

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

### I. Applicant Information

- a. Applicant: LaKiesha George NYC DOE Common Branch Teacher at X443, zip code 10456
- b. Media Contact: LaKiesha George (718)-877-6329 Email: Lakieshangs@yahoo.com
- c. Founding Group

<b>Founding Members</b>	<b>Relevant Experience/Skills</b>	<b>Current/Prospective Charter Position</b>
Arelene Aswad	NYC D.O.E. Pedagogue (over 22 years in education) – experienced administrator, curriculum development, creating standards-based units of study, professional development, assessments	Governance-Board of Trustee
Danilvia Ramos	Accountant – Financial expertise, strong understanding of record keeping, accounting systems, financial reports, policies and procedures	Finance Committee Member
Druscilla George	Active parent of NYC student-expertise in parent involvement, building and establishing relations in community, parent communication, public relations	Community Outreach Committee Member
Isaac Capers	Financial Analyst - Financial expertise, strong understanding of record keeping, budgeting, investing strategies, financial reports, policies and procedures	Governance –Board of Trustee
LaKiesha George	NYC D.O.E. Pedagogue (7 years) – expertise in education, curriculum mapping, creating standards-based units of study, delivering hands-on/technology-based instruction, data- driven instruction, assessments professional development, performance coordinator, teacher mentor	Lead Applicant Founder – Board of Trustee
Sharonne Salaam	Former not-for-profit executive director- expertise in community outreach, governance, coordinating community events, public relations	Governance – Board of Trustee
Shavonna Durham	NYC D.O.E. Pedagogue (9 years) –expertise in education, creating standards-based units of study, delivering hands-on/technology-based instruction, data-driven instruction assessments, math specialist	Academic Committee Member

### d. Proposed Board of Trustees

<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b>Relevant Experience/Skills</b>
1. Arlene Aswad	See above
2. Isaac Capers	See above
3. Melvin Alston	Legislative and Political Action VP – past 20 years various leadership capacities with the New York City Administration for Children Services (ACS). Most recently, he has devoted his political and community expertise to ACS’ division of Community and Government Affairs.
4. Sharonne Salaam	See above
5. LaKiesha George	See above

- e. Replication or Network Information – N/A
- f. Application History – N/A

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### II. Proposed Charter School Information

- a. Proposed School Name  
New Generations of Scholars Charter School (NGS)
  
- b. Proposed school location (school district or community school district in New York City).  
The proposed school location is School District 9 in the Bronx in zip code 10456/10452.
  
- c. Planned grades and enrollment in each of the years of the proposed charter term.  
NGS will begin with 104 pupils and expand to a maximum of 300 (294 taking into account possible attrition), by its fifth year. We will enroll 52 students at the kindergarten age level (4-5) and 52 at the 1<sup>st</sup> grade age level (5-6). The presumption is that these students will re-enroll in the following grades each subsequent year with a 5-7% rate of attrition per year. The school may accept approximately 10% more students to allow for attrition. Each year thereafter, the school will enroll 52 new students at the kindergarten age level and backfill any open seats at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade age level to compensate for attrition. The school will enroll only a small number of new students at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade age levels (8-10 years) as our labs are ungraded and acclimation to our school design is an integral aspect of our school culture. We intend to submit a request for expanding the charter school during our renewal process to include an intermediate school that would serve students at the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade age level as our mission is to prepare students to enter competitive high schools of their choice.

Grades	Age	Projected Enrollment Table 1 <sup>st</sup> Charter					Projected Enrollment 2 <sup>nd</sup> Charter		
		Year 1 2013-2014	Year 2 2014-2015	Year 3 2015-2016	Year 4 2016-2017	Year 5 2017-2018	Year 6 2018-2019	Year 7 2019-2020	Year 8 2020-2021
K*	4-5	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
1 <sup>st</sup>	5-6	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6-7		52	52	52	52	52	52	52
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7-8			48	48	48	48	48	48
4 <sup>th</sup>	8-9				46	46	46	46	46
5 <sup>th</sup>	9-10					44	44	44	44
6 <sup>th</sup>	10-11						52	52	52
7 <sup>th</sup>	11-12							48	48
8 <sup>th</sup>	12-13								46
<b>Totals</b>		<b>104</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>440</b>

\*Kindergarten will be open to all children who turn five years of age on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they begin kindergarten classes, as required by law [Ed.L. 3202(1)].

- d. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner. We may partner with Bronxworks, a community-based organization. Bronxworks has partnered with New Visions for Public School and the D.O.E. to cofound The Community School for Social Justice High School.
  
- e. Proposed school mission. New Generation of Scholars Charter School (NGS) fuses Core Academics with a child’s special interest(s)/talent(s) in Health Science, Physical Education, Technology and The Arts to prepare its students to achieve at high academic levels so that they are prepared to enter and succeed in competitive high schools of

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their choice. We do this through inquiry based learning labs, data-driven instruction, special interest groups known as Talented Scholars and a Teacher's Academy.

- f. School overview: The focus of the school is to create special interest groups known as Talented Scholars that will give students the opportunity to explore their talents/interests. NGS will fuse core academics with these groups. This experience will help drive students' love for learning and motivate them to achieve at their highest potential in all academic disciplines.

### **Talented Scholars Session – Student Centered Curriculum**

At the core of NGS will be its special interest groups in the areas of Health Science, Physical Education, Technology and The Arts (Visual, Musical, Dance, and Drama). These groups will be multi-age and led and/or facilitated by teachers who possess strengths/passion in these areas. Students will have the opportunity to explore and develop their interests/talents. The conversations and experiences in the special interest groups will drive the manner in which teachers create their learning labs experiences and assessments. For example, a 6 year old boy in The Arts Talented Scholars might have developed a personal goal of learning to how to take photographs, while his group is working on creating a digital school photo album depicting life at NGS for an upcoming fundraising event. So during his writing lab, he may write an informational report on how to use a camera, or a personal narrative entitled "The Eyes Behind the Lens", or write across the curriculum in Social Studies through his study of his community to write a response to literature or informational report on how cameras have been used to keep traditions alive within a culture. These writing tasks are aligned to the Common Core Standards.

### **Pedagogy – How we Teach**

We will use both creative and critical pedagogy. Our creative pedagogy will transform traditional classrooms into learning labs whereby the creative teaching process to produce life learners is utilized. Students will be engaged in hands-on, inquiry based learning through use of technology where they can deconstruct and reconstruct meaning. Teachers will evaluate their practices through consistent professional development that will inform their daily work.

### **Learning Labs – How Students Learn**

Our school will be comprised of ungraded, multi-age, subject-specific, standards-based learning labs designed to fuse core academics with a child's special interests/talents. Labs will provide a rich learning experience through inquiry, explorations and the use of technology to develop concept formation and critical thinking skill. Labs allow pupils to progress at their own pace which safeguards against premature promotion and traditional grade level stagnation. The exit standards for each lab will be guided by the Common Core Standards and based on mastery of goals and grade-level content.

