be able to manage a budget and produce financial statements
2. Manages the daily operation of the school
3. Reports to the Board of Directors
4. Must pass a criminal record check
5. Promotes the school to the Pittsboro community
6. Evaluate Principal
7. Must dress professionally.

## **Principal - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Certified in administration or at least hold a masters degree in education
2. Providing staff development opportunities
3. Monitor teachers in the classroom
4. Evaluation of teachers
5. Communicates and collaborates effectively with staff, student, parents, headmaster and Board of Directors.
6. Must pass a criminal record check
7. Discipline students in a fair and equitable manner that aligns with ONC's mission.
8. Must dress professionally.

## **Classroom Teachers - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Must have a NC teaching license, hold at least a Bachelors Degree in education or in a specialized field.
2. Secondary teachers should be highly qualified in their area or have a degree concentration in the area of teaching responsibility
3. Must pass a criminal record check
4. Must be willing to participate in professional development as needed.
5. Must demonstrate a genuine love of students, teaching and the community.
6. Must exhibit diverse instructional methods to align with ONC's mission.
7. Must work collaboratively with other teachers, volunteers, parents and the community at large.
8. Must be able to maintain classroom discipline and order.
9. Must be able to supervise and evaluate Teacher Assistant
10. Must dress professionally at all times.
11. Preferable certification in first aid and CPR

## **Assistant Teachers - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Minimum of high school diploma or equivalent.
2. Must be able to work cooperatively with supervising teacher.
3. Must pass a criminal record check
4. Must have good verbal and written communication skills.

5. Must be able to conduct themselves professionally.
6. Must dress professionally at all times.

**Custodian - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Average or above communication skills
2. High school education or equivalent preferred.
3. Pass criminal record check
4. Must demonstrate good grooming skills
5. Experience preferred
6. Valid NC drivers license

**Maintenance - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. High school diploma or above
2. Experience in heating, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, general maintenance
3. Pass criminal record check
4. Valid NC drivers' license.
5. Demonstrate good grooming skills
6. Average or above communication skills

**Secretary/Clerical - Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties**

1. Associates degree or two years experience
2. Valid NC drivers license
3. Pass criminal record check
4. Dress in a professional manner
5. Technology literate – Computers, Excel, Data input
6. Excellent organization skills
7. Ability to communicate effectively with the public.



# Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument

## CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School  Date

The primary purpose of the employee performance appraisal system is to assist employees to improve the instructional program for students. The appraisal system encourages job performance improvement and professional growth, which contribute to the effectiveness with which employees carry out their work.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Based on the evidence from observation, artifacts, and discussion, the evaluator is to rate the teacher's performance with respect to the 8 major functions of teaching listed below.
- The evaluator must add pertinent comments at the end of each major function for which a rating of Above Standard, Below Standard, or Unsatisfactory is given.
- The teacher is provided an opportunity to react to the evaluator's ratings and comments.
- The evaluator and the teacher must discuss the results of the appraisal and any recommended actions pertinent to it.
- The teacher and the evaluator must sign the instrument in the assigned spaces.
- The instrument must be filed in the teacher's personnel folder.
- The rating scale will include the four Levels of Performance described below.

#### 4. Above Standard

Performance within this function area is consistently high. Teaching practices are demonstrated at a high level. Teacher seeks to expand scope of competencies and undertakes additional, appropriate responsibilities.

#### 3. At Standard

Performance within this function area is consistently adequate/acceptable. Teaching practices fully meet all performance expectations at an acceptable level. Teacher maintains an adequate scope of competencies and performs additional responsibilities as assigned.

#### 2. Below Standard

Performance within this function area is sometimes inadequate/unacceptable and needs improvement. Teacher requires supervision and assistance to maintain an adequate scope of competencies and sometimes fails to perform additional responsibilities as assigned.

#### 1. Unsatisfactory

Performance within this function area is consistently inadequate/unacceptable and most practices require considerable improvement to meet minimum performance expectations. Teacher requires close and frequent supervision in the performance of all responsibilities.

<input type="checkbox"/> Above Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> At Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsatisfactory
---	--------------------------------------	---	---

### 1. Major Function: Management of Instructional Time

- 1.1 Teacher has materials, supplies, and equipment ready at the start of the lesson or instructional activity.
- 1.2 Teacher gets the class started quickly.
- 1.3 Teacher uses available time for learning and keeps students on task.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

Major Function: **Management of Student Behavior**

- 2.1 Teacher has established a set of rules and procedures that govern the handling of routine administrative matters.
- 2.2 Teacher has established a set of rules and procedures that govern student verbal participation and talk during different types of activities-whole class instruction, small group instruction, etc.
- 2.3 Teacher has established a set of rules and procedures that govern student movement in the classroom during different types of instructional activities.
- 2.4 Teacher frequently monitors the behavior of all students during whole-class, small group, and seat work activities and during transitions between instructional activities.
- 2.5 Teacher stops inappropriate behavior promptly and consistently, yet maintains the dignity of the student.
- 2.6 Teacher analyzes the classroom environment and makes adjustment to support learning and enhance social relationships.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

Major Function: **Instructional Presentation**

- 3.1 Teacher links instructional activities to prior learning.
- 3.2 Teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning activities that make these aspects of subject matter understandable and meaningful for students.
- 3.3 Teacher speaks fluently and precisely.
- 3.4 Teacher provides relevant examples and demonstrations to illustrate concepts and skills.
- 3.5 Teacher assigns tasks and asks appropriate levels of questions that students handle with a high rate of success.
- 3.6 Teacher conducts the lesson or instructional activity at a brisk pace, slowing presentations when necessary for student understanding but avoiding unnecessary slowdowns.
- 3.7 Teacher makes transitions between lessons and between instructional activities within lessons effectively and smoothly.
- 3.8 Teacher makes sure that assignment is clear.
- 3.9 The teacher creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.
- 3.10 The teacher uses instructional strategies that encourage the development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.
- 3.11 The teacher uses technology to support instruction.
- 3.12 The teacher encourages students to be engaged in and responsible for their own learning.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

Major Function: **Instructional Monitoring**

- 4.1 Teacher maintains clear, firm, and reasonable work standards and due dates.
- 4.2 Teacher circulates to check all students' performance.
- 4.3 Teacher routinely uses oral, written, and other work products to evaluate the effects of instructional activities and to check student progress.
- 4.4 Teacher poses questions clearly and one at a time.
- 4.5 Teacher uses student responses to adjust teaching as necessary.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

Major Function: **Instructional Feedback**

- 5.1 Teacher provides feedback on the correctness or incorrectness of in-class work to encourage student growth.
- 5.2 Teacher regularly provides prompt feedback on out-of-class work.
- 5.3 Teacher affirms a correct oral response appropriately and moves on.
- 5.4 Teacher provides sustaining feedback after an incorrect response by probing, repeating the question, giving a clue, or allowing more time.
- 5.5 The teacher uses knowledge of effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

Major Function: **Facilitating Instruction**

- 6.1 Teacher has long- and short-term instructional plans that are compatible with school and district curricular goals, the school Improvement plan, the NC Standard Course of Study, and the diverse needs of students and the community.
- 6.2 Teacher uses diagnostic information obtained from tests and other formal and informal assessment procedures to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.
- 6.3 Teacher maintains accurate records to document student performance.
- 6.4 Teacher understands how students learn and develop and plans appropriate instructional activities for diverse student needs and different levels of difficulty.
- 6.5 Teacher uses available human and material resources to support the instructional program.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

7. Major Function: **Communicating within the Educational Environment**

- 7.1 Teacher treats all students in a fair and equitable manner.
- 7.2 Teacher participates in the development of a broad vision of the school.
- 7.3 Teacher fosters relationships with school colleagues, parents, and community agencies to support students' learning and well-being.

Comments:

Above Standard     At Standard     Below Standard     Unsatisfactory

8. Major Function: **Performing Non-Instructional Duties**

- 8.1 Teacher carries out non-instructional duties as assigned and/or as need is perceived to ensure student safety outside the classroom.
- 8.2 Teacher adheres to established laws, policies, rules, and regulations.
- 8.3 Teacher follows a plan for professional development and actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.
- 8.4 Teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his or her decisions and actions on students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community.

Comments:

Evaluator's  
Summary  
Comments:

Teacher's  
Reactions to  
Evaluation

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Teacher's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Evaluator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator's Title

Signature indicates that the written evaluation has been seen and discussed.

**Print Form**

**Application for Employer Identification Number**  
 (For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches,  
 government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.)  
 ▶ See separate instructions for each line. ▶ Keep a copy for your records.

OMB No. 1545-0003

EIN

<b>Type or print clearly.</b>	<b>1</b> Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested <b>Our Neighborhood Education, Inc.</b>					
	<b>2</b> Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)	<b>3</b> Executor, administrator, trustee, "care of" name				
	<b>4a</b> Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box) <b>424 Alpine Road</b>	<b>5a</b> Street address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box.)				
	<b>4b</b> City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions) <b>Moncure, North Carolina 27559</b>	<b>5b</b> City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)				
	<b>6</b> County and state where principal business is located <b>Chatham County, North Carolina</b>					
	<b>7a</b> Name of responsible party <b>Donna Bianco</b>	<b>7b</b> SSN, ITIN, or EIN <b>089-48-8911</b>				
	<b>8a</b> Is the application for a limited liability company (LLC) (or a foreign equivalent)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
<b>8b</b> If 8a is "Yes," enter the number of LLC members <b>▶</b>						
<b>8c</b> If 8a is "Yes," was the LLC organized in the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
<b>9a</b> Type of entity (check only one box). Caution. If 8a is "Yes," see the instructions for the correct box to check.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor (SSN) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Estate (SSN of decedent) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Plan administrator (TIN) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (enter form number to be filed) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Trust (TIN of grantor) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Personal service corporation _____ <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> State/local government _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Church or church-controlled organization _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government/military _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other nonprofit organization (specify) Charitable Organization <input type="checkbox"/> REMIC <input type="checkbox"/> Indian tribal governments/enterprises _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____ Group Exemption Number (GEN) if any ▶ _____						
<b>9b</b> If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated	State <b>North Carolina</b> Foreign country _____					
<b>10</b> Reason for applying (check only one box)						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started new business (specify type) _____ Charitable Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Hired employees (Check the box and see line 13.) <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with IRS withholding regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____						
<input type="checkbox"/> Banking purpose (specify purpose) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Changed type of organization (specify new type) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased going business <input type="checkbox"/> Created a trust (specify type) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Created a pension plan (specify type) ▶ _____						
<b>11</b> Date business started or acquired (month, day, year). See instructions. <b>April 4, 2012</b>	<b>12</b> Closing month of accounting year <b>Dec</b>					
<b>13</b> Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months. (enter -0- if none).	<b>14</b> If you expect your employment tax liability to be \$1,000 or less in a full calendar year and want to file Form 944 annually instead of Forms 941 quarterly, check here. (Your employment tax liability generally will be \$1,000 or less if you expect to pay \$4000 or less in total wages.) If you do not check this box, you must file Form 941 for every quarter. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%;">Agriculture</td> <td style="width:33%;">Household</td> <td style="width:33%;">Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">0</td> <td align="center">0</td> <td align="center">0</td> </tr> </table>		Agriculture	Household	Other	0	0
Agriculture	Household	Other				
0	0	0				
<b>15</b> First date wages or annuities were paid (month, day, year). Note. If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien (month, day, year). <b>▶ N/A</b>						
<b>16</b> Check one box that best describes the principal activity of your business. <input type="checkbox"/> Health care & social assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-agent/broker <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Rental & leasing <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & warehousing <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation & food service <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-other <input type="checkbox"/> Retail <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <b>Charitable Organization</b>						
<b>17</b> Indicate principal line of merchandise sold, specific construction work done, products produced, or services provided. <b>Charitable Organization</b>						
<b>18</b> Has the applicant entity shown on line 1 ever applied for and received an EIN? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes," write previous EIN here ▶ _____						
<b>Third Party Designee</b> Complete this section only if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions about the completion of this form.						
Designee's name <b>Linda Lin, Paralegal, Wyrick Robbins Yates &amp; Ponton, LLP</b>	Designee's telephone number (include area code) <b>(919) 781-4000</b>					
Address and ZIP Code <b>4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27607</b>	Designee's fax number (include area code) <b>(919) 781-4865</b>					
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.						
Name and title (type or print clearly) ▶ <b>Donna Bianco, President</b>	Applicant's telephone number (include area code) <b>(919) 724-1558</b>					
Signature <i>Donna Bianco</i> Date <b>4/10/12</b>	Applicant's fax number (include area code) <b>919 545-0920</b>					

# Employee Grievance Procedure

**Policy Statement:** Issues may occur when ONC employee believes that he/she has been adversely affected by a policy or rule not being fairly or consistently applied. Ideally, the employee will resolve the issue with his/her immediate supervisor. However, when the issue is not satisfactorily resolved by addressing the immediate supervisor, ONC will provide the employee an alternative way to address the issue. An employee shall not be mistreated or discriminated against for participating in a grievance procedure. This grievance procedure will not be used to contest dismissal, demotion, suspension or non-renewal of teachers or instructional administrators.

## **Definitions:**

- A. Grievance - A formal written complaint by an employee that published ONC policy or rule has been violated as evidence by the manner in which the employee was treated. Grievances do not involve claims of: 1. discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, age, sex, handicap or national origin. 2. Disputes over salary grade or rate of pay, or disputes over job performance ratings.
- B. Day- scheduled workday

## **Time Limitation:**

A grievance will not be initiated unless it has been filed in writing within 30 calendar days after the event occurred which caused the grievance. The aggrieved employee must have met with his/her immediate supervisor to attempt to settle the issue before starting the grievance process.

