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LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL - 2015

All applicants must file a Letter of Intent at least 60 days prior to the application deadline of April 1, 2015. This letter must be delivered to the local board of education and the Tennessee Department of Education no later than February 2, 2015.

Submit the letter of intent via email to charter.schools@tn.gov.

Contact the local board of education to determine where to submit the letter of intent.

NAME OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL: East End Preparatory School K-8

CHARTERING AUTHORITY FOR PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:

MNPS Davidson County

SPONSOR/SPONSORING AGENCY: Martha O'Bryan Center

MODEL OR FOCUS OF PROPOSED SCHOOL: High School & College Preparation

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

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Marsha Edwards, CEO; Jim Leckrone, School Leader

MAILING ADDRESS: Martha O'Bryan Center, 711 South Seventh Street, Nashville TN 37206-3895

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: (615) 254-1791 ALTERNATE TELEPHONE: (615) 630-7470

E-MAIL ADDRESS: medwards@marthaobryan.org, jleckrone@eastendprep.org

NAME OF PROPOSED SCHOOL LEADER (if any): Jim Leckrone

REPLICATION APPLICATION: YES NO

Projected Year of School Opening: 2017

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

	GRADE LEVELS	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT
YEAR ONE	K	80
YEAR TWO	K-1	200 (amended charter based on demand)
YEAR THREE	K-2	300
YEAR FOUR	K-3	400 (current year)
YEAR FIVE	K-4	500
YEAR SIX	K-5	600
YEAR SEVEN	K-6 (1st year of this amendment)	700
YEAR EIGHT	K-7 (2nd year of this amendment)	800
YEAR NINE	K-8 (3rd year of this amendment)	900
YEAR TEN		

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

List all current and identified board members and their intended roles on the table below (attach additional names and information as needed).

FULL NAME	CURRENT JOB AND EMPLOYER	FOCUS/EXPERTISE*
Mark Bacurin	Partner, Milemark Partners LLC	Finance and Leadership
Ben Cundiff	Owner, Cundiff Farms	Strategic Planning
Marsha Edwards	President & CEO, Martha O'Bryan Center	Leadership, Strategic Planning, and Community Development
Melissa Halsell	Economic Development Program Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority	Community Outreach
Ted Helm	Owner, Modular Designs	Strategic Planning
Ebony Jackson	Parent Representative	Community Outreach (full Board list included as attachment)

**Community Service/Outreach, Legal Expertise/Attorney, Public Relations, Education, Management/Organizational Experience, Parent/Community Involvement, Finance, Marketing, Fundraising/Grant Writing, Personnel/Human Capital, Other (please elaborate)*

Please provide an abstract for your proposed school (two pages maximum). Please address the following elements:

- Mission and vision for the proposed school,
- Academic focus and plan,
- The need for the proposed school,
- The targeted population of students,
- Community outreach completed or planned, and
- Individual or organizational history of success/accomplishments in education

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Tennessee law limits who may sponsor a charter school and proscribes what type of entity may operate a charter school. T.C.A. § 49-13-104(7), 106(c). **Please read the following statements and confirm eligibility to submit an application and verify the status of or plans for the governing body.**

The sponsor of this charter school is not “a for-profit entity, a private elementary or secondary school, a post-secondary institution not accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [now AdvancEd], a religious or church school” and does not “promote the agenda of any religious denomination or religiously affiliated entity.”

Charter schools must be operated by entities that have exemption from federal taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check one of the following, as applicable:

The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization and has applied for 501(c)(3) status.

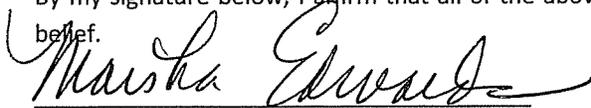
I will provide evidence of non-profit incorporation and 501(c)(3) status at the time of contracting with the chartering authority.

The complete Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act is contained in T. C.A. §§ 49-13-101 through 137, and in § 8-35-242. You can access Tennessee laws [here](#).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Please identify any potential conflicts of interest that you or any board member may have in the space below. This is in alignment with best practices for both non-profit and charter school governance and is also aligned with Tennessee Charter Law §49-13-111 (g), which reads “with regard to conflicts of interest, the governing body of a charter school shall be subject to TCA §§ 12-4-101 and 12-4-102. These portions of Tennessee law govern public contracts and personal interests of officers and boards of directors. If approved, board members will be subject to filing form SS-8805 with the district in which it resides.