### **Literacy & Math Taught Through All Disciplines – Accountability through All Disciplines**

Unique to NGS is the push-in of teaching artists from special interest groups into the core curriculum areas of Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies. Teaching artists will use their special talents to assist teachers in the classroom as well as provide students access to learning through the use of their special interests. It is our belief that talents are strengths that lend themselves to all disciplines and should be used to help students achieve at high levels.

### **Teacher's Academy – Enhancing our Educators**

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Our progressive Teacher’s Academy will:

- Create, develop, enhance and sustain effective teachers which we believe will have a direct positive impact on student achievement as studies show there is a positive correlation between effective teachers and high student performance.
- transform the teaching profession into what Fallon calls an “academically taught clinical practice profession”

### **Student Support Program – Academic Responsibility Is Our Priority**

NGS will support all students through:

- Literacy enrichment labs and clinics 4 days per week for 50 minutes each
- Language immersion, use of visuals along with tactile experiences will be embedded throughout all labs thereby supporting English Language Learners.
- One-to-one adaptive computing tutoring to develop skills at an individualized pace
- Peer-tutoring as we believe students who share the same interest can help their peers access the curriculum in their own unique way.

**g.** Briefly describe the school’s target population and the community that the school intends to serve. NGS proposed to be located in Community School District 9 (specifically in zip code 10452 or 10456) which includes Grand Concourse, Morissania, and the Highbridge area of the Bronx. These neighborhoods consist mostly of Africans, Latinos, and African-Americans. We are targeting students who are underachieving or are at-risk of academic failure, not school-ready by their kindergarten year, zoned in a district of failing school, are from low-income families and/or from homes that speak a dominant language other than English (ELL). District 9 overall is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year as a Needs of Improvement for ELA due to not making AYP. Students with disabilities, free/reduced lunch, and ELLs did not make AYP in ELA across the district. In 2009-2010, 100% of the elementary schools in zip codes 10452 and 10456 serving grades 3-5, ELA test scores fell below the city’s average (city average = 55% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders demonstrated proficiency). As of 2010-2011, 31 schools in the Bronx are in needs of improvement, of which 16 are in the most advanced stages of restructuring. More than 50% of these schools are elementary schools and of these elementary schools 56% are located in zip codes 10452 and 10456. NGS proposes to serve as a Restart School for students in persistently lowest achieving school (PLA).

2009-2010 School Report Card Data	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade ELA Proficiency		3 <sup>rd</sup> grade Math Proficiency		4 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA Proficiency		4 <sup>th</sup> grade Math Proficiency	
	NYS	District 9	NYS	District 9	NYS	District 9	NYS	District 9
Overall	55%	28%	59%	37%	57%	31%	64%	39%
General Ed.		32%		41%		37%		43%
ELL		15%		27%		16%		26%
Students with disabilities		15%		23%		11%		24%
Free/Reduced Lunch		28%		37%		31%		39%

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

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NGS will utilize but not limited to the following strategies to attract, recruit and retain its target population:

1. Establish a unique admission policy giving preference to English Language Learners and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.
2. Securing a location within the community. Parents in this community are thirsty for healthy school options evidenced by extensive waiting lists of the charter schools in the area.
3. Offering an innovative approach to education that is rigorous, standards-based, and unique in design to provide families with a refreshing perspective to learning.
4. Utilizing the explicit teaching of English through all disciplines as a direct approach to addressing the needs of English Language Learners is one of our retention strategies.
5. Staying true to our mission by welcoming students with disabilities as students with disabilities also have special interests/talents which are strengths that they use to learn at high levels and contribute to the school community.
6. Reaching out to less informed parents through ethnic newspapers, radio stations, community faith-based organization, local organizations (community centers, youth programs, etc.) and businesses (beauty parlors, laundry mats, local stores that provide ethnic specific products, etc.). We will provide literature in English and Spanish and utilize established relationships in the community to translate to parents of African ethnicity that may have an oral but no written language.

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

- Contacted daycare centers to get parent input/feedback
  - Positive collaborative response from charter schools serving same population
  - Informally surveyed parents of the community to gather input/needs.
  - Initial conversations with Community Board 4 District Manager Jose Rodriguez
  - Contacted the community council members Helen Foster and James Vacca
  - Began conversations with Bronxworks regarding partnering efforts
  - Secured the support of Assemblyman Keith Wright's Office
  - Established advisory relationship with James Bernard, a Special Advisor of Brooklyn Prospect Charter School
- Initial assessment of sufficient interest in the proposed charter school
- Positive response from neighboring charter school which all have an extensive waiting list. They are responsive to a peer-school. They see another charter school as an option for parents on their waiting list.
  - Responses from day care centers provide evidence of interest as parents have voiced their concerns about the limited options that exist
  - Based on informal parent surveys, in this high poverty community, low-income parents are seeking alternatives to the persistently low achieving elementary schools in the community receiving grades D-F on their School Report Cards.

LaKiesha George \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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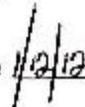
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LaKiesha George



Date



**School Trustee Background Information**

Each proposed or prospective charter school board member must provide the information requested below.

**Name: Sharonne Salaam**\_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Name: New Generation o Scholars Charter School**\_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Address: TBD**\_\_\_\_\_

To which charter school board position(s) and/or offices(s) are you asking to be appointed? (e.g., member, parent representative, vice-president, Finance committee, etc.): Initial Board Member\_\_\_\_\_

As you may know, serving on a public charter school board of trustees (“board”) is a position of great trust and responsibility. As a member of a public charter school’s board, you are charged with overseeing the education of all students enrolled in the school, as well as the expenditure of public monies directed to the charter school.

The Department’s consent is required **before** any new member may serve on the board. Accordingly, and in order to properly evaluate proposed board members, we ask that you please provide full and complete answers to each of the items below and provide the required assurance indicated. Note that providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information may lead to a withdrawal of the Department’s approval, nullifying your appointment to the board.

**Background**

1. Please provide your educational and employment history. You may do so by attaching a résumé.  Resume Attached  
Sharonne Salaam, Director of People United for Children, received her B.A. from Empire State College and an A.A.S. from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Born in Alabama, Ms. Salaam had been working for fourteen years in the fashion design industry when her involvement in the Harlem community brought her to become a member of Mother Love, an organization dedicated to working with individuals and families from Harlem neighborhoods to raise awareness about the criminal justice system and to provide training in how to navigate the courts and legal system. Perceiving the need for a grassroots organization that could become a bridge between the community and incarcerated children, she founded People United for Children (PUC), which began the incorporation process in 1992. Elected chairperson, and later becoming executive director of PUC and working with volunteers from the Harlem community. Ms. Salaam took courses at the School of Social Work and at Teachers College in photography.