## **Level I**

An employee may start the grievance process by obtaining a grievance form from the principal's office, completing the form and giving a copy to his/her supervisor. The employee shall indicate on the form the reason for the grievance, the policy or rule alleged to have been violated and the resolution requested. The supervisor shall respond in writing to the employee's grievance within five workdays after receiving the grievance form.

## **Level II**

- A. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision given at Level I, the employee may file an appeal with the Headmaster or his/her designee within five workdays of receiving the supervisor's written response. The written appeal should be specific as to the reason(s) for the appeal.
- B. Within 15 (fifteen) workdays after receiving the appeal form, the Headmaster or his/her designee shall schedule a meeting with the employee to try to resolve the grievance. If the Headmaster or his/her designee needs more time to investigate the issue, the meeting may be held no more than 30 days after receiving the form. Both parties may call witnesses at this

meeting in order to resolve the issue. The Headmaster or his/her designee shall send a written response of the decision to the aggrieved employee and the supervisor within five workdays of the meeting.

### **Level III**

- A. Within five workdays after receiving the Headmaster's or his/her designee's decision, if the employee is not satisfied with the Level II decision, the employee has a right to file an appeal with the Board of Directors. When the Board Chair receives this appeal, the Chair shall appoint a committee of three board members to hear and make a decision on the grievance.
- B. The appeal committee shall meet and consider the appeal within 30 calendar days after being appointed by the Chair. After reviewing the grievance notice of the appeal hearing will be given to the parties at least 14 calendar days in advance. New evidence will not be allowed at the hearing without the prior consent of both parties. Each party may make a brief oral summarization of their positions to the committee. This hearing shall be in closed session and will be recorded.
- C. The board committee may agree with, modify or reverse the Headmaster or his/her designee's decision. The Headmaster's or his/her designees decision can only be reversed the board determines the earlier was:
  - a. In violation of school policy
  - b. In violation of statutory law
  - c. Arbitrary or capricious
- D. The committee's decision shall be final. A written copy of the committee's decision shall be sent to the Headmaster, the board and the aggrieved employee within 10 calendar days of the decision.

### **Decision of the Board**

This policy does not give an employee the right to appeal the decision of the Board. But it establishes a procedure for an employee to contest certain decisions of school officials. However, an employee may petition the board in writing to reconsider their decision. That request must be received by the board chair within 30 calendar days of the Board's decision and it should state why the employee thinks the Board should reconsider their decision. The Board will use its discretion as to whether or not to grant the petition.

The questionnaire should include but not be limited to the following areas of expertise:

1. Intellectual rigor
2. Emotional maturity
3. Understanding of teaching methodology
4. Ability to contribute to the advancement of school mission
5. Emphasis on academic record
6. Previous experience

At least 5 applicants should be interviewed for each position.

- *Procedures for grievance and/or termination*
- 

See Attached: **ONC Employee Grievance Procedure**

- *Sample employment policies to be implemented by the proposed charter school*
- 

Teachers will:

1. Dress professionally
  2. Conduct themselves in a professional manner and be good role models
  3. Demonstrate ethical standards
  4. Display a commitment to the school and students
  5. Report for duties on time
  6. Pass a criminal record check
  7. Not endanger the emotional well being of any student, i.e. sexual harassment, excessive discipline
  8. Use reasonable disciplinary actions toward students.
- *Description, if the proposed charter school partners with an EMO, of the relationship that will exist between the charter school employees and the management company.*
- 

Not applicable

**See Handbooks governing standards of conduct, grounds for termination, policies and procedures etc Download**

13

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS:** (G.S.115C-238.29F(e))

*List the qualifications and appropriate licenses that each position must have to perform the job function(s). Describe the plan to meet the licensure requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals as prescribed by state law and No Child Left Behind. If individuals have already been identified for specific positions, please provide their qualifications and/or resumes in the appendices.*

---

A minimum of 75% of teacher and staff will be deemed highly qualified.  
The administration will provide opportunities for CEU credits and/or semester hours toward licensure and/or becoming highly qualified.

See Qualification Required for Individual Positions Download

8

**ENROLLMENT and BUSINESS PLAN** (GS 115C.238.29F(g)(1-7))

*Provide a plan indicating how the school will reasonably reflect the demographic composition of the district in which the charter school will be located or of the special population the school seeks to serve: (G.S.115C-238.29F(g)(5)).*



**Resolution Request  
for  
The Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

**Proclaiming Support for Charter Schools in Chatham County**

**WHEREAS**, public charter schools provide educational options for all students regardless of their parents' income; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County's two existing public charter schools have provided Chatham children excellent educational results; and

**WHEREAS**, all Chatham public schools benefit from competition created by treating parents and students as citizens that have choices rather than subjects that are assigned schools: and

**WHEREAS**, public charter schools receive no taxpayer funds for buildings, a savings to local taxpayers of at least \$1000 per student per year when compared to government run district public schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, hereby thanks the charter school board members, administrators, teachers, parents and students of Chatham Charter School and Woods Charter School and encourages other citizens to open new charter schools, so that more Chatham children can have quality education options. **FURTHERMORE**, the Chatham Board of Commissioners informs the North Carolina Board of Education that Chatham County will welcome the approval of more quality charter schools in our growing county.

# Room Inventory

Furniture Proposal from  
Hertz Design Center

for

287 E. St.

Pittsboro N.C. 27312

Main Street Station

# Room Inventory



## 103 - THIRD GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-16	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-716	CHAIR, SCHOOL-STUDENT, 15in	26	\$33.90	\$881.40
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-S	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-100WS	DESK, SCHOOL-STUDENT	20	\$49.35	\$987.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-AH	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES GSCH-6066	TABLE SCHOOL-ACTIVITY HORSESHOE	1	\$242.00	\$242.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$9,418.96</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$9,418.96</b>

# Room Inventory



## 104 - FOURTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-16	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-716	CHAIR, SCHOOL-STUDENT, 15in	26	\$33.90	\$881.40
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-S	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-100WS	DESK, SCHOOL-STUDENT	20	\$49.35	\$987.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-AH	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES GSCH-6066	TABLE SCHOOL-ACTIVITY HORSESHOE	1	\$242.00	\$242.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
Furniture Total						<b>\$9,418.96</b>
Room Total						<b>\$9,418.96</b>

# Room Inventory



## 105 - FIFTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	26	\$34.80	\$904.80
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-S	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-100WS	DESK, SCHOOL-STUDENT	20	\$49.35	\$987.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-AH	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES GSCH-6066	TABLE SCHOOL-ACTIVITY HORSESHOE	1	\$242.00	\$242.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
Furniture Total						\$9,442.36
Room Total						\$9,442.36

# Room Inventory



**108 - SIXTH GRADE**

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	26	\$34.80	\$904.80
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-S	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-100WS	DESK, SCHOOL-STUDENT	20	\$49.35	\$987.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-AH	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES GSCH-6066	TABLE SCHOOL-ACTIVITY HORSESHOE	1	\$242.00	\$242.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$9,442.36</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$9,442.36</b>

# Room Inventory



## 109 - CONFERENCE ROOM

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	CHO-CF	BOSS SSO-8106	CHAIR, SCHOOL-STAFF	8	\$114.00	\$912.00
	CR-66	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-244MOD	CREDENZA, 66in	1	\$693.83	\$693.83
	NSL-1100	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 3MM1-99	PRESENTATION CABINET	1	\$408.31	\$408.31
	T-O-C-4896	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-4896V	TABLE OVAL CONFERENCE 48X96	1	\$472.55	\$472.55
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$2,486.69</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$2,486.69</b>

## 110 - NURSE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	2	\$34.80	\$69.60
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED-O	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP CTD-6030P	DESK, DOUBLE PEDESTAL	1	\$319.00	\$319.00
	FA-COT	ROYAL OHL-3722	FIRST AID COT	1	\$393.00	\$393.00
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$861.85</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$861.85</b>

# Room Inventory



## 111 - LOUNGE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	CHL-S	LESRO MYS-1801	CHAIR, WAITING-1 SEAT	2	\$182.00	\$364.00
	OT-24X24	LESRO MYS-1285	OCCASIONAL TABLE 24X24	1	\$126.00	\$126.00
	S-LS	LESRO MYS-2108	SOFA, LOVESEAT	1	\$348.00	\$348.00
	STB-D	KFI BR3818C(KFI)	STOOL	3	\$176.00	\$528.00
	TB-36	KFI KTR-36RC	TABLE, BAR-36 DIA	1	\$194.00	\$194.00
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$1,560.00</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$1,560.00</b>

## 112 - SECOND GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-16	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-716	CHAIR, SCHOOL-STUDENT, 15in	26	\$33.90	\$881.40
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-S	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-100WS	DESK, SCHOOL-STUDENT	20	\$49.35	\$987.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-AH	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES GSCH-6066	TABLE SCHOOL-ACTIVITY HORSESHOE	1	\$242.00	\$242.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$9,418.96</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$9,418.96</b>



Pittsboro - Our Neighborhood School

Room Inventory



201 - EIGHTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$10,735.76</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$10,735.76</b>

## Room Inventory



## 202 - NINTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
Furniture Total						\$10,735.76
Room Total						\$10,735.76

## Room Inventory



## 203 - TENTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
Furniture Total						\$10,735.76
Room Total						\$10,735.76

# Room Inventory



## 204 - ELEVENTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
<b>Furniture Total</b>						<b>\$10,735.76</b>
<b>Room Total</b>						<b>\$10,735.76</b>

# Room Inventory



## 205 - TWELFTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
----- Furniture Total						\$10,735.76
----- Room Total						\$10,735.76

# Room Inventory



## 208 - SEVENTH GRADE

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	5869	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. 999-3MM1-5869	24X25 STORAGE WARDROBE FILE FILE 72H	1	\$699.54	\$699.54
	CH-18	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-718	Chair Student 18	24	\$34.80	\$835.20
	CHS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INS-658	CHAIR	1	\$80.25	\$80.25
	D-2PED	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP. EMP-6026	EMPOWERED TEACHERS DESK	1	\$754.00	\$754.00
	DS-T	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES INN-2000	DESK STUDENT -TRIANGLE	20	\$122.00	\$2,440.00
	ST-W-12	RUSSWOOD TBD	STORAGE WALL 12FT	1	\$4,935.00	\$4,935.00
	TB-6	ACCO VBA-46	TACKBOARD-6FT	1	\$91.70	\$91.70
	TS-A3660	ACADEMIA FURNITURE INDUSTIRES EDG-3660R	TABLE, SCHOOL-ACTIVITY, 36X60	1	\$152.00	\$152.00
	TS-C2430	CANDEX CUSTOM CORP 999-3MM1-556	STORAGE	1	\$326.92	\$326.92
	WB-12	AARCO SYN-48144	WHITEBOARD-12FT	1	\$271.20	\$271.20
	WB-6	AARCO SYN-4872	WHITEBOARD 6FT	1	\$149.95	\$149.95
Furniture Total						\$10,735.76
Room Total						\$10,735.76

## 211 - LIBRARY

	Item	Manufacturer Model #	Type	Qty	Actual	Extended
Furniture	L-PIT	RUSSWOOD TBD	LIBRARY	1	\$6,345.00	\$6,345.00
Furniture Total						\$6,345.00
Room Total						\$6,345.00
Grand Total						\$127,837.15

# News of Chatham

News, Sports & Features

Thursday, October 8, 2009

*Annual awards presented...*

## Chatham Chamber of Commerce honors business owners with banquet

By Millburn Gibbs

Most of the guests had never heard of, or been to, Shady Wagon Farm in New Hill. What a treat awaited them!

Great food and atmosphere, plus a veritable plethora of smiling faces, greeted one and all at the Chatham Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Luncheon and Silent Auction on September 29.

Chamber Director Cindy Poindexter opened the meeting at the home of owners Cindy and Douglas Carroll. A Chatham native, Douglas was born in Siler City.

The presentation of awards included Pittsboro Ford owners Kim and Mark Nelson, who were presented the Small Business of the Year Award.

The Distinguished Business Person of the Year was Donna Bianco, owner of Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria in Pittsboro.



"6"

# The Chatham Record

Published at Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

Thursday, April 28, 2011

## Pittsboro man plans run

By Bill Wilcox  
 Jordan Stafford, a 2005 graduate of Northwood High School, will be running a statewide long distance run through several North Carolina cities from May 20 to raise money for The Mariposa School for Children with Autism in Cary.

The run, "Making Strides for Autism: A 260-mile Endurance Run for the Mariposa School," will begin on May 7 in Asheville

and will continue for the next 14 days with Stafford running an average of just over 20 miles each day.

The route goes through Black Mountain, Marion, Morganton, Hickory, Statesville, Salisbury, Lexington, Asheboro, Siler City, Pittsboro and ends after a full marathon distance run on May 20, ending at The Mariposa School, which will hold a celebration event from 2-5 p.m.

Stafford, 24, moved with his family to Pittsboro from Michigan when he was four years old. During his junior year at Northwood High School he discovered a bump on his neck just below his right ear. It was soon learned that he had Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, an uncommon, malignant cancer.

See 'Autism' page 2-A



Bill Wilcox photo  
 Jordan Stafford will run across NC from Asheville to Cary in May.