By my signature below, I affirm that all of the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Signature

January 29, 2015

Date

Attachment – East End Preparatory School K-8 Abstract

Please provide an abstract for your proposed school (two pages maximum). Please address the following elements: mission and vision, academic focus and plan, need, targeted population, community outreach, individual or organizational history of success/accomplishments in education.

This proposal is an amendment to sponsoring agency Martha O'Bryan Center's original East End Preparatory application, submitted and approved in 2010, outlining our request to expand our school from K-5 to K-8. We believe all children have the ability to learn and achieve at high levels and we bring that opportunity to East Nashville's youth. By providing an environment of scholarship infused with a culture of accountability at all levels, we help close the achievement gap in Nashville.

Mission: "East End Preparatory School prepares students for college degree completion and success in the competitive world beyond, through academic excellence and cultivating habits of the mind that promote strength of character and intellect." **Vision:** "Success is not only defined by academics but by holistic child development. East End Prep's approach combines excellence in academics, character and virtues, the arts, and sports to provide an unmatched education in preparation for college and beyond."

Academic Focus and Plan: By adding 6-8th grades East End Preparatory will build on the foundations of our current academic program - high expectations for students, rigorous instruction, high quality research-based curriculum, and individualized learning for every scholar. We believe that with a great school and great teachers, every student can and will succeed on a high level in our program; this belief is the basis for everything we do. Our core academic program will continue to prioritize Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies with increased emphasis on integrating writing into all core courses. At the heart of our entire program is teacher quality and teacher development. Research tells us that teacher quality is the #1 factor in student success in schools. Teacher recruiting is of the highest priority for us and will continue to be as we add 6th-8th grade. We currently utilize a leveled small group structure in Reading and Math, organized by the most current assessment data of student mastery. Our emphasis on true differentiation and that all children need individualized learning will continue through 8th grade. As our students grow, we continue to emphasize student ownership of learning. We have enjoyed watching our scholars, even as young as kindergarten, begin to understand where they are in their learning and take ownership of what they need to do to progress further. You might hear an East End Prep scholar say, "I'm on a STEP level 6, and I am working on my comprehension skills to get to a STEP 7". As we grow to 8th grade, this type of ownership of learning will be taken to a new level with an increased focus on independence, self-management, and student-driven learning. As students develop, classrooms will take the "Flipped" approach where teachers are truly facilitators and students are driving the learning process. This is the goal of our gradual release model for both academics and social and emotional development.

Need: This amendment is being driven by the present body of 400 parents at East End Preparatory School, requesting a K-8 experience, so students are attending a school where the majority of students are on grade level. Expanding our program to K-8th grade will allow us to directly serve families from kindergarten to high school transition and expand our sphere of influence for education excellence in East Nashville, creating a positive pathway to Stratford STEM Magnet High for students. Expanding through 8th grade will allow us to provide a pipeline of college driven, well-prepared students to our local high schools. In addition to our high level academic program our 6th-8th grade program will provide students with a myriad of experiences to serve as preparation for the MNPS High School Academies program—particularly Stratford, Maplewood, and Hunter's Lane—where 67% of our families are zoned. Courses in addition to Art, Music, and PE that we plan to offer during the school day and through an after school program include chess, coding, agriculture, karate, robotics, service learning, dance, ballet, songwriting, and videography. Students will experience each course at a

baseline level starting in 6th grade and will hone in on specific areas to focus and go more in depth by 8th grade.

Target Population: Our targeted population will reflect the communities and families we currently serve. Of our current enrollment, 86% percent of families qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. Below is the ethnicity breakdown of our current families.

Black or African American 77%	Latino or Hispanic 13%	White 9%	Asian 1%
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As we have grown, our school has become more diverse. This is an encouraging trend and we believe that all students benefit from rich diversity within a school. Most youth served at East End Preparatory School are zoned for the Stratford and Maplewood cluster of the Metro Nashville Public Schools system, schools that are primarily economically disadvantaged, with challenges in keeping students on track in basic literacy and math skills. These elementary and middle schools, which feed into Stratford and Maplewood High School are over 85% economically disadvantaged, scoring Cs, Ds, and Fs, in core subject matter – Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies (TN Department of Education 2014). East End Preparatory has built a strong academic and social emotional culture for students K-3 in its work to date. We are looking forward to the opportunity to extend this foundation through the middle school years. This will give families and students an opportunity to prepare for high school and college, and create a strong pathway to Stratford and Maplewood High Schools.