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2. Please affirm that you are or will be at least eighteen years old at the time of your appointment/election to the board.  I affirm.
3. Please affirm that you have read Article 56 of the New York State Education Law, and understand the relationship between a charter school and the authorized chartering entity as defined in that statute.  I affirm.
4. Please indicate how you became aware of the charter school and the opportunity to serve as a member of its board.

I became aware of the charter school through the lead applicant, LaKiesha George. She discussed with me in person that the charter school is in the early developing stages and asked if I would join of the planning Team. Eventually, the request was made that I consider becoming a board member of the school.

5. Please explain why you wish to serve on the board.  
I wish to serve on the board because I have spent many years advocating for the rights of children, I believe this opportunity will allow me to continue my work as a child advocate.
6. Please indicate whether you have previously served or are currently serving on a board of a school district, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 1, above). In addition, please describe any other experience, knowledge or skills you feel is relevant to service on the charter school board.  This does not apply to me.  Yes. (Include description here):

I was the elected chairperson, and then later became the executive director of People United for Children. I worked with volunteers from the Harlem community, to focus PUC's efforts on children in prisons in the eastern region of New York State, over seventy percent of whom were legal residents of New York City. The organization served seven hundred children in five facilities, PUC's volunteers provided home-cooked meals, entertainment, and support in preparing children for life after prison. By 1996, responding to the needs of community families, PUC had become one of the community's best-informed advocates for foster care children, providing support for parents of children in foster care who were struggling in court to bring their families together again. Thus, I believe my expertise in community outreach and governance is relevant to serving on the board of a charter school.

7. Please indicate whether or not you have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.  
 This does not apply to me.  Yes.  
If the answer to this question is yes, please provide the following details regarding your conviction(s): (1) the name of the criminal offense(s); (2) whether the criminal offense(s) was a misdemeanor or felony; (3) the facts and circumstances surrounding your conviction(s); (4) the date(s) of your conviction(s); and (5) the date(s) of disposition(s).

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Your response to question seven may also include any relevant written information that you wish to be considered in support of your application, including, but not limited to: certificates of conviction; any parole and/or probation documentation; any certificates, including any certificate of relief from disabilities; any proof of counseling and/or rehabilitation; any documentation attesting to your good conduct or your good character; and any letters of support from friends, family, co-workers, employers, etc.

8. Please indicate if you currently have any criminal charge(s) pending against you in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide an explanation.

### Conflict of Interest

9. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any of the other prospective or current board members.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If your answer is yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here:  
I know Melvin Alston through his work at the Administration of Children Services (ACS) because People United for Children (PUC) dealt with families of children in the foster care system.

10. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any person who is a prospective or current charter school employee.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here:  
I know the lead applicant, LaKiesha George. She is a former employee of People United for Children.

11. Please indicate if you, your spouse, or other family member or any corporation, business or other entity in which you, your spouse or other family member serve as an employee, officer, or director or own a controlling interest in, contracts or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, including but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the charter school.

No.  Yes.

If yes, please describe the nature of the contract or business and, if applicable, the relationship of the person to the corporation, business or entity involved:

12. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider (a management company, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), please indicate whether you, your spouse, or any family member knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If your answer is in the affirmative, please

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describe any such relationship.

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

13. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member has a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, please provide a detailed description.

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we have no such interest.  Yes.

14. If the charter school is partnered with an educational services provider, please indicate if you, your spouse or other family member anticipates conducting, or is conducting, any business with the provider. If so, please indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business.  Yes.

15. Please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member is a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or is otherwise associated with, any organization which filed an application in conjunction with the charter school, i.e., is partnered with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to items 9-12, you may so indicate.  This does not apply to me, my spouse or other family members.  Yes.

16. Please indicate the potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests (if any) that would, or are likely to, exist should you be approved for service on the charter school's board.

None  Yes

17. Please explain how you would handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the charter school's board are involved in working for their own benefit, or the benefit of their friends and family.

If I suspected a potential conflict of interest, or that a board member was self dealing or involved in working for the benefit of their friends and/or family I would bring this matter to the attention of the board. Then, the board will consult the by-laws regarding conflict of interest and act in accordance to the by-laws. I will do everything in my power to ensure the best interest of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

18. Please explain your understanding of the charter school's mission and/or philosophy.

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New Generations of Scholars (NGS) believes all children should have a special talent or interest which they should be given the opportunity to explore because children learn through their strengths. It is the mission of the school to use children's strength to motivate them to succeed at high levels.

19. Please explain your understanding of the educational program of the charter school.

The educational program of New Generation of Scholars (NGS) incorporates learning labs, special interest groups, a teacher's academy and the explicit teaching of English Language Arts and Math in every discipline.

20. Please indicate what you believe to be the characteristics of a successful charter school. In particular, please provide the specific steps you think the board of the charter school will need to take to ensure that this charter school is and remains successful.

A successful charter school has a sound standards-based curriculum, uses assessments to direct instruction, is fiscally viable and a leader in the educational community of best practices.

To ensure a successful charter school, a board must:

- Define the mission
- Establish parameters for the school program
- Set policies and amend as necessary
- Establish measurable goals
- Ensure adequate resources
- Hold school leader accountable
- Advocate for the school
- Formulate long-term strategic plans

### Other

21. Please explain your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member.

A public charter school board member has a fiduciary responsibility of governing the school. It is the board members role to:

- Attend meetings and enable quorum
- Participate in board decisions
- Lend expertise to board deliberations
- Contribute to the school
- Advocate for the school
- Self-evaluate participation
- Maintain confidentiality
- Identify conflict of interest

22. Please affirm that you have read and understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies.

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I affirm that I have read and I understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies.

23. Please provide any other information that you feel is pertinent to the Department's review.

I have been an advocate for children for many years. I believe that New Generations of Scholars is an innovative school and it is a much needed endeavor in this community of the Bronx. We have committed board members and strong believers in education who are prepared to work together to educate children.

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A Statement of Assurance must be signed by and submitted for each proposed Board Member.

**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

SHARONNE SALAAM (name of proposed board member) state that I am the applicant for board member approval and I have read the questionnaire and any supporting documents and know the contents thereof; that the same is true to my knowledge except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe it to be true and further acknowledge that I am aware of the fact that, pursuant to Penal Law §175.30, a person who knowingly offers a false instrument for filing to a public official or public servant is guilty of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Sharonne Salaam Signature 1-13-12 Date

*Please note that this document is considered a public record and as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. Personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

**Business Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>School Trustee Background Information</b>
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Each proposed or prospective charter school board member must provide the information requested below.