•••  
 (cont'd)



cont'd.)

# Autism

He had the tumor removed in June that year and underwent a course of neutron beam radiation therapy. Currently he is cancer free, but receives annual MRIs to check for any signs of cancer.

He said the experience taught him that he had the ability to overcome life's challenges.

He went on to graduate from Elon University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is now aiming to enter NC State in the fall to earn a degree in computer engineering.

His father, Mark, works at The Mariposa School, giving him an insight into the school's work.

Stafford heard one particular story from the school that inspired him, about one of the students that wouldn't even look anyone in the eye and within five months was saying "hello" and speaking in short four-word sentences.

Jordan, who was training for triathlons at the time, wanted to help and was brainstorming ideas for fundraising with his father one day.

"One of us jokingly said, 'Why don't you run across North Carolina?'" Stafford said. "After laughing it off for a minute, I realized that I had something I could do to help the school because I don't have half a million dollars or anything like that."

Stafford is busy these days working out all the logistics for the endurance run. He has arranged to take his final exams early at N.C. State so he will have the two weeks he needs to complete the run.

He had contacted hotels along the route and many are donating rooms for a night to help his cause.

He is also making time to train. He recently ran in a 10-mile race in Chapel Hill, maintaining a very fast pace of just over six minutes a mile.

He has established a website [www.makingstridesforautism.org](http://www.makingstridesforautism.org) with links that allow people to donate easily using Google Checkout.

There are also two fundraising events planned.

The first is a pancake dinner April 29 in Fuquay Varina.

There will also be a benefit dinner 6-9 p.m., May 19, at the Bella Donna Restaurant in Pittsboro.

(Continued from page 1-A)

The cost is \$10 for a plate and \$5 goes to the school.

On May 20, Stafford will get up early for a breakfast supplied by Abilicious Bakery in Pittsboro. Then he will be driven a few miles west of town to begin his full-marathon final run to The Mariposa School. At about mile six he will pass the courthouse circle in Pittsboro.

The Board of the Mariposa School is working to arrange national media coverage of the final day.

The school is a non-profit organization created specifically to offer children with autism and other developmental disabilities year round, intensive instruction using innovative teaching techniques. The school has attracted international attention for its progressive teaching curriculum and various programming opportunities. Families from across the country and world have relocated so their children can attend the school.

# Charter enrolling for fall

By Thomas Blanton

Over the past few years, as our local principal at Our Neighborhood School, I have seen first-hand the need for children in Chatham County who find themselves in an alternative or troubled world of traditional public school. With the passage of Senate Bill 8 — lifting restrictions on charter schools — overwhelmingly by both the legislature



and the governor, it is now possible to explore another option. Presently, the Senate Bill is sitting on Governor Bevin's desk waiting to be signed into law.

During the past three months, in anticipation of the passage of Senate Bill 8, we have already started the application process. We have put together an amazing founding board of local people; a retired colonel, a retired school administrator, a teacher, a local accountant, people who have experience in non-profit businesses, a college dean, a local attorney and the list goes on. We have the by-laws formulated, the business plan is being drafted, the curriculum is coming together and we are on our way to completing the application. The name we want is Our Neighborhood Charter (ONC). Where is this school going to be located? We are looking at properties in the historic north. What grade will be starting? We are currently starting with grades K and extending to 12th grade.

What is going to be the goal of the ONC? During the past five years, Our Neighborhood School has incorporated students with various needs and abilities. Children of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and abilities are being educated. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for all children. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for all children. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for all children. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for all children.

The bulk of the profits from Bell's Curry Indian Restaurant over the past five years have been passed to the other 11 local operators.

H

budget which has offset tuition costs for parents as well as provided work experience for the children. Now it is time for Our Neighborhood Charter to provide the same experiences in a non-profit, public charter school.

One of the challenges that we face is finding the start up costs for a charter school. In previous years the state would grant new charter schools start-up funding during the year prior to the school opening to take care of essentials: principal's salary, furniture, office supplies, books, work books, etc. Now with the economy the way it is all new charter schools must fend for themselves to get ready for the opening day of school. Without local support, there is a strong likelihood that these new charter opportunities will be seized by one of the large-scale corporations with head quarters far from Pittsboro or Chatham County or even North Carolina who are driven as much by profit as non-profit. I have been free, for the past five years, to set my own standards for accomplishment and now as I am ready to move into a bigger world and offer my values, philosophy and education program to all children in the Pittsboro area.

Anyone interested in enrolling their children in Our Neighborhood Charter in the 2012-13 school year or offering financial help for the start-up funding of the charter, please e-mail Donna Bianco at [donna@ournighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ournighborhoodschool.com) for more information.

*Donna Bianco is owner of Our Neighborhood School and Bella Donna Restaurant in Pittsboro.*

"K"

# New name isn't Pittsboro restaurant's only change

By Bill Wilcox

Looking for a taste of Tuscany in Pittsboro?

It used to be that the only place to get authentic Italian cuisine hand-cooked by a true Italian was Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria at 87 Thompson Street.

Last August Owner Donna Bianco decided to give the restaurant a new name and a facelift.

"We changed the name to make it not so long and to reflect the food," Bianco said, "and Bella Donna Italian Restaurant was a little nicer than Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria."

There have been other changes.

The facade of the building has been painted dark green with an upscale sign. Inside, there is a Tuscan-themed dining area with checkered table cloths and a cozy atmosphere.

There are new additions to the menu as well.

There is now chicken marsala, spaghetti carbonara and broccoli parmesan, among other new offerings.

"Our chicken fettuccine Alfredo pizza has also been selling like crazy," Bianco said, "even though customers have to wait an hour before it is completed. Good things are worth the wait, but it is always a good idea to call ahead."

It is not surprising that the restaurant has such an Italian taste and feel.

"I'm full-blooded Italian,"

she said. "Both my parents and grandparents were from Sicily, and I just grew up with all this food, and it's my comfort food. There are just certain foods that everyone has that reflect when they went to their grandparents' house. So a lot of my recipes are from there; a lot of my recipes are from other people who have influenced me in my life. Some are from a cookbook that a very good Italian friend of mine gave me."

The restaurant also offers gluten free pasta and pizza options.

Bianco operated Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria for four years before changing the name and expanding the restaurant last year. Each year she had between 4-12 students attending the private school and students often worked in the pizzeria.

The restaurant serves lunch and dinner. It is open 11-8 Monday to Thursday, 11-9 on Sunday, 4-9 p.m. on Saturday and closed on Sunday. The phone number is 545-0900.

Online ordering and more information can be found at [belladonnaitalianrestaurant.com](http://belladonnaitalianrestaurant.com).



Bill Wilcox photo

## Newly updated

Bella Donna Italian Restaurant on Thompson Street in Pittsboro had been open for a year after Owner Donna Bianco decided to upgrade what was formerly a take-out restaurant called Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria.

## Teamwork helps local resident find new job

Michelle Lambert got a job! Lambert was thankful for the assistance and support of Rory Garcia, Chatham Trades' Community Employment Specialist, in finding a new job.

She had been looking for a job for a long time without much success and was referred to Chatham Trades for an assessment/evaluation and Garcia's services.

Chatham Trades is a private, not-for-profit rehabilitation program serving folks with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Chatham County, and offers vocational evaluation, training, adult de-

velopmental, vocational programming, community employment, job coaching and CAP-ID/DD services.

High school seniors can benefit by transitional evaluation/training services. Ms. Garcia's services are available to any Chatham County adult with a disability.

Lambert had had a rough time of it, ending up in Lee County's homeless shelter for women. Fayette Canson Clark, who is the director of Family Promises of Chatham County, found Lambert there in dire straits. All of her personal belongings had been stolen from the shelter.

Clark drove Lambert to Vocational Rehabilitation Services and a call was placed to Garcia, who had recently met Donna Bianca, owner of Bella Donna Italian Restaurant in Pittsboro, at a local business expo.

Garcia contacted Bianca and drove Lambert over to meet with her.

"It was a connection," said Garcia.

Lambert was originally hired as a dishwasher/pot scrubber; however, she has several jobs including stock person in pantry, bus person, and greeter. Bianca has given Lambert a personal apron,

which she loves wearing.

Chatham Trades staff was also very instrumental in obtaining clothing for Lambert

to wear to work and with other items to start over.

Fayette Canson Clark is working with Rory Garcia to arrange transportation for Lambert to get to work in Pittsboro.

Kathy Cole of Club Insight, in Pittsboro, also has to be thanked for giving a hand with transportation needs. All of these organizations have pulled together to provide support and success for Michelle Lambert.



### Happy to find a new job . . .

After experiencing a run of bad fortune, Michelle Lambert (left) is back on her feet with a new job at Bella Donna Italian Restaurant in Pittsboro, thanks to the efforts of several people and agencies, including Chatham Trades and restaurant owner Donna Bianca (right).

## Our Neighborhood Charter filing application

By Donna Bianco

Chatham children deserve the best educational opportunities — and charter schools are the best way to make that happen.

I'm saddened by the number of children dropping out of high school. If a child is not that perfect round peg that fits smoothly into that round hole they are doomed to failure. Many of these children are extremely bright but are unmotivated by the tedious schedules, lack of stimulating lessons and unmonitored social deficiencies going on in the schools. Teachers do not have enough time to deal with every problem of every child in their classroom. Big Brother is starting over the shoulder of every teacher expecting great things with limited resources and limited time — mostly due to oversight paperwork. Big Brother should be ashamed of himself for the failure that has occurred in our county in our schools. It is our responsibility as adults to make sure that every child, bar none, receives a high school diploma and not a watered down version. These children will be having children, raising children, and will be involved in our schools, towns, the county, state and country either as contributing members or as a burden on our welfare system. It is our responsibility to give these children the absolute best education possible.

The most recent statistics from the Chamber of Commerce indicate that the graduation rate for 2009-2010 was 74.2 percent and the dropout rate was 4.02 percent. Perhaps the missing 22 percent is related to special needs students whose "Certificate of Graduation" is not counted by the state, as well as students graduating in their 5th year. But beyond that, just looking at the dropout rate of 4.02 percent do you realize that out of 7,900 students in Chatham County 318 kids dropped out of school! There are three high schools in Chatham which means an average of over 100 kids from each of their graduating classes did not graduate. Staggering! Unbelievable, actually, and it seems to have increased since 2007 when it was 3.72 percent and we only lost 294 kids. So let's take an average of 300 dropouts per year. Do the math. Since 2007, 1,500 children dropped out of school in Chatham County; almost 4,000 since the year 2000. Is anyone else outraged?

I would also dare say that a number of the Chatham County dropouts are making up a significant number of our prison population. Some statistics indicate 75 percent of inmates are dropouts. How much does it cost to house an inmate for one year? Google that one and you will get in the vicinity of about \$20,000 per inmate per year. How much do charters and public schools for that matter, get per child, per year to educate them? Only \$7,000 and sometimes less. Can anyone else do the math? I bet Mia Munn has done the math. She's running for a position on the Chatham County School Board and is an amazing advocate for the children and citizens of Chatham. We have to start somewhere and dig in and save our children from the clutches of welfare, food stamps, prison, and unemployment.

On February 22, the Chatham County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution supporting the creation of charter schools in Chatham County but not surprisingly, the Chatham County Board of Education has come out against it, saying that they should get the funds instead of the charters. We are excited that the County Commissioners are in full support of new charters in Chatham.

Some people just complain, and some people complain and offer solutions. My solution is to apply for a charter to be housed in downtown Pittsboro. The application is due April 13. The application process is tedious. A veteran charter school applied this year and was turned down due to a technicality, so there is definitely a risk of not being approved. With that said, it will not be due to lack of effort.

So, here we are, ready to submit an application to the state board of education saying that we, as a charter, can do a better job with the same amount of money. I know we have the passion which is one of the major elements being depleted in public schools because of the lack of resources and bureaucracy. I know we have the knowledge — our team is comprised of some of the most knowledgeable teachers and professionals I know: a chef with a Masters in Holistic Health Education, the Dean of Business and Media Technologies & Public Services at COCC with an MA in Education, two retired Chatham County School administrators and many other key supporters. I know we have the support of much of the community. The only thing left is to cross all of our t's and dot all of our i's with the ultimate goal to give parents a choice in educating their children. We are going to make Our Neighborhood Charter fun, exciting, challenging, and most of all we are going to listen to children. Bella Donna Italian Restaurant will also commit to being a financial and academic supporter of Our Neighborhood Charter.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Send an e-mail to [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com) showing your support of a charter school in Pittsboro/Chatham County. These e-mails will be included in the charter application and will need to be in hand by April 9th.

If approved, we will be having numerous fundraisers to get the project funded. In the past, NC funded the start-ups for new charters. Some schools received as much as \$200,000! This is no longer the case. Any school starting up will have to raise the money themselves. If the application is approved please get involved with any fundraising efforts.

- Volunteers will be needed in many areas: reading mentors, after school tutors, science buddies. The list is only as long as your imagination as to how you can offer your skills or time to the children of Chatham County.