Community Outreach Completed / Planned: East End Prep’s outreach to date has included collaborative partnerships with local Pre-K programs, including but not limited to Fannie Battle Day Care, Ross Headstart, Tom Joy Headstart, El Jardin De La Ninos (Spanish Immersion Pre-K, McNeilly Center for Children, Madison YMCA, Cleveland Park Community Center, Kirkpatrick Community Center, East Park Community Center, Gallatin Rd YMCA (Margaret Maddox), Inglewood Baptist Church, Dalewood United Methodist, Early Learning Daycare, Leaps and Bounds Preschool, Upward youth sports programs, Family Affairs Ministry After Care, King’s Daughters Pre-k, and Excellence Early Child Academy. We have received overwhelmingly strong demand from our current families and prospective families for us to add 6th-8th grades to our program, a major factor in what has prompted us to move this direction (including incoming families and wait lists the total is between 500 and 600 families).

Individual / Organizational History of Accomplishments in Education: Founded in 1894 and located in the heart of Cayce Place since 1948, sponsoring agency Martha O’Bryan Center (MOBC) has a long history of delivering cradle to career education and employment supports to our city’s most distressed community. This includes two charter schools – East End Preparatory School and Explore! Community School (to open in fall 2015) MOBC began its focus on charter school options in 2003, when CEO Marsha Edwards made a commitment to the KIPP Foundation to support Randy Dowell’s desire to build KIPP Academy Nashville in East Nashville. She also served as the first President of the Board of Directors. Throughout 2009, MOBC began a series of extensive charter school site visits throughout the country; Project Manager/Founding Academic Dean Julia Halberstam led a team of writers to prepare the application for East End Preparatory School, which was approved in 2010. This led to the hiring of current School Leader, Jim Leckrone. Mr. Leckrone brought extensive experience in both classroom teaching and leadership in the Middle and High School level, as well three years of leadership in a K-8th grade school in Williamson County prior to leading East End Prep. He has successfully led East End Preparatory through its first three years of operation, garnering exceptional math and reading results, proving economically disadvantaged students can succeed, given the support and tools. In year 2, kindergarten scholars scored nationally in the 96th percentile in math and the 84th percentile in Reading on the Terranova nationally normed assessment. Last year (2013-14) 80% of scholars were at or above grade level in Reading (STEP assessment) and 88% of 1st and 2nd grade students were proficient or advanced in Math (M.A.P. Math assessment). Since founding East End Preparatory, Martha O’Bryan Center has continued its educational supports and partnerships, leading the Nashville Promise Neighborhood (2011), founding a second charter school, Explore! Community School (2013), continuing work with our Academic Student Unions at Stratford and Maplewood, and acting as lead agency of Mayor Dean’s NAZA out of school initiative for the Northeast Zone.

Attachment – Full List of Current Leadership – East End Preparatory School Board

FULL NAME	CURRENT JOB and EMPLOYER	FOCUS/EXPERTISE*
Mark Bacurin	Partner, Milemark Partners LLC	Finance and Leadership
Ben Cundiff	Owner, Cundiff Farms	Strategic Planning
Marsha Edwards	President & CEO, Martha O'Bryan Center	Leadership, Strategic Planning, and Community Development
Melissa Halsell	Economic Development Program Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority	Community Outreach
Ted Helm	Owner, Modular Designs	Strategic Planning
Ebony Jackson	Parent Representative	Community Outreach
Rob Laird	Member, McKenzie Laird PLLC	Finance and Legal Oversight
Jennifer Morrison	Community Volunteer	Leadership and Finance
Gary Schalmo	Senior VP, Alex S. Palmer and Co.	Facilities Planning and Development
Hangama Wahidi	Parent Representative	Community Outreach
Jeff Yarboro	Attorney, Bass, Berry & Sims	Strategic Planning

**Community Service/Outreach, Legal Expertise/Attorney, Public Relations, Education, Management/Organizational Experience, Parent/Community Involvement, Finance, Marketing, Fundraising/Grant Writing, Personnel/Human Capital, Other (please elaborate)*