**Name:** Arlene P. Aswad

**Charter School Name:** New Generation of Scholars

**Charter School Address:** TBD

To which charter school board position(s) and/or offices(s) are you asking to be appointed? (e.g., member, parent representative, vice-president, Finance committee, etc.): Initial Board Member

As you may know, serving on a public charter school board of trustees (“board”) is a position of great trust and responsibility. As a member of a public charter school’s board, you are charged with overseeing the education of all students enrolled in the school, as well as the expenditure of public monies directed to the charter school.

The Department’s consent is required **before** any new member may serve on the board. Accordingly, and in order to properly evaluate proposed board members, we ask that you please provide full and complete answers to each of the items below and provide the required assurance indicated. Note that providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information may lead to a withdrawal of the Department’s approval, nullifying your appointment to the board.

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2. Please affirm that you are or will be at least eighteen years old at the time of your appointment/election to the board.  I affirm
3. Please affirm that you have read Article 56 of the New York State Education Law, and understand the relationship between a charter school and the authorized chartering entity as defined in that statute.  I affirm
4. Ms. LaKiesha George, lead applicant introduced me to New Generations of Scholars through a phone call. She informed me that the charter school is in its early stages of development and asked if I would participate on the Planning Team to lend my expertise in education. Eventually, the lead applicant invited me to serve on the Board of Trustees for New Generations of Scholars Charter School.

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5. Simply put, I wish to serve on the board, perhaps a bit of a cliché, *I want to help change the world*. Education changes the world. I believe that all children deserve a quality education and I want to be a part of that process. I want to help make a difference in the lives of children and I am willing to lend my experience and expertise to make New Generations of Scholars a healthy academic choice for parents. There is a definite need for more quality schools in this world.
6. I am not serving on any board at this time, nor have I ever served on a school board. I have a passion for education and educating children. I believe my life experiences will be of some use to this charter school.
7. Please indicate whether or not you have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.  
 This does not apply to me.
8. Please indicate if you currently have any criminal charge(s) pending against you in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.  
 This does not apply to me.

### **Conflict of Interest**

9. Ms. LaKiesha George and I were colleagues at P.S.114, the school where I am currently employed.
10. My son has currently applied to work at a school in Manhattan, I am not aware of the name of the school at this time. If it is necessary and he becomes employed there I will supply its name.
11. Please indicate if you, your spouse, or other family member or any corporation, business or other entity in which you, your spouse or other family member serve as an employee, officer, or director or own a controlling interest in, contracts or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, including but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the charter school.  
 No.
12. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider (a management company, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), please indicate whether you, your spouse, or any family member knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If your answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.  
 I / we do not know any such persons.
13. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member has a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

any interest indicated, please provide a detailed description.

I / we have no such interest.

14. If the charter school is partnered with an educational services provider, please indicate if you, your spouse or other family member anticipates conducting, or is conducting, any business with the provider. If so, please indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.  
 I do not anticipate conducting any such business.
15. Please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member is a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or is otherwise associated with, any organization which filed an application in conjunction with the charter school, i.e., is partnered with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to items 9-12, you may so indicate.  This does not apply to me, my spouse or other family members.
16. Please indicate the potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests (if any) that would, or are likely to, exist should you be approved for service on the charter school's board.  
 None
17. I would handle this situation by following the protocols of the by-laws. Initially, I would bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Trustees so that it could be investigated and determined by counsel whether or not the situation is indeed a conflict of interest to direct its actions. Lastly, as a board member, I am obligated to act and serve in the best interest of its members, the school, and other stakeholder. Hence I would disclose any suspected conflict of interests so that the board could make an informed decision regarding the matter.

### **Educational Philosophy**

18. New Generations of Scholars believes every child has a special interest and/ or talent within the areas of The Arts, Technology, Physical Education and Health Science. If given the opportunity to explore their interest and/or talent when fused with Core Academics students will be motivated to achieve at high levels in all disciplines.
19. New Generation of Scholars (NGS) educational program provides elementary students especially English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Economically disadvantaged students with an innovative approach to education. Their educational programs utilizes special interest groups, ungraded standard-based learning labs, data-driven instruction, explicit teaching of literacy and math through all disciplines framework and a Teacher's Academy to provide student-centered, meaningful, engaging, enthusiastic and standards-based learning

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

experiences to educate children at high levels.

20. These are the characteristics of a successful charter school in my belief:
  - A fiscally sound non-profit entity
  - A high performing innovative academic institution that fosters student and teacher achievement
  - A leader and partner in disseminating best practices in the education community that will lead to change.

To ensure the success of New Generations of Scholars, the Board of Trustees needs to:

1. Establish clear by-laws that will enable board members to govern the school.
2. Establish clear, efficient policies that will govern the school and enable an effective school leader to carry out the school's mission.
3. Have reflective measures to self assess board performance, board member performance, and committees. Also, they must have reflective measures that will evaluate the school leader.
4. Establish communication systems whereby the school leader reports information to the board that speaks directly to the accountability indicators of the charter to ensure full alignment of the board's performance and its accountability measures.
5. Be active members who provide access to their expertise, along with their network of people to ensure the school leader is getting efficient support in carrying out the school's mission.

### **Other**

21. Charter school board members are responsible for governing the school to ensure that it delivers its mission. This responsibility includes school oversight through school policies, ensuring financial viability through regular assessments of the school's budget, and ensuring the feasibility of program design through accountability measures. As a board member, my role is to support the school leader to ensure that the school's mission is being fulfilled.
22. I affirm that I have read and understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies.
23. I would like the opportunity to serve on the board of New Generations of Scholars because I believe in the mission of the school. Children should not only have the right to receive a free and appropriate education, quality schools need to exist in all communities so that children can exercise their rights to education.



**Arlene P. Aswad**

**Profile** – Dedicated educator committed to working with members on both curriculum-based tasks, as well as life lessons as they arise. I am a creative problem solver, with the capacity to work well as part of a group or independently. **Educator, Team Builder, Communicator**

**Experience**

**Sept. - Present** **PS114X** **Bronx, New York**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade ICT teacher** – responsible for the general education portion of the class

Sept. 2007- June 2011- AIS/AEC Teacher

- responsible for the AEC room
- small group instruction with selected students

**Aug. 2005 –Aug.2007** **PS/MS 4X** **Bronx, New York**

**Assistant Principal**

- Supervised Early childhood grades (K-2)

**Mar. 2003 – Jun. 2005** **PS70X** **Bronx, New York**

**Assistant Principal**

- Supervised 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Testing Coordinator

**Aug. 2002 – Apr. 2003** **FDA II** **Bronx, New York**

**Assistant Principal**

- Supervised and monitored 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> grades
- Supervised a staff of 12 , taught classes when necessary  
*(Before this assignment I was a classroom teacher at P.S. 63 for 17 years teaching grades K-5 before taking a sabbatical to attend Bank Street's P.I.)*

**Education**

**Sept. 1999 – May 2001** **Bank Street College of Education** **New York, N.Y.**

**Masters of Science Supervision and Administration**

Completed Citywide Cohort 14 of Principals Institute

**References**

*References are available on request*

<b>School Trustee Background Information</b>
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Each proposed or prospective charter school board member must provide the information requested below.