CHARTER CONTINUED, PAGE 10

**CHARTER**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**THE VISION**

- **Serving Grades 2-12.** Starting out with grades 2-7 in 2013 and adding a grade each year.
- **Year Round Schedule.** Approx. 192 school days. 10 weeks on 2 weeks off. Also, holidays off.
- **Extended School Day.** 8 a.m. -3 p.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. for projects, homework, tutoring and enrichment. All students will be required to stay from 3-5:30 p.m. Students will not be taking homework home unless parents sign a waiver indicating that they understand the homework and will oversee the completion. This two hour extended school day adds up to 48 more school days each year!
- **Vocational and College Prep Focus.** The nutrition education component of Our Neighborhood Charter is created to introduce and support children of all ages as they learn how

to make healthy food choices, participate in the flow of food (from seed to stomach), and learn vocational skills. At the cornerstone, Our Neighborhood Charter will have classes that focus on food and its nutrition — exploring how food can be used to heal. Our students will experience a different relationship to food and its properties, therefore becoming more engaged and aware. We believe that early exposure to healthful foodstuffs will create a greater sense of health in all aspects of their lives. In addition, we will have classes that focus on meeting our fruits and vegetables, food combining, and special diets. Our Neighborhood Charter will offer courses on food politics (past and present), recipe and menu planning and take field trips to local farms and markets. A beefed up nutrition education is one objective of Our Neighborhood Charter, and another reason why our curriculum is one step ahead.

Students attending college will be able to take these skills to college to help prepare them for their future in many ways; from earning extra money to help them get through college to having an advantage over other students who have never

been exposed to a real work force.

- **Lunch Program.** Students will have lunches served to them through the food program at Bella Donna Italian Restaurant. All children will be served regardless of economic status. All food will be fresh, not frozen or processed with additives or preservatives.
- **Site.** Proposed site will be in downtown Pittsboro, at Main Street Station, where plans are being developed to build another two story building, exclusively for Our Neighborhood Charter. This site will eliminate the transportation issues for many local kids who will be able to walk to school. School crossing guards will be posted at various intersections.

*Donna Bianco has a Bachelors of Science in Special Education, a Masters of Science in Special Education in Learning Disabilities. She has taught in public schools in NY and NC for 25 years. Opened and operated Our Neighborhood School, Inc., a private school in downtown Pittsboro from 2006-2011, teaching students in 2nd-10th grade. She is the owner of Bella Donna Italian Restaurant. She lives with her husband in Moncure in an underground house that they built themselves. They have five children and three grandchildren and have lived in NC since 1998.*

"N"

# Pittsboro gears up for sculpture parade

By Bill Willcox

Children are busy preparing their entries for a kinetic sculpture parade tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 24.

"Kinetic sculpture parades and races are composed of vehicles that are pushed, pulled, or peddled," said organizer Bud Rudesill. "We are involved in creating the first kinetic sculpture parade in Pittsboro. In fact, it may be the first kinetic sculpture parade ever."

The Neighborhood School and Pizzeria is the headquarters for the parade. The school is providing space for children to work on the sculptures.

Rudesill said he is still looking for more adults to become involved.

"I want to make the point that this isn't just an event for kids," he said. "We were hoping some of the local artists who are already involved with building kinetic sculpture would join us and show off their skills. Also, each entry is entitled to have a 'pit crew.'"

He said "pit crew" parents can accompany their children in the parade and make a costume that fits with the theme of their child's entry.

Adult help is also needed to get the sculptures built on time, Rudesill said.

"I'm sorely in need of adult help to get planned sculptures built," he said. "I have more projects started than I can effectively help with. Please, this is a community effort, something that can generate some fun without seriously taxing our pocketbooks during these hard times."

Information on how to become involved can be obtained by e-mailing Rudesill at [rudesill@aol.com](mailto:rudesill@aol.com). There is also information online at [pittsborosculptureparade.blogspot.com](http://pittsborosculptureparade.blogspot.com). The parade will on October 24 in front of the school, progress down Thompson Street, cross over East Street and end at the fairgrounds. The time of the event has not yet been scheduled. Rudesill said the event could infuse thousands of dollars into the local economy. Local businesswoman Jan Escott is also helping with the parade.

# Parade

(Continued from page 1-B)

She said that typically, a parade is held the first year, and then the event is changed to a race. There are tentative plans to have the first race in Pittsboro on Memorial Day, 2010. Escott said kinetic sculpture parades are more common in California. "It started in 1969 and continues today in many places," she said. "It's zany, crazy, fun, exciting, and people come from everywhere to see the race, and we think it is a great event to have in Pittsboro."

She said that typically, a parade is held the first year, and then the event is changed to a race. There are tentative plans to have the first race in Pittsboro on Memorial Day, 2010. Escott said kinetic sculpture parades are more common in California. "It started in 1969 and continues today in many places," she said. "It's zany, crazy, fun, exciting, and people come from everywhere to see the race, and we think it is a great event to have in Pittsboro."



Bill Willcox photos

## Preparing for a parade . . .

Above, Bud Rudesill helps Rachel, left, and Nicole Van Buren with their kinetic sculpture, which will eventually resemble a duck, during an afternoon work session at Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria. (Middle photo) Jasmine Shelton will ride a bike decorated as a horse during the parade. In the top photo, Bud and Shelia Rudesill ride an elaborate kinetic sculpture that includes a cat playing with a bouncing mouse. The parade is set for 2 p.m., Oct. 31, in Pittsboro.





### Grand re-opening . . .

Chamber Members and the public joined the Chatham Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting / grand re-opening celebration on August 20 for Our Neighborhood School. The celebration was held to launch "Bella Donna," the new Tuscan-themed dining area. "Bella Donna" is a quaint cozy space to visit, dine and relax. Bella Donna's will be open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. You can reach Our Neighborhood School at 919-545-0900.

# Our Neighborhood School to combine learning

## Italian food

By Joseph Pardington

Italian food is the centerpiece of a school scheduled to open in August in downtown Pittsboro.

That is because the owner and head educator, Donna Bianco, also has training with Italian cooking.

Bianco has taught for 25 years, most recently at Pittsboro Elementary School. Before that she taught at Bennett Elementary School for six years. She taught at Wake County Schools for one year.

She also taught for 17 years in upstate New York.

"I liked Bennett," she re-

called. "It's small. Every child is known by the principal."

Bianco hopes to create a small school herself.

"This is my money and my school," she said. "I'm interested in the parents and children of Chatham County, to give them an alternative choice for educating their children."

At one point, Bianco considered retiring from teaching.

"I was actually going to quit teaching and open a restaurant," she said.

With the equity from her house, she was able to build "Our Neighborhood School Pizzeria" at 87 Thompson St.

The restaurant in many ways feeds the school.

"The pizzeria is a permanent fundraiser for the school," she said. "The parents never have to sell candy or wrapping paper or lollipops," Bianco said. In addition, the students will actually eat the food cooked in the pizzeria. "Our pizzeria is the cafeteria for the school. Pizza is available to the public through a drive-through window. For safety reasons (the customers) are not allowed in the school."

Five days a week, the pizzeria has a special dish, such as chicken parmesan, spaghetti and meatballs, linguini with garlic sauce, cannelloni and fettuccini Alfredo. The specials change every month. On Saturdays, the menu is reduced to pizza only. The pizzeria is closed on Sundays.

The eventual goal is to serve grades kindergarten through 12. The short-term goal is to have three grade combinations—third and fourth grades, fifth and sixth grades and seventh and eighth grades.

... (cont'd)

Bianco briefly discussed tuition. "Tuition is reasonable," she said. The cost is \$10,000 per year and "up to 50 percent of that can be bartered." For example, parents can commit to one day a week of custodial work for one school year—which would equal \$5,000, she said.

Other ideas include cleaning the hood vents at the restaurant and selling advertisements for the school's proposed magazine.

Parents can also help grade papers and assemble bulletin boards. The students will be asked to help do things outside of the classroom too.

For example students who stay after school can help clean after they complete their homework. The building will be open to students from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with no extra charge for after-school or before school time, Bianco said.

The school will have a small garden.

"I want the kids involved with growing and selling herbs and small vegetables at the Farmers' Market," she said.

Bianco foresees a school full of happy students, teachers and parents. "I just really want this to be a place for joyful learning. Let's learn a lot and have some fun. I just want it to be fun and I want children to learn through experience, not just books."

The school will have some religious curriculum as well as character education, she said. "God lives at my school," she said. "He's not going to be ignored. I believe he's gotten

me this far, and I'm certainly not going to ignore him."

The short-term goal is to have 50-60 students, depending on the fire marshal's recommendation. Bianco is looking to hire three teachers, giving the school a total of four educators. "I'm the president of the company and the lead educator," she said.

Bianco's son Salar Antinori will be the kitchen manager. He recently graduated from Appalachian State University.



# Donna Bianco 'best teacher on the planet'

By Judy Hogan

Since Donna Bianco opened her Our Neighborhood School Pizzeria in May she has made quite a stir in Pinoboro. Her homemade Italian food is receiving rave reviews. Then when county schools opened August 27, so did Our Neighborhood School, with Donna teaching six students in grades 2-7. She offers grades 2-8 at present and is still accepting students for this year. She plans a K-1 class next year. She's prepared now to take 60 students.

The idea to do both restaurant and school grew out of her frustration with public school administration in North Carolina. In New York State, where she was born, grew up and got her B.A. (Buffalo State College) and M.A. (Geneseo State College), her teaching was supported by administrators. If there was a problem, it was not hard to fix. For instance, when it became obvious that many entering eighth graders had problems with drugs and teen pregnancy she took 15 students "earmarked to fail," and at the end of the year they had the highest grade levels in the school.



Donna Bianco is employing her teaching talents at her own school. Children behave at their best when codes of conduct are posted and easy to understand.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILUPP

When Donna and her husband, Robert, moved to North Carolina she taught Special Education for a year in Wake County. She had a self-contained sixth grade, considered the lowest grade standing in the public schools. Her kind of grade teaching, which allows that students have an annual increase of 3 points for reading and 4 points for math, showed her students averaged a 17-point increase. That saved the school from falling their annual goal. The other sixth grade teachers privately thanked her, but she had no acknowledgment from the administration, which had been upset when she arranged for computers for her students.

She left Wake about the time she and Robert bought land in Monticore, where he built a very unusual home for them, featured on Home and Garden TV. He later renovated the old home, was snore on Thompson St. for her school and pizzeria. In 2000 she applied to teach Special Ed in Bernards, and told the principal, Dorothy Phillips, that she'd come to see if she wanted to teach there, not to see if they wanted

her, because she was "the best teacher on the planet."

Phillips hired her because she'd said that. Donna fell in love with the school and the children, worked there four years, saw her students make dramatic improvements she'd seen before. One of these students now says, "You taught me how to learn."

The commute to the school was proving so she taught briefly at Pinoboro Elementary. In 2005 she gave up that job and decided to open a restaurant but she missed teaching. Then it came to her one night a school funded by the restaurant. It was like a message from God. By 2007 she was off and running. And run she does, from 7 a.m.

When her students arrive for oatmeal until 8 p.m. She eventually winds down and is usually asleep by 9:30, after doing some sudoku puzzles. Where does she get her energy? "I don't panic. I just take things in stride. God is right here. The days fly by."

When I deliver eggs for Donna's pizza, she makes me feel like my eggs make her day, no matter how engrossed she is with making pizza or fettuccini Alfredo or even if she's deep in conversation with someone. She does take things as they come—a real anti-special-ly when you work with children.

... (cont'd)



reading and math, for being helpful to others. Donna had had these six for six days when I saw them having lunch with a parent volunteer, and all seemed



happy and relaxed. Donna's son, Salar, took over the kitchen when school started. Because Donna learned the recipes from her Italian grandmothers, who didn't measure ingredients, she took time to show Salar exactly what to do.

Her advice to others: "Be unafraid. Too many people live in fear. I was 2 when my mother died at age 21. I feared I'd die at 21. That's no way to live. Do what's in your heart. Follow your dream." The Chatham issue that concerns her is education. "It bothers me when someone without knowledge is giving rules to those who know better."

Donna's tuition is \$5000 cash/year and \$5,000 barter. Parents help with floor waxing, marketing, buying materials, etc. She provides before and after school care, too-7 to 7. And this passion to teach: "It's fun. I like helping people change for the better."

In the schoolroom I saw many toys attractive to children - spaceships, dolls, fancy cars. They have prices on them, and the children picked them out. Along one wall were notices: \$50 fine for trashing someone else's things, \$5 to all the other students if you talk when you're not supposed to, etc. They receive "money" for doing well with

*Judy Hogan is a poet, freelance writer and editor. Her hens provide eggs for Donna's pasta. She lives in Moncur.*

**Subject:** Pittsboro Charter School - love the idea.....  
**From:** Gwynneth Harrington <sparklerwon@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:41 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Hi Donna of the Neighborhood School,

Think the idea of an additional charter school in Chatham County would be wonderful!  
We have the dilemma of dealing with the public schools, while our children have been on waiting lists with no avail.

One of my concerns would be the location of the school, with the traffic, no fields, etc.

Other than that, love it!

Gwynneth Harrington

----- 13 -----  
Date: Sun, 11 Mar 2012 16:47:44 -0700  
From: <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>  
Subject: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

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What will make Our Neighborhood Charter different from public schools?

To name a few:

We are outlining the curriculum to incorporate Bella Donna Italian Restaurant into the entire curriculum giving students vocational skills as well as college prep.

Our Neighborhood Charter would have an extended school day AND a year-round schedule.

One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to attend a charter since many could walk to school.

Our Mission:

The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students which ensures all students becomes trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.

How can you help?

Without going into great detail I am asking anyone out there to send me an e-mail, short and sweet. Do you support a charter school in downtown Pittsboro? If you are feeling really ambitious you certainly can write why you would support us. I am going to compile all the supportive e-mails and submit them with my charter application as an attachment.

**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** "Pat Weisbrodt" <thymelypat@embarqmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 2:55 pm

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

The school systems of North Carolina are far from acceptable. Charter schools are one way of securing a good education. The location for the school gives students and faculty ample parking along with staff and customers for the restaurant. Students will be well-rounded with the education and practical experience of the restaurant. Good luck— Original Message —

**From:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:30 AM

**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Winnie Fowler <[wlmfowler@gmail.com](mailto:wlmfowler@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 3:09 pm  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

To whom it may concern:

I firmly support a Charter School in Pittsboro downtown area. We have many young people in our town that could benefit greatly from a Charter School. My daughter is a school teacher in the public school system and she would be the first to say that public school is not the best scenerio for every child. And, she would join with me in applauding an opportunity to have a Charter School in downtown Pittsboro, NC.

Thanks for listening,

Winnie Fowler  
Retired

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:29 AM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:

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Our Mission:



**Subject:** RE: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** "Ellen Flanagan, M.D." <ellen.flanagan@duke.edu>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:45 am

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

As a Duke physician, we rely on Durham and the surrounding communities to produce well educated people. While a hospital requires doctors and nurses, they are also critically dependent on high school educated workers who are highly skilled and well trained. Our Neighborhood School is a school that will be instrumental in fostering our young people; getting them up to speed, teaching them a great work ethic and the satisfaction of knowing how to work as a team. We are so very fortunate that Donna is willing to make this commitment to our children. I hope that the State has the depth of vision that can facilitate such a school. Thank you.

Ellen M. Flanagan, MD  
Division of Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Management  
Department of Anesthesiology  
Duke Medicine  
919.970.2014 (pager)  
919.417.2348 (cell)  
ellen.flanagan@duke.edu

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**From:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:31 AM

**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

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**Subject:** Charter school

**From:** Lindsay Starr <starrg8te@gmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:51 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Great idea to have a charter school in town, Donna. It is exactly what we need, and if anyone can do it, you can! Lindsay Starr

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** Trace and Patricia Swayze <connectionsav@embarqmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 12:09 pm

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

I would like to say that I would support a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. I have lived in Pittsboro since 1988. I love this town, and the people. I also know that all children don't learn the same way, and do not do well in mainstream schools. I also know Donna, and have seen first hand how she is with young people, and was extremely impressed. One such occasion was at a solar powered car meeting, at NC State, where middle school children built and raced the cars. She always has a warm smile, and gentle manner with the children, guiding them with care. Her positive attitude is contagious. Thank you for allowing me my opinion. I hope to hear about special events at this school in the near future!! Sincerely, Patricia H Swayze

--

Trace and Trish Swayze

Connections Audio Video

{919} 542-1407

email

connectionsav@embarqmail.com

local

MerchantCircle.com

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Terry J Owens <[tjo2007@gmail.com](mailto:tjo2007@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 12:56 pm  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

i have always been an advocate for better schools and education. my oldest daughter is a high school teacher and she holds her students to higher standards than that provided by the "state system". charter schools are that and more. so, yes please create a system that builds around an individuals achievements and not a "quota" for funding system.  
tackle it D!!

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 12:28 PM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:  
Awww...thanks Terry!

Donna Bianco  
Our Neighborhood School, Inc.  
87 Thompson Street  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

[919-545-0900](tel:919-545-0900) Pizzeria/School  
[919-545-0920](tel:919-545-0920) Fax  
[919-724-1558](tel:919-724-1558) Cell

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Terry J Owens <[tjo2007@gmail.com](mailto:tjo2007@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, March 12, 2012 12:20 pm  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

You have my vote Ms. Donna!

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:30 AM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:  
As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

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**Subject:** charter school

**From:** Tom Shafer <tshafer31@gmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 1:39 pm

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

I certainly support the Charter School in Pittsboro, NC. This community, along with many others can all benefit from an education with teaching of good solid values as well as factual studies. Take full advantage of the opening of Charter School applications before the legislature again closes the window to an alternative education.

We need the opportunity to offer this alternative to the government managed schooling our students are currently receiving. Charter Schools free from total governmental interference are needed.

Count me among your supporters.

—

Tom Shafer

cell 440-336-6079

Home 919-642-0429

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Heather Osburn <[hdosburn@centurylink.net](mailto:hdosburn@centurylink.net)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 1:49 pm  
**To:** <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)>

Here ya go:

I currently live in Pittsboro, NC and would absolutely love to see a Charter School in Pittsboro. I think it would greatly benefit the community and the students to have more direct education that a charter school can provide. It would also be more convenient for so many people living in Pittsboro along iwth the surrounding areas. I feel that some students both academically and socially do so much better in smaller environment such that of a charter school. The need for this school is critical as currently there are only 2 charter schools in Chatham County that are quite a distance for a lot of families.

Heather Osburn

On Mar 12, 2012, at 11:05 AM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:

Charters are required by law to support IEP's, and having a masters degree in special education, we will certainly go the extra mile. Those kids have my heart.

Our application will be grades 2-12 (lol...figuring that public schools can't do too much damage in grades k-1)

Donna Bianco  
Our Neighborhood School, Inc.  
87 Thompson Street  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-545-0900 Pizzeria/School  
919-545-0920 Fax  
919-724-1558 Cell

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Heather Osburn <[hdosburn@centurylink.net](mailto:hdosburn@centurylink.net)>  
**Date:** Mon, March 12, 2012 10:57 am  
**To:** <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)>

Hi Donna. Had a few quick questions:

Would this be K-12?

Also, would the school be able to adequately support IEPs?

On Mar 12, 2012, at 10:31 AM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Scott Priestley <[scott@scottpriestley.com](mailto:scott@scottpriestley.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 2:45 pm  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

Greetings Mrs. Bianco,

It is with great interest that I write to inquire about the Charter School status that you seek. As a resident of Pittsboro with small children, alternative educational opportunities are very interesting to us. I suffered from Attention Deficit Disorder as a child and have begun to see undiagnosed signs of it in my child. Traditional, mainstream schooling may not provide the unique challenges that he requires to fully develop his high intelligence.

Your reputation as a private school and as a outstanding pillar in the community attract us to anticipate Our Neighborhood School being granted Charter status. Please keep us informed as to your quest for this greatly needed addition to the downtown area.

Warmest Regards,  
Scott Priestley

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:30 AM, <[donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)> wrote:

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**Subject:** Charter school in downtown Pittsboro  
**From:** Maria stawsky <maristawsky@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:48 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Please seriously consider "Ms. Donna's" application for charter school in downtown Pittsboro.

My daughter, now 10 years old, studied with Ms. Donna for one year and it was a very powerful experience for her, coming out of being homeschooled all of her life. Ms. Donna is a passionate and deeply informed teacher, who adjusts her curriculum to the specific needs of her students. I have no doubts that Pittsboro will benefit from the additional asset that such a Charter School would represent.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maria Stawsky  
Mother  
(919) 444-1193

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** truesue <truesue@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:52 am

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

My quote:

Count me as one believing that Pittsboro needs another charter school. Options are needed as students (and teachers) need to find the learning situation that suits their individual needs.

**From:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

**To:**

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:29 AM

**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

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Our Mission:

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**Subject:** RE: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** "Cameron, Debra E." <Debra.Cameron@gd-ais.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:54 am

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Donna --

My family fully supports the idea of a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. We would love for our boys to have the opportunity to go to a charter school. We like living in a small town and want our boys to have a unique experience that takes advantage of the great resources in Pittsboro.

A charter school in Pittsboro would be a great asset for the students, their families, and the larger community.

My son went to one of your cooking camps and still talks about what he learned!

Debbie Cameron

**From:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com [mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:31 AM

**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

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**Subject:** support of your charter  
**From:** Allison Springer <a.springer@chathamtransit.org>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:56 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

I am writing to support Our Neighborhood School in its pursuit of a school Charter.

Our Neighborhood School's mission offers several much needed options in education.

Its downtown Pittsboro location provides an option for families looking for alternative schooling in Chatham County that is accessible to families without transportation. The ability to walk to school would give Our Neighborhood School a unique neighborhood feel.

In our present economy, college is not always an immediate option for some. Our Neighborhood School's dual mission of providing preparation for either/or/both college preparatory and the vocational option of culinary education helps provide options for the high school graduate.

A school with the both extended day and year round attended is a welcome option to some working parents who struggle with both child care for younger children and summertime options for older children. Attending school year round also helps prepare students for their eventual entry into the workplace where most people do not get the summer off.

Donna Bianco has been a fixture in this community for several years now. Not only is she a qualified educator and talented restaurateur, Ms. Bianco and her students are active in giving back to the community. Education isn't always about book learning. While facts, formulas and literature are an integral part of school, many other things go into preparing our youth for the workplace. Working in the restaurant as part of the education experience reinforces math and chemistry skills. It helps children learn discipline and responsibility. Ms. Bianco's students are also involved in community service. Community service teaches us about team work, cooperation and most importantly, about helping those in need. It's about being a part of the whole.

I hope that both the town of Pittsboro and the North Carolina Charter Commission will consider granting a charter to this unique school.

Allison Springer

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you:  
**From:** Randy Van Buren <randyvbg@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:26 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com  
**Cc:** LISA VAN BUREN <lbvanburen@bellsouth.net>

Donna,

I support a Charter School in downtown Pittsboro. This is a town that needs a school that prepares children for life skills in the 21st century. The current public schools are struggling, and not even close in curriculum coverage compared to neighboring school systems from Orange and Wake counties. College preparation will be more important than ever in this competitive job society. Blessings!

Randy Van Buren

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:31 AM, <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> wrote:

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

That being said, the application asks us to demonstrate the level of public interest in opening a charter in Pittsboro, more specifically downtown Pittsboro. My sights are set on the Main Street Station building in which the owner has proposed a third building which would house a two story charter school.

What will make Our Neighborhood Charter different from public schools?

To name a few:

We are outlining the curriculum to incorporate Bella Donna Italian Restaurant into the entire curriculum giving students vocational skills as well as college prep.

Our Neighborhood Charter would have an extended school day AND a year-round schedule.

One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to attend a charter since many could walk to school.

Our Mission:

The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of

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**Subject:** support of the Charter School Application  
**From:** Kim Caraganis <[kim@chathamcountytogether.org](mailto:kim@chathamcountytogether.org)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:29 am  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)  
**Attach:** image002.jpg

Good morning Donna,

I am writing in support of your application for a charter school in Pittsboro. As you know, Chatham County Together! has served at risk youth since 1989. Many of our youth have gotten discouraged in the traditional Chatham County School system. They need something different: smaller class size, real skills and experiences that connect them with their community and potential employment. They need a more "personalized" approach to education in order to succeed. You have demonstrated over the years that you see not only the potential in these kids but also an enthusiasm for giving youth actual hands-on vocational experiences. I wish you the best of luck in your application for a Charter School and look forward to working with you in any way I can.

Sincerely,  
Kim Caraganis



*Kim S. Caraganis, Executive Director*  
919-663-0116 ext. 406 FAX 919-663-0043  
Physical Address: 208 North Chatham Avenue Siler City, NC  
Mailing Address: PO Box 903, Siler City, NC 27344  
Visit us at: <http://www.chathamcountytogether.org>

***Our mission: Mentor and guide children and youth to help them reach their full potential and become healthy, positive members of their communities.***

***"Kids don't need you to be Superman, they just need you to be there."***

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** Jan Ross <sirene1127@gmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:30 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

To whom it may concern:

I am a social worker with extensive experience working with adolescents and their families. A charter school here in Pittsboro would be a worthwhile endeavor to help the children, their families and the community at large. Many children who struggle in public schools or need extra attention to get them motivated, cause problems at school and in the neighborhood. A charter school allows talented but struggling individuals an opportunity to get more specific attention and direction. A charter school often provides a focus where students can relate and respond favorably. Their families can get involved, especially if as Donna Bianco proposes, this school will have extended hours and an all year schedule. As a social worker and a parent who has observed children for years, a community MUST take care of having places for children to grow and develop for the greater good. The students of today who are taught to be "trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities" will not be vandalizing or unemployed tomorrow.

Donna Bianco has been very active in raising awareness of the needs of others in Chatham County and Pittsboro area. She has extensively donated time and materials to others on an individual basis and to the community at large. She has the demonstrated ability to lead people to work together to serve others. Ms. Bianco is one of the most ethical and caring individuals I know and I would love to see her succeed at providing a "an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners."

I hope you will approve her application and support her in this worthwhile endeavor..

Sincerely,

--



420 Thompson Street

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-323-5420 cell

919-533-6817 house

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**Subject:** Yes!

**From:** Annie Howell <anniep.howell@gmail.com>

**Date:** Wed, Mar 14, 2012 8:50 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Yes! I support a new charter school in Pittsboro!

Annie P. Howell

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** "Linda Tompkins" <beaumontfarms@mindspring.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:20 am

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Hi Donna,

I definitely support a charter school in downtown Pittsboro! I think it's a wonderful concept which would help with transportation of students who live within walking distance of the school. What a great opportunity for young people in Pittsboro!

Thank you for your community involvement.

Malinda L. Tompkins

7796 NC Hwy 902

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-542-4912

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** pmjacks <pmjacks@bellsouth.net>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:22 am

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

I support a charter school in downtown Pittsboro.