**Name:** Isaac K. Capers \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Name:** New Generation of Scholars \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Address:** TBD \_\_\_\_\_

To which charter school board position(s) and/or offices(s) are you asking to be appointed? (e.g., member, parent representative, vice-president, Finance committee, etc.): Initial Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

As you may know, serving on a public charter school board of trustees (“board”) is a position of great trust and responsibility. As a member of a public charter school’s board, you are charged with overseeing the education of all students enrolled in the school, as well as the expenditure of public monies directed to the charter school.

The Department’s consent is required **before** any new member may serve on the board. Accordingly, and in order to properly evaluate proposed board members, we ask that you please provide full and complete answers to each of the items below and provide the required assurance indicated. Note that providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information may lead to a withdrawal of the Department’s approval, nullifying your appointment to the board. Kenny

**Background**

1. Please provide your educational and employment history. You may do so by attaching a résumé. I graduated from SUNY College at Old Westbury in Long Island, NY with a BA in American Studies. I have been working as a financial analyst for the past 12 years with Primerica, a financial services marketing firm. I am a Regional Vice President.
2. Please affirm that you are or will be at least eighteen years old at the time of your appointment/election to the board.  I affirm.
3. Please affirm that you have read Article 56 of the New York State Education Law, and understand the relationship between a charter school and the authorized chartering entity as defined in that statute.  I affirm.
4. Please indicate how you became aware of the charter school and the opportunity to serve as a member of its board. The lead applicant, LaKiesha George, introduced me to New Generations of Scholars through a phone call. She informed me that the charter school is in its early stages of development and

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

asked if I would participate on the Planning Team to lend my expertise in finances to assist with the development of the school's budget. Eventually, the lead applicant asked if I would consider serving on the Board of Trustees for New Generations of Scholars Charter School.

5. Please explain why you wish to serve on the board. I wish to serve on the board because I believe that children not only have the right to a sound education, but the opportunity to receive said education should exist.

I wish to serve on the board because I believe in children and I want to help create a school that will serve a profound purpose. Without education, children have nothing and it is our responsibility as members of this society to not only speak about change, but actually bring about change. I want to do my part. I want to serve on the board to be the change that I want children to see.

6. Please indicate whether you have previously served or are currently serving on a board of a school district, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 1, above). In addition, please describe any other experience, knowledge or skills you feel is relevant to service on the charter school board.  This does not apply to me.  Yes. (Include description here):

7. Please indicate whether or not you have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide the following details regarding your conviction(s): (1) the name of the criminal offense(s); (2) whether the criminal offense(s) was a misdemeanor or felony; (3) the facts and circumstances surrounding your conviction(s); (4) the date(s) of your conviction(s); and (5) the date(s) of disposition(s).

Your response to question seven may also include any relevant written information that you wish to be considered in support of your application, including, but not limited to: certificates of conviction; any parole and/or probation documentation; any certificates, including any certificate of relief from disabilities; any proof of counseling and/or rehabilitation; any documentation attesting to your good conduct or your good character; and any letters of support from friends, family, co-workers, employers, etc.

8. Please indicate if you currently have any criminal charge(s) pending against you in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide an explanation.

### **Conflict of Interest**

NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

9. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any of the other prospective or current board members.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If your answer is yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here: I did not know any of the current board members prior to joining the founding team of the charter school.

10. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any person who is a prospective or current charter school employee.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here: The lead applicant, LaKiesha George is a client of mine through Primerica, a financial services marketing firm whose mission is to help families become properly protected, debt-free and financially independent. Additionally, LaKiesha is one of my team recruits. She is an independent, licensed insurance representative of Primerica. I am the Regional Vice President that oversees her business transactions and compliance with Primerica.

11. Please indicate if you, your spouse, or other family member or any corporation, business or other entity in which you, your spouse or other family member serve as an employee, officer, or director or own a controlling interest in, contracts or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, including but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the charter school.

No.  Yes.

If yes, please describe the nature of the contract or business and, if applicable, the relationship of the person to the corporation, business or entity involved: My spouse and I did not plan on doing business with the school when I was invited to join the planning team. However, Primerica is a financial services marketing firm. We offer financial solutions to both individuals and businesses. The lead applicant, LaKiesha George, requested information regarding 401ks, IRAs, and other employee retirement tools offered by Primerica so that the comparison to NYC's Teacher Retirement System can be made for budgeting purposes as the school is still researching employee benefit solutions. Thus, New Generations of Scholars Charter School may or may not enter into business with Primerica for employee retirement solutions.

Additionally, LaKiesha, the lead applicant, during planning meetings informed me that investing is a fundraising strategy she wants the school to employ and propose to the board. As a financial service provider, she requested my expertise in investment opportunities that will allow the school to raise funds, so that she can present a few options to the board. As such, there is or there may not be a potential for New Generations of Scholars Charter School entering into business with Primerica for investment solutions.

NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

12. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider (a management company, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), please indicate whether you, your spouse, or any family member knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If your answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.
13. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member has a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, please provide a detailed description.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we have no such interest.  Yes.
14. If the charter school is partnered with an educational services provider, please indicate if you, your spouse or other family member anticipates conducting, or is conducting, any business with the provider. If so, please indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business.  Yes.
15. Please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member is a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or is otherwise associated with, any organization which filed an application in conjunction with the charter school, i.e., is partnered with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to items 9-12, you may so indicate.  This does not apply to me, my spouse or other family members.  Yes.
16. Please indicate the potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests (if any) that would, or are likely to, exist should you be approved for service on the charter school's board.  
 None  Yes See response to question 10 above. In the event of a potential ethical or legal conflict of interest, I would recuse myself from any action that could be construed as a conflict of interest including, but not limited to discussion and voting.
17. Please explain how you would handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the charter school's board are involved in working for their own benefit, or the benefit of their friends and family.  
I would notify the board chair/board of trustees immediately and take the necessary steps needed to protect the interest of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

18. Please explain your understanding of the charter school's mission and/or philosophy.  
New Generations of Scholars believes every child has a talent and children will be motivated to learn in all subjects through their strengths/talents if they are given the chance to do so. NGS believes that education should be centered around a child and it should be innovative as well as meet children where they are while allowing them to progress at their own pace.
19. Please explain your understanding of the educational program of the charter school.  
New Generation of Scholars (NGS) educational program provides at-risk elementary students with an innovative approach to education. Their educational programs utilizes special interest groups, ungraded standards-based learning labs, data-driven instruction, a Teacher's Academy, explicit teaching of literacy and math through all disciplines framework to provide student-centered, meaningful, engaging, enthusiastic and standards-based learning experiences to educate children at high levels.
20. Please indicate what you believe to be the characteristics of a successful charter school. In particular, please provide the specific steps you think the board of the charter school will need to take to ensure that this charter school is and remains successful.