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**Subject:** charter school

**From:** Karen Ladd <temenos@hotmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:23 am

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Dear Donna;

I fully support your plan to open a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. Your mission to work with a diverse student and parent population is in keeping with Christ's invitation to the disciples to go out into Galilee. Galilee was a place of great diversity, a crossroads for many cultures. If there is to be unity in our communities, it must be in the sense that it is from diversity, not exact sameness. I applaud any ministry that supports the unity of diversity.

All the best in your endeavors.

Karen Ladd

Lay Pastoral Leader

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Pittsboro, NC

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**Subject:** Statement of Support for Neighborhood School

**From:** "Jacquie" <jacquie@ptmallc.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:33 am

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

We retired to Pittsboro because of the outstanding community and the openness to diversity and respect for everyone. Here is a great example of the reasons we moved here. Thinking outside the box, a local educator is setting out to combine hands on preparation for job success with a charter school where students can find the support and atmosphere they need to learn in a local setting, without being bussed to an outlying school. This means they can have community in the school, extended days and supervised recreation. The town and surrounding community will support the Neighborhood School and its Pizzeria because it serves a need in our town.

Jacquie and Steve Katz  
270 Singing Hills  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** Maggie Crandall <maggie.crandall@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:37 am

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

I am resident of Chatham Count, NC. I support the application of Our Neighborhood School for charter status.

I do so because I see that this charter would meet and important, and money-saving need in our area. As a minister I visit weekly in a NC Juvenile Justice facility at Siler City. I see the unmet needs of many children who do not fit into a traditional school setting and could greatly benefit from a year-round program and the kinds of personalized care that Our Neighborhood School is able to give.

The costs per pupil in a Juvenile Justice facility are very, very high. In contrast, the kind of preventive support services and one-on-one teaching offered at Our Neighborhood School are very cost effective.

I believe that the Our Neighborhood School Charter represents long-term wisdom for children with learning needs that are better achieved in a small school setting.

Yours truly,

Rev. Margaret G. Crandall  
242 Tasker Hill Rd.  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Pat Shipman <pat.shipman9@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:40 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Dear Donna,

I am most interested in your plans to establish a charter school in downtown Pittsboro that would combine vocational and strictly academic training. Although I do not have children of school age, I was myself an educator for many years and I cannot think of any project that would benefit the community so much. Providing an education that links the theoretical with the practical will help create our educated, useful, community-based citizens of the future. It can only help all of us who live locally to have such training available, especially because of your outreach to underserved communities where children might be at risk of failing at school.

Please let me know if there is any way my support and skills can be used to further your aims.

Best wishes,

Pat Shipman, M.A., Ph.D.

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:33 AM, <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> wrote:

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One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to attend a charter since many could walk to school.

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**Subject:** Support for Our Neighborhood Charter  
**From:** Gary Kibler <gkibl365@cccc.edu>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:47 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna,

I am in total support of your application for a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. The Mainstreet location would be ideal. I have watched in awe what you have done over the years to integrate Our Neighborhood Pizza with the special instruction offered at your current school. You have seemingly boundless energy and a commitment to children's education, despite the obstacles I know you've faced.

I wish you and Bob the best of luck. If I can be of any assistance as you make this move, just let me know.

Best regards,

—  
Gary Kibler  
Small Business Center Director  
Central Carolina Community College  
919 545 8013  
[gkibl365@cccc.edu](mailto:gkibl365@cccc.edu)

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**Subject:** charter application support

**From:** Kristine Little <kristinelittle@mindspring.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 9:32 pm

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna, i am in favor of having a charter school in downtown Pittsboro, especially in view of your stated mission (as published on the Chatham Chatlist) and the combination of vocational and academic learning.  
Best wishes!

Kristine Little

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** amandahmcgovern@yahoo.com

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:13 pm

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Hi Donna,

I received a note from my neighbor Debbie Cameron that you were trying to start a charter school. I have a son who will be 3 in May and another little boy due any day now. We would very much be in favor of a charter school downtown and I trust you will let me know if there is anything we can do to support your efforts.

Regards,

Amanda McGovern

Sent from my iPad

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**Subject:** Charter School in Pittsboro  
**From:** Gail Alexander <gailalex@bellsouth.net>  
**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 8:43 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

To Whom It May Concern: I am very much in favor of the Neighborhood Charter School being discussed for downtown Pittsboro. Combining vocational training with college prep seems like an excellent idea to help all children head off each in their own best direction. Please register me as a supporter of this idea. Thank you. Gail Alexander, 1224 Ferrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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March 13, 2012

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Our Neighborhood Charter Application

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application for Our Neighborhood Charter. As with most counties, education is a major priority in Chatham County. Approving the application for Our Neighborhood Charter will benefit students of Chatham County and help us reach our educational goals. After all, our children are the future of our county.

I am familiar with Donna Bianco and the work that she has put into her current school and restaurant, Our Neighborhood School and Bella Donna's Italian Restaurant. Donna never stops pushing toward further improvement and accomplishing goals. It's in her nature to progress, and through her this quality is instilled in the children lucky enough to attend her school. Her work goes on past her immediate businesses. Donna is an active player and volunteer in the community, always offering a hand when there is a need. Her ambition, motivation and trustworthiness create a win-win situation for all involved in Chatham County.

I appreciate your consideration in approving the application for Our Neighborhood School thus helping to further the education of our children.

Sincerely,

*Cindy Poindexter*

Cindy Poindexter  
Executive Director

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** Ness Bennett <nessbennett@nc.rr.com>

**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 10:27 am

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Donna, let me just say this. I do indeed support a charter school in the town of Pittsboro. God only knows we have far too many young people who need every advantage they can get. That being said, what we need even more is to educate the parents on motivating their children to understand the importance of what a difference an education can make in their lives. Most young kids have trouble communicating and grasping the necessity of the work that goes into getting an education. I do think parents can be much more active than they are in seeing their children grow and learn some type of useful career option other than being a laborer. I wish you all the best in this effort.

Ness Bennett  
Ness Bennett & Associates  
Transportation Search Consultants  
79006 Hawkins, Chapel Hill,  
NC 27517  
(919) 932-6625  
[nessbennett@nc.rr.com](mailto:nessbennett@nc.rr.com)

On Mar 12, 2012, at 10:31 AM, <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> wrote:

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To name a few:

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**Subject:** Charter School  
**From:** Louisiana Fresh Shrimp <louisianafreshshrimp@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 2:26 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

**03-13-2012**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**My name is Al Davis and I have a small business in Pittsboro, North Carolina near Donna Bianco's School and Restaurant.**

**On numerous occasions, since the year 2008, I have been inside her building at 87 Thompson Street, Pittsboro, and I have observed Donna interacting with the young people she teaches and the teenagers that she supervises that work in the restaurant.**

**Most of us are lucky in this world if we can find one thing in life to be passionate about.**

**Donna has two.**

**Teaching and cooking meals for people. When you go into her restaurant it is not as if you were a customer, it's more like being a guest in her home. She has a smile for everyone and is always upbeat about the future.**

**She is an excellent teacher. I have seen it.**

**I hope she can be awarded a Charter for her school. This Charter School would be an asset to Pittsboro and I know it will provide a wonderful learning experience for the children who are fortunate enough to attend.**

**I strongly support this new Charter School in Pittsboro.**

**Sincerely,**

**AL DAVIS**  
**Owner, Louisiana Fresh Shrimp [www.LouisianaFreshShrimp.com](http://www.LouisianaFreshShrimp.com)**  
**504-352-5056**

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**Subject:** I support a charter school.

**From:** drew-anne carson <drewcarsonsedlak@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 4:32 pm

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Good luck with this , Donna.

We support a downtown charter school.

Drew and Doug Sedlak

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**Subject:** charter school in Pittsboro  
**From:** "Kathy Hotelling" <kathyhotelling@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:53 am  
**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>  
**Attach:** image001.gif

I am totally in support of a charter school in downtown Pittsboro, with the model proposed by Donna Bianco. Our children, especially those that are not college bound, need more educational opportunities available to them. As the parent of a child with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, I can say unequivocally that going to a charter school that is nontraditional in many ways has saved my daughter's life, emotionally and educationally. Unfortunately, there is only one current option in this area, PACE Academy in Carrboro.

I would welcome a new charter school for several reasons:

- Although I love what PACE has provided for my daughter, I would prefer to keep the money for her education in Chatham County where I live.
- I believe that families in Chatham County, and specifically those in Pittsboro, should have an alternative downtown. As gas gets more and more expensive, and as unemployment continues at a high rate, we need local alternatives where some could walk and others could go a short distance to school.
- As a nation, we need to realize that students have different gifts. I believe that charter schools can especially effective in finding these gifts.
- Vocational training, outside the traditional voc rehab setting, for students who will never have formal schooling beyond high school is extremely important. This school would fill a void for this type of student.
- I personally know Donna and am very respectful of the thought and energy that she has put into providing this educational opportunity for local children and their families. She is a strong advocate for our community in many other ways and is part of why Chatham County is a great place to live.
- As a counseling psychologist and educator for well over 30 years, I know this is part of the puzzle to helping people stay off the streets and out of trouble.

Please contact me if you need additional comments or information from me.

*Kathy Hotelling, Ph.D.*  
271 Fearington Post  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-265-3390  
kathyhotelling@gmail.com

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**Subject:** Support of Charter School in Pittsboro  
**From:** Brad Johnson <brad@bejohnson.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 9:06 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna,

We absolutely support a Charter School in Pittsboro!!

Cheers,  
Brad

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**Subject:** Charter School  
**From:** "John R Dykers" <johndykersmd@dykers.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 10:13 am  
**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Great idea!  
John Dykers

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** almusson@nc.rr.com  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 3:47 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna,

I think your plans to open a charter school in Pittsboro is a very good plan and I would support the school. I believe it would bring a needed program to the Pittsboro and continue to make Pittsboro a desired location to raise children and bring future growth to the community.

Al Musson  
--- donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com wrote:

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**Subject:** charter school  
**From:** "Susan Lomartire" <slomartire@worldwideconsulting.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 4:28 pm  
**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

I wholeheartedly support Our Neighborhood Charter school in Pittsboro! What an awesome opportunity for children to have an enriching school experience in their own neighborhood. Please, make it happen!

With kind regards,  
Susan Lomartire

**Susan M. Lomartire**  
**186 North Hillcrest Road**  
**Piler City, North Carolina 27344 U.S.A.**  
**Telephone: +1 (919) 663-1919**  
**Fax: +1 (919) 883-5842**

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**Subject:** I support a charter school  
**From:** Candace Steele <[ckingsteele@gmail.com](mailto:ckingsteele@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 7:16 pm  
**To:** [donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com](mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com)

I am in absolute support of having a charter school in Pittsboro. I have three children and would really appreciate having a broader choice for their education.

Sincerely,

Candace Steele  
[ckingsteele@gmail.com](mailto:ckingsteele@gmail.com)  
919-542-0258

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Robin Griffith <rgriffit@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:06 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna-

I love the mission statement...can't wait to make it a reality!

Peace and good eats, Robin Griffith

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:33 AM, <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com> wrote:

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Our Mission:

The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of knowledge and character in students which ensures all students becomes trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.

How can you help?

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Diane Griffith <digriffith1@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 15, 2012 5:27 am  
**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Donna:

I support having a charter school in Pittsboro! It would be a great asset to the community and give parents another great educational alternative!  
Diane Griffith

---

**From:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:33 AM  
**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

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**Subject:** Pittsboro Charter School  
**From:** mcpratt@windstream.net  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 15, 2012 11:55 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

I support Donna Bianco in her application for a new charter school in Pittsboro. Pittsboro, NC is a growing community with a desperate need for more educational choices. The other two charter schools in Chatham County are full and difficult to get into due to the high numbers of children in their annual lotteries. My own children have been in the Woods Charter School lottery three times and have never got in or even waitlisted. I believe that if the Charter for this school in Pittsboro is approved the school will fill quickly. The need for this school in Pittsboro is only increasing as Pittsboro continues to grow. Pittsboro's proximity to the RTP, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh will only ensure its continued growth. An increasing number of people here in Chatham County and Pittsboro are looking for alternatives for their children's education. It is my hope that the Charter for a school in Pittsboro will be granted.

Sincerely,  
Megan Pratt

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**Subject:** Charter school

**From:** Angela Glover <aglover1022@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Fri, Mar 16, 2012 9:00 am

**To:** Donna Bianco <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Hi Donna,

I certainly support a charter school for Pittsboro. I have an 8 year old who I would love to go there.

Sent from my iPhone

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**Subject:** Charter school application note of support  
**From:** Jane Corrado <jhcorrado@nc.rr.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 19, 2012 7:45 am  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Dear Ms. Bianco,

I wanted to send you a note supporting your effort to establish a new charter school in Pittsboro. Your concept for the school sounds very interesting, engaging and unique. In addition, the year round schedule and extended day option you plan to offer would be very helpful to working parents.

I know there is a very long admission wait list is at Woods Charter School (located between Chapel Hill & Pittsboro) and I think your school might appeal to some of the many parents/students who've not been successful in getting into Woods through that school's annual lottery. I believe they usually have several hundred more families apply each year than they can accommodate, so I think that definitely reflects a strong interest in charter schools in our area. I wish you the best of luck with your application process.