These are the characteristics of a successful charter school in my belief:

1. A sustainable non-profit business
2. A school with a sound curriculum that meets the needs of its students
3. A high-performing school providing evidence of academic excellence

To ensure the success of New Generations of Scholars, the Board of Trustees needs to:

1. Establish clear by-laws that will enable board members to govern the school.
2. Establish clear, efficient policies that will govern the school and enable an effective school leader to carry out the school's mission.
3. Have reflective measures to self assess board performance, board member performance, and board committees. Also, the board must have reflective measures that will evaluate the school leader.
4. Establish communication systems whereby the school leader reports information to the board that speaks directly to the accountability indicators of the charter to ensure full alignment of the board's performance and its accountability measures.
5. Be active members who provide access to their expertise, along with their network of people to ensure the school leader is getting efficient support in carrying out the school's mission.

**Other**

21. Please explain your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member.  
Charter school board members are responsible for governing the school to ensure that it delivers its mission. It is a board member's role to counsel, offer advice, and support the school leader. A board member is a representative of the school governing body and has fiduciary responsibility to ensure the best interest of the school at all times.
22. Please affirm that you have read and understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies.  
Yes, I affirm.
23. Please provide any other information that you feel is pertinent to the Department's review.  
I would like the opportunity to serve on the board of New Generations of Scholars because I believe in the mission of the school. Every child has a talent. Every child has something they can offer to society. If children are able to see how talented they are and learn through their talents, they will be able to access many disciplines as there is reading, writing, science, math, and social studies in talent.



<b>School Trustee Background Information</b>
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Each proposed or prospective charter school board member must provide the information requested below.

**Name:** Melvin Alston

**Charter School Name:** New Generation of Scholars Charter School (NGS)

**Charter School Address:** TBD

To which charter school board position(s) and/or offices(s) are you asking to be appointed? (e.g., member, parent representative, vice-president, Finance committee, etc.): Initial Board Member

As you may know, serving on a public charter school board of trustees (“board”) is a position of great trust and responsibility. As a member of a public charter school’s board, you are charged with overseeing the education of all students enrolled in the school, as well as the expenditure of public monies directed to the charter school.

The Department’s consent is required **before** any new member may serve on the board. Accordingly, and in order to properly evaluate proposed board members, we ask that you please provide full and complete answers to each of the items below and provide the required assurance indicated. Note that providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information may lead to a withdrawal of the Department’s approval, nullifying your appointment to the board.

### **Background**

8. Please provide your educational and employment history. You may do so by attaching a résumé.  Resume Attached

Legislative and Political Action VP Melvin Alston

For the past 20 years Mr. Alston has served in various leadership capacities with the New York City Administration for Children Services (ACS). Most recently, he has devoted his political and community expertise to ACS’ division of Community and Government Affairs. During his tenure with ACS he has been a leading advocate for the growth of mentoring as a strategy for youth development and family permanency. In 2003 he was honored as the ACS mentor of the year.

After serving in Viet Nam during the 1960s, Alston graduated from New York University School of Social Work with a Masters Degree in 2008, with a focus on community organizing. Mr. Alston is the Vice President and Fundraising Chairman of the Frederick E. Samuel Community Democratic Club. In addition to his community service, Alston is a co-founder of *Harlem Men Stand Up*, a catalytic organization created in 2006 that provides African American and Latino men with resources, training, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen their

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

ability to lead their families and communities. *Harlem Men Stand Up* produces quarterly empowerment summits where men and women gather to network and gain information to improve themselves and their communities.

9. Please affirm that you are or will be at least eighteen years old at the time of your appointment/election to the board.  I affirm.

10. Please affirm that you have read Article 56 of the New York State Education Law, and understand the relationship between a charter school and the authorized chartering entity as defined in that statute.  I affirm.

11. Please indicate how you became aware of the charter school and the opportunity to serve as a member of its board.

Ms. Sharonne Salaam, introduced the lead applicant, LaKiesha George to me. We spoke briefly about the New Generation of Scholars Charter School (NGS) and continued our conversation through email, telephone and in-person communication. I became aware of the Charter School's mission, philosophy and program design as well as its need for board members.

12. Please explain why you wish to serve on the board.

I have been working for children for the past 20 years. I am an advocate for children and I want to further my work in giving back. Serving on the Board of New Generations of Scholars will allow me to fulfill my goal of giving back.

13. Please indicate whether you have previously served or are currently serving on a board of a school district, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 1, above). In addition, please describe any other experience, knowledge or skills you feel is relevant to service on the charter school board.  This does not apply to me.  Yes. (Include description here):

14. Please indicate whether or not you have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide the following details regarding your conviction(s): (1) the name of the criminal offense(s); (2) whether the criminal offense(s) was a misdemeanor or felony; (3) the facts and circumstances surrounding your conviction(s); (4) the date(s) of your conviction(s); and (5) the date(s) of disposition(s).

Your response to question seven may also include any relevant written information that you wish to be considered in support of your application, including, but not limited to: certificates of conviction; any parole and/or probation documentation; any certificates, including any certificate of relief from disabilities; any proof of counseling and/or rehabilitation; any documentation attesting to your good conduct or your good

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

character; and any letters of support from friends, family, co-workers, employers, etc.

8. Please indicate if you currently have any criminal charge(s) pending against you in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide an explanation.

### Conflict of Interest

9. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any of the other prospective or current board members.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If your answer is yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here: I know Ms. Sharonne Salaam through my work with the Administration for Children Services.

10. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any person who is a prospective or current charter school employee.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here: I was introduced to the lead applicant, LaKiesha George by Sharonne Salaam.

11. Please indicate if you, your spouse, or other family member or any corporation, business or other entity in which you, your spouse or other family member serve as an employee, officer, or director or own a controlling interest in, contracts or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, including but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the charter school.

No.  Yes.

If yes, please describe the nature of the contract or business and, if applicable, the relationship of the person to the corporation, business or entity involved:

12. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider (a management company, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), please indicate whether you, your spouse, or any family member knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If your answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

13. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member has a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, please provide a detailed description.

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we have no such interest.  Yes.

14. If the charter school is partnered with an educational services provider, please indicate if you, your spouse or other family member anticipates conducting, or is conducting, any business with the provider. If so, please indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.

I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business.  Yes.

15. Please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member is a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or is otherwise associated with, any organization which filed an application in conjunction with the charter school, i.e., is partnered with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to items 9-12, you may so indicate.  This does not apply to me, my spouse or other family members.  Yes.

16. Please indicate the potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests (if any) that would, or are likely to, exist should you be approved for service on the charter school's board.

None  Yes

17. Please explain how you would handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the charter school's board are involved in working for their own benefit, or the benefit of their friends and family.

If I suspected a member of the charter school's board was involved in self-dealing or working to benefit their friends and/or family, I would bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Trustees and take the necessary steps to protect the interest of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

18. Please explain your understanding of the charter school's mission and/or philosophy.

New Generation of Scholars (NGS) is a school that believes in the whole child. Talent strengthens academics and it is the mission of this school to bring out a child's strength so that he/she can learn at high levels.

19. Please explain your understanding of the educational program of the charter school.

New Generation of Scholars (NGS) uses special interest groups, learning labs, explicit teaching of English and Math in all disciplines and a teacher's academy to provide children with a quality standards-based education.

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

20. Please indicate what you believe to be the characteristics of a successful charter school. In particular, please provide the specific steps you think the board of the charter school will need to take to ensure that this charter school is and remains successful.

A successful charter school is financially viable, academically sound, and a leader/partner of the community that improves upon best educational practices. In order to ensure that this charter school is and remains successful, I think the board needs to:

1. Put children first when making their decisions
2. Establish clear communications with the school leader
3. Be active board members who provide support to the school leader
4. Have accountable measures that speak to the performance indicators of its charter
5. Have processes to determine and utilize best practices in the area of finance, academics, and leadership

### Other

21. Please explain your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member.

A public charter school board member has a fiduciary responsibility of governing the school to ensure that the school stays true to its mission.

22. Please affirm that you have read and understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies.

I affirm that I have read and I understand the charter school application, by-laws and proposed policies.

23. Please provide any other information that you feel is pertinent to the Department's review.

I am committed and passionate about creating empowerment opportunities for children and families. Education empowers. I would like the opportunity to serve on a school board that will empower children and families through education because I am an advocate for all children.

NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

A Statement of Assurance must be signed by and submitted for each proposed Board Member.

**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

I, Melvin Astor (name of proposed board member) state that I am the applicant for board member approval and I have read the questionnaire and any supporting documents and know the contents thereof; that the same is true to my knowledge except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe it to be true and further acknowledge that I am aware of the fact that, pursuant to Penal Law §175.30, a person who knowingly offers a false instrument for filing to a public official or public servant is guilty of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor.

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date 4/14/12

*Please note that this document is considered a public record and as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. Personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

Business Telephone: [Redacted]  
Business Address: [Redacted]  
E-Mail Address: [Redacted]  
Home Telephone: [Redacted]  
Home Address: [Redacted]

**School Trustee Background Information**

Each proposed or prospective charter school board member must provide the information requested below.

**Name:** LaKiesha George \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Name:** New Generation of Scholars Charter School \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter School Address:** TBD \_\_\_\_\_

To which charter school board position(s) and/or offices(s) are you asking to be appointed? (e.g., member, parent representative, vice-president, Finance committee, etc.): Initial Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

As you may know, serving on a public charter school board of trustees (“board”) is a position of great trust and responsibility. As a member of a public charter school’s board, you are charged with overseeing the education of all students enrolled in the school, as well as the expenditure of public monies directed to the charter school.

The Department’s consent is required **before** any new member may serve on the board. Accordingly, and in order to properly evaluate proposed board members, we ask that you please provide full and complete answers to each of the items below and provide the required assurance indicated. Note that providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information may lead to a withdrawal of the Department’s approval, nullifying your appointment to the board.

**Background**

- 15. Please provide your educational and employment history. You may do so by attaching a résumé.  Resume Attached
- 16. Please affirm that you are or will be at least eighteen years old at the time of your appointment/election to the board.  I affirm.
- 17. Please affirm that you have read Article 56 of the New York State Education Law, and understand the relationship between a charter school and the authorized chartering entity as defined in that statute.  I affirm.
- 18. Please indicate how you became aware of the charter school and the opportunity to serve as a member of its board. I am the lead applicant/founder of the school.
- 19. Please explain why you wish to serve on the board. I wish to serve on the board because I believe in the mission of the school and I am passionate about giving students a choice through education.

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20. Please indicate whether you have previously served or are currently serving on a board of a school district, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 1, above). In addition, please describe any other experience, knowledge or skills you feel is relevant to service on the charter school board.  This does not apply to me.  Yes. (Include description here):

21. Please indicate whether or not you have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor and/or felony in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide the following details regarding your conviction(s): (1) the name of the criminal offense(s); (2) whether the criminal offense(s) was a misdemeanor or felony; (3) the facts and circumstances surrounding your conviction(s); (4) the date(s) of your conviction(s); and (5) the date(s) of disposition(s).

Your response to question seven may also include any relevant written information that you wish to be considered in support of your application, including, but not limited to: certificates of conviction; any parole and/or probation documentation; any certificates, including any certificate of relief from disabilities; any proof of counseling and/or rehabilitation; any documentation attesting to your good conduct or your good character; and any letters of support from friends, family, co-workers, employers, etc.

8. Please indicate if you currently have any criminal charge(s) pending against you in state or federal court in any jurisdiction.

This does not apply to me.  Yes.

If the answer to this question is yes, please provide an explanation.

### Conflict of Interest

9. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any of the other prospective or current board members.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If your answer is yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here:

I know Sharonne Salaam through People United for Children. She was my former employer. I know Arlene Asward through my prior work as a teacher at P.S. 114. I know Isaac Capers, through Primerica. I am a client of his as well as a team recruit.

10. Please indicate whether you, your spouse, or other family member knows any person who is a prospective or current charter school employee.

I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.