Sincerely,

Jane Corrado  
25 Jason Glen  
Chapel Hill  
919/932-3379

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**Subject:** Charter School in Downtown Pittsboro  
**From:** Brenda Williams <brenda.williams@chathamnc.org>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 19, 2012 11:36 am  
**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Donna,

I have enjoyed working with you in the past and look forward to working with you in the future on different activities with your students. I support you in your efforts to start a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. I have witnessed firsthand the great things you and your school have done. I also appreciate your students taking charge of the rain garden behind the Community Center as well as other projects. If I can assist you in any way, please feel free to call upon me or our office.

Respectfully,

**Brenda Williams**  
**District Administrator**  
**Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**919-542-8240 ~ office**

\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 6979 (20120319) \_\_\_\_\_

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

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**Subject:** charter school

**From:** Barbara Moore <bodylanguage723@gmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:28 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

To Whom this may Concern:

We support Donna Bianco in opening and operating a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. Donna has a strong vision. Her vision coupled with her ethics, values and good old fashioned hard work supports the minds, bodies and spirits of young learners, and supports our community.

Education, good education, hands on education is the key to our future. Ms. Bianco is willing to make a stand for education when many of us do not know what to do.

Professionally, I coach leaders in the education sector. Strong, informed leaders in education open new vistas, bring hope and add backbone to individuals, communities, and the world at large.

If it is in your power as a leader to assist Donna Bianco in her mission, I encourage you to take the time. Your decision will impact many lives for many years.

Best, Barbara

Barbara Moore, LMBT#6151  
Certified Somatic Coach  
919-270-8103

[www.barbaramooresomatics.com](http://www.barbaramooresomatics.com)

If you see someone without a smile, give them yours

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**Subject:** Charter School Support

**From:** Toni Massa <sweetovenbaking@hotmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:37 am

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Hi Donna,

I support a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. Any establishment that brings people into downtown, especially on a daily basis, can only be good for our town and the town's economy.

Best of luck to you in the coming months!

Toni Massa

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**Subject:** RE: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Susan Henson <suzahara@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Mar 14, 2012 9:08 pm  
**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>  
**Attach:** Pittsboro Charter School.docx

Hi Donna,

Did you get my earlier email regarding the orphanage idea?

Here are my comments about a Pittsboro charter school (also attached in a Word document):

Donna,

I am thrilled to support another local charter school--especially in Pittsboro! I have been affiliated with several of them in the area, and most recently, Woods Charter School. While Woods is an excellent choice of schools, there is a major drawback for which, I believe, another charter school choice in the same area would serve the public well. Primarily, Woods has a very long waitlist and because of its commitment to smaller classroom sizes, will end up excluding all but those very closest to the top...that leaves a large constituency of students who will have no other place to attend school but at the public sector which, by its very nature, does not serve every student.

I feel Pittsboro is the perfect place for, and would greatly benefit from a charter school in its midst.

Very sincerely yours,

Susan Henson

Susan Henson  
LifeOnPurpose  
919.606.0346 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting 919.606.0346 end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting

---

**From:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com  
**To:**  
**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**Date:** Mon, 12 Mar 2012 07:29:51 -0700

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to

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**Subject:** RE: I need YOUR help...yes, you!

**From:** Donna Cunningham <Donna.Cunningham@bcbsnc.com>

**Date:** Wed, Mar 14, 2012 4:44 pm

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

I think it would be wonderful to have a charter school in downtown Pittsboro, and Donna Bianco is the woman to do it! Her model will teach kids life skills unlike any other school. I've known Donna personally for some time, and she will do a great job if given the opportunity.

Donna Cunningham | Sales Communication Consultant  
919.765.3877 | f 919.765.4459 | [donna.cunningham@bcbsnc.com](mailto:donna.cunningham@bcbsnc.com)

**From:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com [mailto:donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:34 AM

**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

That being said, the application asks us to demonstrate the level of public interest in opening a charter in Pittsboro, more specifically downtown Pittsboro. My sights are set on the Main Street Station building in which the owner has proposed a third building which would house a two story charter school.

What will make Our Neighborhood Charter different from public schools?

To name a few:

We are outlining the curriculum to incorporate Bella Donna Italian Restaurant into the entire curriculum giving students vocational skills as well as college prep.

Our Neighborhood Charter would have an extended school day AND a year-round schedule.

One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to attend a charter since many could walk to school.

Our Mission:

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** "Stephanie G. Smith" <sgsmith@smithscoffee.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Mar 14, 2012 2:03 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna,  
I would love to see a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. I think it would be a great additon to the community. As well as give parents an alternative to the traditional county schools without having the finacial burden of a private school.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie G. Smith

- > As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school
- > which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due
- > on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am
- > confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been
- > working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high
- > quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to
- > the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to
- > the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.
- >
- > That being said, the application asks us to demonstrate the level of
- > public interest in opening a charter in Pittsboro, more specifically
- > downtown Pittsboro. My sights are set on the Main Street Station
- > building in which the owner has proposed a third building which would
- > house a two story charter school.
- >
- > What will make Our Neighborhood Charter different from public schools?
- >
- > To name a few:
- >
- > We are outlining the curriculum to incorporate Bella Donna Italian
- > Restaurant into the entire curriculum giving students vocational skills
- > as well as college prep.
- >
- > Our Neighborhood Charter would have an extended school day AND a
- > year-round schedule.
- >
- > One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who
- > live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to
- > attend a charter since many could walk to school.
- >
- >
- > Our Mission:
- >
- > The mission of Our Neighborhood Charter is to build a foundation of
- > knowledge and character in students which ensures all students becomes
- > trustworthy stewards of their futures and contributing citizens of their
- > communities by creating a positive school environment with an academic
- > and vocational curriculum which meets the needs of diverse learners.
- >
- >
- > How can you help?
- >



March 13, 2012

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Our Neighborhood Charter Application

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application for Our Neighborhood Charter. As with most counties, education is a major priority in Chatham County. Approving the application for Our Neighborhood Charter will benefit students of Chatham County and help us reach our educational goals. After all, our children are the future of our county.

I am familiar with Donna Bianco and the work that she has put into her current school and restaurant, Our Neighborhood School and Bella Donna's Italian Restaurant. Donna never stops pushing toward further improvement and accomplishing goals. It's in her nature to progress, and through her this quality is instilled in the children lucky enough to attend her school. Her work goes on past her immediate businesses. Donna is an active player and volunteer in the community, always offering a hand when there is a need. Her ambition, motivation and trustworthiness create a win-win situation for all involved in Chatham County.

I appreciate your consideration in approving the application for Our Neighborhood School thus helping to further the education of our children.

Sincerely,

*Cindy Poindexter*

Cindy Poindexter  
Executive Director

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**Subject:** A vote YES for a school

**From:** Meredith Mannheim <mmannheim@mac.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 3:20 pm

**To:** Donna Bianco <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Donna,

I am so excited to hear about your plans for a charter school for Pittsboro. I believe anything positive like that would be a HUGE benefit for our town. Especially for the office space you have mentioned as it is mostly empty.

Your attention to the kids in our area would only benefit all of us ultimately and you have our total support.

Good luck

MEM

Meredith Mannheim  
mmannheim@mac.com  
919.280.3947

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**Subject:** Charter School App

**From:** "Pat and Welford Harris" <patandwelford@embarqmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 3:43 pm

**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Dear Dnna,

I am delighted to send you this e-mail. My three grand children go to charter school in Siler City. I am sold on this type education in preference to public, it is so superior. My children are so well behaved and enthusiastic about going to school, and their scholastic abilities always test higher than those students in equivalent grades in public school.

Downtown Pittsboro needs a charter school and the Main Street Station is a fantascic location. There are many many students who travel each day from Pittsboro to Siler City to addend a charter school

Good luck to you Donna. You will be wonderful!!

Pat Harris

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**Subject:** school

**From:** Maria <papakura1970@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 4:11 pm

**To:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

I have a two-year old daughter so school is not yet an issue BUT I constantly think about the few options available in Pittsboro for quality education. I support any endeavor that will provide more options. Families desperately need more options in Pittsboro otherwise they will move. We will move if Pittsboro doesn't become more family friendly.

Maria

p.s. Love the food at Bella Donna.

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**Subject:** In SUPPORT of a charter school  
**From:** Connie <shrivfour@aol.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 6:24 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Donna,

We moved to Pittsboro in 2006 and came from a wonderful public school system in Northern Virginia (very small classes, good teachers, high test scores, everyone knew everyone, lots of parent volunteers)... When we moved to Pittsboro, my 5th grader would have been put in middle school and separated from his younger brothers. Based on our previous school system, when we visited Horton, we were not excited about sending our son there. We ended up sending all of them to private school. After Woods Charter was finished building their new school and it was closer to home than our private school, we did try to get in there. But with the lottery system and kids coming from 5 counties (I believe that's what they told me) to go there, there was hardly a chance to get one boy in there, let alone 4. I was disappointed because I felt like that was a good option through high school and I liked that they encouraged parent volunteers and had high test scores. To be honest, I felt cheated that there was now what I saw as a good option in our area but kids from other areas with more options were able to go to school there and limit the classroom space available to kids in Chatham Co.

Currently, I drive my kids 1/2 hour to school (making 4-6 trips a day) and I do it gladly since I want them to have a good education, to be in a good environment, and in our case, also be taught Christian values. I believe there is plenty of room in Chatham county for more school options and based on the clamor to get into Woods, I know that there is a desire from people to have another school option beyond the public schools that have been in place. I was excited to see that Haw River Academy is going to be able to expand and I certainly think there is room for more school options whether charter or private. I wish you luck in your newest venture and hope that you get the community support that you need to put this into place.

Connie Shriver

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**Subject:** Charter schools

**From:** ronald tart <rontart@gmail.com>

**Date:** Fri, Apr 06, 2012 5:45 am

**To:** "mailto:Chatham Charter" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

My name is Ron Tart, and I support the need for charter schools in Chatham County.

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**Subject:** Charter School

**From:** Maurer Alice <camar@nc.rr.com>

**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 9:14 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

I completely support the addition of a Charter School in downtown Pittsboro. Donna has supported the Pittsboro Community time and time again and I know she would make an excellent leader in any school. Her dedication and devotion to community is surpassed by none and I know she would give 100% in making a new Charter School a complete success.

Respectfully,  
Alice Maurer  
3000 Galloway Ridge G 201  
Pittsboro, NC. 27312  
919 542 0318

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**Subject:** Support for a charter school in Pittsboro

**From:** stephanie talbott <chathamtalbott@yahoo.com>

**Date:** Tue, Mar 13, 2012 8:04 am

**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Hi Donna; I just want to send you a quick email letting you know my support for your development of a Charter School in Pittsboro. Since people are highly variable in needs and settings for their best performance, it is important that a community provide such variety. In this case, having options for a public education, charter schools, private schools (religious based or not) can only strengthen the educational choices for all.

Good Luck with this ambitious undertaking!

Stephanie Talbott

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**Subject:** Support for Charter school in Pittsboro  
**From:** Harry Bulbrook <bulbrookh@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 11:16 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

Hi Donna. I'm glad you're pursuing the charter school in town. Certainly I appreciated your comments to the board, when you asked them about any problem that you might experience during your own approval process for a special use permit (if needed).

Speaking personally and not as a Board member of Haw River Christian Academy, I support your development of the ONS charter school. (Will it be named Our Neighborhood school?)

Pittsboro need different pathways for students. I am passionate about HRCA, and believe in the spiritual, educational, and service goals of that school. But I also believe that there are other paths to success for children, and that your program will provide success for kids. The ability for a child to learn through hands-on application is proven - apprenticeships have worked for hundreds of years! I pray for your success, and hope to see you downtown.


Harry Bulbrook

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**Subject:** Re: I need YOUR help...yes, you!  
**From:** Mary Norman <normanmary16@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:47 pm  
**To:** donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com

So glad for you I know you will be successive and you have my vote, Because you a God send with granddaughter doing the time she needed help with her class project in senior year of high school, I am wishing you the best and if there is something she and I can do to help we will be there for you,

 Mary H. Norman

---

**From:** "donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com" <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:33 AM  
**Subject:** I need YOUR help...yes, you!

As many may know I am in the process of applying for a charter school which, if granted, would open in Fall of 2013. The application is due on April 13, 2012. This is a very intense application but I am confident, with the help of my wonderful team of people who have been working on this for almost a year, that we will complete/submit a high quality application. Once it is out of my hands on the 13th it is up to the powers that be to determine if what we have submitted lives up to the expectations of the NC Department of Public Instruction.

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One of the many perks of Our Neighborhood Charter is giving children who live in town, who might have transportation issues, an opportunity to attend a charter since many could walk to school.





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**Subject:** Our Neighborhood Charter  
**From:** Kelly Webster <kpweb@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 12, 2012 8:03 pm  
**To:** <donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com>

Ms. Bianco,

We have a child in the sixth grade who currently attends a local charter school. We are proponents of the charter school idea. We would be very interested in a charter school in downtown Pittsboro. Our child has done extremely well in the charter school environment as compared to the traditional public school he previously attended. Please keep us updated as to the progress of the Our Neighborhood Charter. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Cecil & Kelly Webster  
kpweb@hotmail.com

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STAFF WRITER  
PITTSBORO, N.C., MAY 20, 2012

## Pizzeria, school now seeking a charter

After 5 years of  
success, ONS hopes  
to become charter  
school by August

BY ALEXA MILAN  
amilan@sanfordherald.com

PITTSBORO — After nearly 20 years of teaching in New York, Wake County and Chatham County, Pittsboro resident Donna Bianco had had enough. She began to find teaching unfulfilling, because she felt many students' individual needs were not being met.