If yes, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship here:

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11. Please indicate if you, your spouse, or other family member or any corporation, business or other entity in which you, your spouse or other family member serve as an employee, officer, or director or own a controlling interest in, contracts or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, including but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the charter school.  
 No.  Yes.  
If yes, please describe the nature of the contract or business and, if applicable, the relationship of the person to the corporation, business or entity involved:
12. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider (a management company, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), please indicate whether you, your spouse, or any family member knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If your answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we do not know any such persons.  Yes.
13. If the charter school is partnered with an educational service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member has a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, please provide a detailed description.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we have no such interest.  Yes.
14. If the charter school is partnered with an educational services provider, please indicate if you, your spouse or other family member anticipates conducting, or is conducting, any business with the provider. If so, please indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.  
 Not applicable because the School does not/will not contract with a management company or charter management organization.  
 I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business.  Yes.
15. Please indicate whether you, your spouse or other family member is a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or is otherwise associated with, any organization which filed an application in conjunction with the charter school, i.e., is partnered with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to items 9-12, you may so indicate.  This does not apply to me, my spouse or other family members.  Yes.
16. Please indicate the potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests (if any) that would, or are likely to, exist should you be approved for service on the charter school's board.  
 None  Yes

## NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

17. Please explain how you would handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the charter school's board are involved in working for their own benefit, or the benefit of their friends and family. If I believed a board member was working for his/her own interest or that of his friends/family, I would bring this matter to the attention of the board of trustees and follow the protocols set out in the by-laws. Ultimately, it is my responsibility to act in a manner that is in the best interest of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

18. Please explain your understanding of the charter school's mission and/or philosophy. New Generation of Scholars uses a child's special interest/talent as an intrinsic motivation that will propel students to achieve at high levels in all disciplines because their interest/talent is at the heart of learning.
19. Please explain your understanding of the educational program of the charter school. New Generation of Scholars uses a student-centered curriculum guided by special interest groups known as Talented Scholars, hands-on, ungraded learning labs, data-driven instruction and a teacher's academy to provide at risk children a standards-based education.
20. Please indicate what you believe to be the characteristics of a successful charter school. In particular, please provide the specific steps you think the board of the charter school will need to take to ensure that this charter school is and remains successful. A successful charter school is one that is able to fulfill its mission. It educates all children at high levels which is evidence by academic performance. Moreover, a successful charter needs to be financially and academically viable. There is a strong school culture that demands excellence and is always growing, improving, enhancing and sharing best practices as learning is never done.

### **Other**

21. Please explain your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member. A public charter school board member has a fiduciary responsibility to the community. He/she governs the school and is expected to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the school. A board member is an advocate for the school, a supporter of the school leader, an ear to the school community and a visual symbol of the school. His/her role is to ensure that the mission of the school is being fulfilled.
22. Please affirm that you have read and understand the charter school application, the charter school board's by-laws and all proposed policies. I affirm that I have read and I understand the charter school application, charter school board's by-laws and proposed policies.

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23. Please provide any other information that you feel is pertinent to the Department's review. Education is the single handed tool that can change generations. New Generation of Scholars will utilize that tool to create change education in the Bronx.

NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL LETTER OF INTENT

A Statement of Assurance must be signed by and submitted for each proposed Board Member.

**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

I, Lakiesha George (name of proposed board member) state that I am the applicant for board member approval and I have read the questionnaire and any supporting documents and know the contents thereof; that the same is true to my knowledge except as to those matters I believe it to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe it to be true and further acknowledge that I am aware of the fact that pursuant to Penal Law §175.30, a person who knowingly offers a false instrument for filing to a public official or public servant is guilty of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Lakiesha George Signature 11/2/12 Date

*Please note that this document is considered a public record and as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. Personal contact information provided below will be redacted.*

**Business Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LaKiesha I. George**

**Pedagogical Professional 1**

**SUMMARY**

Pedagogical Professional experienced with working in fast-paced environments demanding strong organizational, technical, and interpersonal skills. Trustworthy, ethical, and committed to providing an environment that supports high levels of learning. Confident and poised in interactions with individuals at all levels. I am detailed-oriented and resourceful in completing projects; able to multi-task effectively. Capabilities include:

- ◆ Planning and researching abilities
- ◆ Outstanding project management abilities
- ◆ Excellent organizational capability
- ◆ Analytical and problem solving abilities

**EXPERIENCE**

Sept. '04 - present  
Sept. '10 - June '11

**NYC Department of Education**  
**Saturday Academy Dance Coordinator/Instructor K-5**

- Create a dance curriculum which integrated reading, math, writing and social studies aligned to New York State Standards.
- Instruct Saturday classes, rehearsals and create choreography/performance material for grades K-5

Sept. '06 - June '08

**Grade Leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade & Common Branch Teacher**

- Create/Implement/Manage program activities for varying aspects of early childhood program instruction
- Serve as liaison for early childhood to faculty including principal, assistant principal, literacy coach, grade leaders
- Design and implement procedures for curriculum and continuous academic improvement
- Compose communications with teachers, literacy team and other staff members regarding varying matters
- Conduct complicated analyses and evaluations of curriculum and assessment materials used grade-wide for literacy and mathematics
- Provide professional recommendations to literacy team and math coach in regards to reading, writing and math programs
- Oversee general activities of early childhood grades
- Assist teachers in goal setting for their professional development
- Lead action research projects with teachers
- Facilitate grade-level planning meetings
- Serve as critical friend to colleagues by providing coaching and feedback
- Classroom serves as lab site for early childhood grades
- Conduct preplanning discussions along with demonstrations of lessons and debriefing with early childhood pedagogical staff members
- Continuous performance of all duties of common branch teacher

Sept. '04 - present

**Common Branch Teacher (1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>)**

- Implement and assume responsibility for all instructional activities
- Provide instruction to a class of 20+ students to meet individual student needs; use thematic holistic, active learning strategies to integrate curriculum

**LaKiesha I. George**

**Pedagogical Professional 2**

- Maintain student progress report and use ongoing assessment to plan instruction
- Meet with parents to discuss student progress
- Participate in professional development
- Attend professional development
- Perform related duties as required

**School Year**  
2007 - 2008

**Dance Performances**  
Christmas Holiday Show Grade 2 Michael Jackson, *Santa Claus is Coming*  
Black History Month Show Grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Poetry Slam Performance  
Festival of Nations 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Antiguan Dance

2008 - 2009

Black History Month Show Grades K - 4<sup>th</sup> *Just Fine by Mary J. Blige*  
Festival of Nations 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Brazilian Dance  
Be a Buddy Not a Bully Performance Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> *Lean On Me by Bill Withers*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poetry Slam Student Performances

2009 - 2010

Haiti Relief Fund Teacher Performance by Sean Paul  
Haiti Relief Student performance Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> *I Got A Feeling by Black Eye Peas*  
Black History Month Show Grades K - 4<sup>th</sup>  
Festival of Nations 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Moroccan Dance  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Poetry Slam Performance Grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, *Teach Me How To Jerk by Audio Push*

2010 - 2011

R.O.C.K.S. School Song 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
R.O.C.K.S. School Song 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Organize Performance  
Nursing Home Student Performance  
R.O.C.K.S. Assembly 4<sup>th</sup> grade Respect Performance  
Every Day is Black History Month Performances: *I Wish I Knew by Nina Simone, I didn't Know My Own Strength by Whitney Houston*

2009 - 2011

Parent Involvement Committee

2009 - 2010

School Leadership Team Co-chair

2008 - 2011

Black History Committee

2004 - present

After-School and Holiday Academy Teacher

**EDUCATION**

Mercy College (Bronx, NY)  
2006 MS Education

Lehman College (Bronx, NY)  
2004 BA Psychology/Minor English

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request