Bianco took a year off and struggled to determine which dream she should pursue next, opening a restaurant or opening her own school. Then the perfect compromise hit her — Why not do both?

After five years of successfully incorporating the business into the curriculum, Bianco is looking to expand her unique educational approach to a larger pool of students by applying for Our Neighborhood School to become a charter school beginning in August 2012.

"The restaurant has really been the major fundraiser for the school," Bianco said. "It's housed in the same building, and it pays the bills."

Our Neighborhood School opened in 2005 in Pittsboro as a small private school aimed at providing students with individualized instruction. Bianco's student

population has ranged from children in foster care to kids who have been home schooled and need a transitional step before attending a conventional school.

The school teaches the standard courses using the Core Knowledge curriculum, a system developed by a University of Virginia professor rooted in a "coherent, cumulative and content-specific" approach to learning. Our Neighborhood School operates on an extended day and includes before and after school care in the tuition.

Students stay after school to complete their homework from 3:30-5 p.m. and gain practical experience by helping Bianco in her restaurant, Bella Donna pizzeria. Parents

can supplement tuition by volunteering at the school and nonprofit restaurant, which Bianco uses as a learning lab to teach students about everything from nutrition and math to business and communications.

"When you're looking at the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, (the restaurant) hits so many areas," said Susan Strong, a retired educator in Chatham and Lee counties and a founding board member at Our Neighborhood School. "You're doing social skills, you're doing math, you're totaling bills with tax. All of the things in that Standard Course of Study help the kids become functioning adults. It overlaps so much."

Bianco and the board

are about two-thirds of the way through their charter school application, which Strong describes as "a major endeavor." Bianco said she wanted to apply for Our Neighborhood School to become a charter school in order to reach a greater number of students.

Her hope is to have 200 students for the 2012-2013 school year. Our Neighborhood School would become Our Neighborhood Charter, which would operate under the umbrella of Our Neighborhood Education Foundation along with Bella Donna. The school would be year-round on a schedule of 10-week courses and two-week breaks.

The school has established a founding board that has been meeting

for about four months, hired an educational consultant and looked at larger buildings in downtown Pittsboro, Bianco said.

"I'm trying to keep it local, and keep it all about Pittsboro and Chatham County," Bianco said. "We've done our homework, I have experience and I've made it work for five years."

Bianco said one of the primary challenges in launching a charter school is start-up funding, so Our Neighborhood School will increase its fundraising efforts and seek donations during the next several months.

The board has been working on developing policies and bylaws, determining space requirements, mapping out the curriculum and compiling job descrip-

tions.

"We're blessed to have wonderful public schools, but a charter school is just another option," Strong said. "Being a charter, you can do things public schools don't have the opportunity to do. You can go more with your own outlook. This is just allowing it to be open to more children but with the same philosophy."

Though the school still has a while to wait before learning if its application is approved, Bianco said she is optimistic.

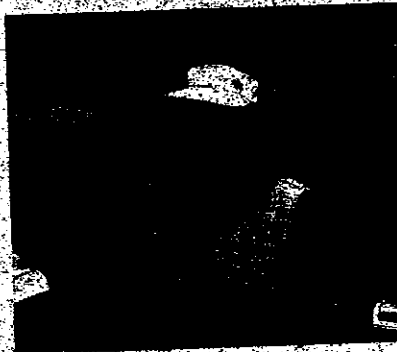
"It's about giving students life skills, but it's also college prep," Bianco said. "I don't care what your IQ is. You can still learn, and we're not going to give up on any kids. We're going to challenge kids."

"D"

# What do you want to be when you grow up?

By Donna Bianco

The older you are the more difficult of a question this is. When you are a child the response is easy: a fireman, a doctor, a teacher. As you approach high school most kids have no idea even after researching and listening to parents and other mentors in their lives. Then maybe they go to college or start working right out of high school and after a few years, it may be a bit clearer. But is the question REALLY answered? This is such a difficult question for anyone who has not searched their heart and soul for the answer.



Donna Bianco  
PHOTO BY KALVIN SERENO

My path to finding out what I wanted to be when I grew up finally blossomed when I was almost 50 years old. Is that too late to decide? I don't think so. Starting a business on the cusp of a half century seemed comfortable. I had an idea, I had some capital, I had support, and I had experience. My children were all either in college, or starting out on their own, an empty nester, that's what I was! What was I going to do with all this spare time?

Twenty-five years teaching in public schools; 17 happy years in upstate rural NY, seven difficult years in NC. My

dissatisfaction in NC turned into a feverish sense of needing to fix what was wrong here in the public schools. I tried to get things accomplished through the system and was met with so much resistance that it was exhausting. Few materials were at my disposal and even less classroom equipment available to me. Bookshelves? What were they? Copies? Remanded for making too many books? Nope. Classrooms chock full of kids at all different ability levels with little administrative support. Planning

time! "That's what you do before and after school." I was told. Minimal janitorial services, dirty toilets, mouse droppings, told to clean up a child's vomit myself. Didn't I have enough to do? I guess not. Nursing staff at a minimum and let's not forget the notorious End-of-Grade test. A test that is made by educators in Raleigh whereby some-

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## TEACHING

continued from page 1.

one on one side of the hall makes up a question, and hands it over to someone else on the other side of the hall and if it wasn't "tricky" enough sends it back to be rewritten. That was a comment made by a Raleigh official who came to speak at one of our staff developments! I was amazed and continue to be amazed and shocked at what I have heard and experienced being on the inside.

I was always a parent advocate for the rights of the kids in my classroom, which was quite telling as to whose "side" I was on. I was always coaching parents on what to say, what to do, who to contact in order to get something done because I knew it wasn't going to happen if I asked for it. Parents have more power than they realize.

So, I began researching ... What are the criteria for opening my own school? Pretty simple actually; fire drills once per month, attendance records, immunization records,

standardized tests in grades 3, 6, 9 and 11; yearly inspection by the NC Department of Non-Public

Instruction and a county health inspection. Hmmm, is this what I'm supposed to be when I grow up?

We had a little capital because of my extremely talented husband and the incredible house he built for us and the question of what I wanted to be when I grew up seemed to be taking shape. My mind and my heart were telling me to cook, my soul was telling me to teach. Then one night in

2005 I woke up in the middle of the night, sat up in bed, woke my husband up and it all came pouring out of my mouth in about 30 seconds! A school, where the kitchen is a pizzeria, where middle-income parents can afford to send their kids because the pizzeria will help fund the school. I lay back down and the next morning started doing what it was that I was supposed to do when I grew up. Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria. It's a school. It's a pizzeria. We teach reading, math, science, history, cooking, life skills,

public relations, we are community minded. The list is endless. I believe that the Lord has guided me my entire life to do exactly what I am doing now. I can see all the patterns of choices I have made to bring me to this one place. When I grow up, I want to be a teacher of children in a self-funded environment, where diverse learners can come to learn, work, play, cook, grow and have fun.

*Donna Bianco is the founder of Our Neighborhood School and Pizzeria, located at 87 Thompson Street in Pittsboro. She can be reached at 919.545.0900 or donna@ourneighborhoodschool.com. Their website can be found at [www.ourneighborhoodschool.com](http://www.ourneighborhoodschool.com).*



October 2011

We the undersigned, as residents of Chatham County, believe Chatham County is in need of another charter school in downtown Pittsboro for the following reasons:

- A charter school in downtown Pittsboro would allow expanded educational choices for parents and students in Chatham County.
- A charter school in downtown Pittsboro would allow students within walking distance to have access to a charter school eliminating transportation issues.
- A charter school in downtown Pittsboro would instill a greater sense of community for the students enrolled.
- A charter school in downtown Pittsboro would increase the business opportunities for local merchants

NAME	ADDRESS
1. <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>229 Fearrington Post Pittsboro NC 27312</u>
2. <u>Kathia Johnson</u>	<u>627 Palmer Dr. Sanford, NC. 27330</u>
3. <u>Vivian Burham</u>	<u>210 E. Beaver St. Siler City 27344</u>
4. <u>Stephane Smith</u>	<u>20 Mays Ln Bear Creek, NC 27207</u>
5. <u>Pam Benscoter</u>	<u>114 Bynum Ridge Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312</u>
6. <u>Christy Minter</u>	<u>632 Rosser Rd Bear Creek 27207</u>
7. <u>Rachel Shue</u>	<u>550 E Kline Ave Liberty, NC 27298</u>
8. <u>CATHERINA MASUW</u>	<u>61 HENRYS AVE, ASD 1</u>
9. <u>Peggy Hall</u>	<u>2681 Hamp Stone Rd. Siler City, NC</u>
10. <u>Hillary Graves</u>	<u>66 Fellowship Ch Rd Siler, 27344</u>
11. <u>Lauren Wilson</u>	<u>4723 Moffitt Mill Rd, Randlew, NC 27316</u>
12. <u>Mandy Cleek</u>	<u>490 W. St of Pittsboro NC 27312</u>
13. <u>Debbie Katois</u>	<u>Siler City NC 27344</u>
14. <u>Michelle Ballew</u>	<u>3508 Juno Rd Sanford</u>

15. [Signature] Amy Kelley  
PO Box 1209 Pittsboro, NC 27312
16. [Signature] 471-LLA SAMPSON RD Mendenhall, 27559
17. Glenn Chestnut 490 West St. Pittsboro 27312
18. Digene Campbell 1982 Eggs Clark Rd. <sup>Salem City</sup> NC 27344
19. Melroynead 148 Lavin St Pittsboro NC
20. Delphine Harshey 1807 N Chatham 27312
21. Richard J. Boyer 412 FARRINGTON POST, PITTSBORO
22. John Weill 904 Brookwood Dr. Raleigh NC
23. [Signature] PO Box 1076  
Pittsboro NC 27312
24. Christine R. Krapfenruidt 298 Emerson Court Rd. Pittsboro NC
25. [Signature] 2118 N Hwy 902 Bear Creek NC 27207
26. Marilyn Collins 10801 Sandhogan Pl. Raleigh NC 27614
27. [Signature] 1200 Farrington Post, Pittsboro NC 27312
28. Angel Jensen 324 Toomer Loop; PBO
29. J. B. Ginn 271 Moon Meadow Lane PBO
30. [Signature] 443 VALLEY LN PBO
31. Christy Domdey 46055 Edwards RSC 27344
32. [Signature] 46055 Edwards Rd. SS 27344
33. D. Everett P.O. Box 1794 PBO, NC 27312
34. L. Orlando 46 Leakey Ct. PBO 15315
35. LINDA BIENVENUE 31 Cobble Ridge Dr, PBO 27312
36. Andrea Repasz Paksche 15 Artis Cotton Rd Bear Creek 27207
37. SHERRY LAMBRECHT 182 BRIDLE PATH PITTSBORO 27312

- 38. Ray Lambrecht 182 BRIBLE Pt# PITTSBORO
- 39. John Norem 360 Eddie Paris Rd.
- 40. Jennifer Nelson 919 Tanglewood Dr Siler City NC
- 41. DAN HORNE PITTSBORO, NC
- 42. Allison Bolin 443 Powell Pl Pittsboro NC
- 43. Bobby Garcia 909 ALSTON BRIDGE Rd.  
SILER CITY, NC. 27516
- 44. \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. PHILIP BIENVENUE 31 COMBLE WOOD DR  
PITTSBORO, NC 27312
- 46. Cindy Dameron Siler City NC 27344
- 47. Roy FESSEL 280 HAVEN RD #453000 27312
- 48. Lee Shanklin 120 Lowes drive Suite 107 Pittsboro NC 27312
- 49. Michael Rodriguez 630-1 East St Pittsboro, NC 27312  
(Chatham County)
- 50. Handy 200 River Forks Rd - Sanford - 27433
- 51. Meaghan Barnett 428 New Parkside Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- 52. DWay Hester 959 East Street Suite C Pittsboro 27312
- 53. Steph Sanger 959 EAST ST Suite C Pittsboro
- 54. Jacquelyn Myers 317 Bruce Burns Rd Moncure
- 55. MOLLIE MILLER 509 PARK DR. SILER CITY
- 56. Liam M. Egan 39 Stedmon Dr. Pittsboro
- 57. Tom 1588 NCSF N, PO 27312
- 58. Sabrina Rigginis 5713 Bashford Ln Raleigh 27606
- 59. Robin Kohanski 329 W. Smith Pl. Pittsboro 27312
- 60. Bobby Wicker 917 Botany Woods Dr. Sanford N.C. 27330

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|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 61. | <del>BRUCE MURPHY</del> | 185 BRADLE PATH PITTSPORO NC            |
| 62. | Jaye Lilly              | 220 Wilkerson Dr. Sanford               |
| 63. | Karen M. White          | 5455 Hwy 107 N. Pittsboro               |
| 64. | Laura C. White          | " "                                     |
| 65. | E. Cali Downs           | 606 Windsong Drive, Pittsboro NC        |
| 66. | ANGELINA KONNINGS       | 2347 NC Hwy 251<br>KTEF, 27523<br>27312 |
| 67. | Eric Lee                | 1810 Old Graham Rd Pittsboro            |
| 68. | John P. Lee             | 14280 W Coleridge Rd Siler City NC      |
| 69. | John Lee                | 35 Windsong Dr Pittsboro NC             |
| 70. | Lois Grace              | 192 Matterhorne Dr. Monroe NC 27559     |
| 71. | Gabby Dandy             | 444 NC Hwy 92 Pittsboro NC 27312        |
| 72. |                         |   |
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