



Department of
Education

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL - 2016

All applicants must file a Letter of Intent at least 60 days prior to the application deadline of April 1, 2016. This letter must be delivered to the local board of education and the Tennessee Department of Education no later than February 1, 2016.

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:

Southside Community School (Napier Elementary)

CHARTERING AUTHORITY FOR PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:

MNPS Davidson County

SPONSOR/SPONSORING AGENCY: Martha O'Bryan Center

MODEL OR FOCUS OF PROPOSED SCHOOL: K-4 College Prep (whole school turnaround)

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: Michael Gross CPO / Marsha Edwards CEO

MAILING ADDRESS: 711 South Seventh Street, Nashville TN 37206-3895

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: (615) 254-1791 **ALTERNATE TELEPHONE:** ()

E-MAIL ADDRESS: mgross@marthaobryan.org, medwards@marthaobryan.org

NAME OF PROPOSED SCHOOL LEADER (if any): Kelly McMullen

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	160
YEAR THREE	K-2	240
YEAR FOUR	K-3	320
YEAR FIVE	K-4	400
YEAR SIX		
YEAR SEVEN		
YEAR EIGHT		
YEAR NINE		
YEAR TEN		

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

List all current and identified board members and their intended roles on the table below (adding rows as needed).

FULL NAME	CURRENT JOB AND EMPLOYER	FOCUS/EXPERTISE*
TBD - Martha O'Bryan Center Board		

**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 prescribes 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.

Widene D. Brown
(Signature)

February 1, 2016
(Date)

Southside Community School – Martha O’Bryan Center
Letter of Intent Abstract

Martha O’Bryan Center respectfully submits this Letter of Intent and Abstract for our proposed turn-around of Napier Elementary Enhanced Option, where we will replicate our East End Preparatory school model to create Southside Community School (K-4). We believe all children have the ability to learn and achieve at high levels, and we are committed to developing an environment of scholarship infused with a culture of accountability at all levels, to close the achievement gap in Nashville.

Mission: Southside Community School will prepare students for high school, college, and the competitive world beyond, by cultivating the habits of the mind that promote academic excellence, intellect, and strength of characters.

Vision: Success is achieved through holistic child development. Southside Community School’s approach will combine excellence in academics, character, the arts, and sports to provide an unmatched education in preparation for college and career.

Academic Focus and Plan: Southside Community School will build upon the success of our East End Preparatory school model, which includes high expectations for all students, rigorous instruction, high-quality research-based curricula, and individualized/differentiated learning at all levels. We know that with a great school, great leadership, and great teachers, every student can and will succeed at a high level in our program. Our core academic program will prioritize Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies with increased emphasis on integrating reading and writing across all subjects. Core academic programming will be facilitated by well-qualified and expertly-trained teachers, since research has shown that teacher quality is the most important factor in student success. Like East End Preparatory, Southside Community School classrooms will have both a lead and assistant teacher, to increase the amount of small-group instruction provided and ensure true differentiation for all students. As our students transition from grade to grade, teachers will put additional emphasis on student ownership of the learning process, using the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model. This includes an increased focus on independence, character development, self-management, and student-driven learning, which strengthens both academic and social-emotional skills.

Target Population: Our targeted population will reflect the Napier/Sudekum community. The current ethnic breakdown at Napier Elementary Enhanced Option (98.1% economically disadvantaged) is as follows:

Black or African American 91%	Latino or Hispanic 4%	White 5%	Asian 0%
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That said, we also know that all students benefit from a diverse school population. Therefore, Southside Community School will use the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Diversity Management Plan as a guide to gauge our progress toward overarching diversity goals. Given the enrollment trends at East End Preparatory, we have set a goal to have three racial groups (African-American, White, Hispanic) at or above 15% of the school population. We look forward to replicate the work that East End Preparatory has done regarding diversity to Southside Community School, giving a variety of students and families the opportunity to prepare for long-term success in MNPS middle and high schools as well as college and career.

Need: At Napier Elementary Enhanced Option has been identified as a “priority school” due to low TCAP test scores. During the 2014-15 school year, 76.9% of students demonstrated basic or below basic proficiency in Math, 86.9% demonstrated basic or below basic proficiency in Reading Language Arts, and 82.7% demonstrated basic or below basic proficiency in Science. Napier Elementary Enhanced Option students living in and around J.C. Napier Homes and Tony Sudekum Apartments, where need is

perpetual and poverty is pervasive. Napier includes 361 apartments housing 758 residents. Median income is \$8,053, and 56% of households reported zero earned income on their most recent rent re-certification. 92% of the population is African-American, 67% is female, and 47% is under 18. Sudekum Apartments includes 435 units housing 1,380 residents. Median income is \$6,890 and 50% of households reported zero earned income on their most recent rent re-certification. 92% of the population is African-American, 64% are female, and 64% are under age 18. Replicating our East End Preparatory school model (86% economically disadvantaged) in the Napier/Sudekum community will allow us to support our city's most underserved students, creating a pipeline of well-prepared students for our local MNPS middle and high schools. It will also allow us to broaden the horizons of children living in poverty through a variety of extracurricular programming, including chess, coding, robotics, service learning, dance, songwriting, videography, and more.

Community Outreach Completed/Planned: In spring 2015, we began partnering with Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency asked us to deliver education, employment, and wrap-around family support programming in the Napier/Sudekum community. Our Leadership Team and Family Support Team spent the summer meeting with Napier/Sudekum residents, community leaders, and service providers and enrolling families in our THRIVE out-of-school time program, Chapter Two youth employment initiative, and Tied Together parent education program. We chose these three programs for our pilot year because we understand the importance of entering Napier/Sudekum with the resources to be successful. These programs are accessible and interconnected, building upon one another in a holistic fashion that offers assets and solutions in the fight against poverty. Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency currently covers all facilities costs (office space, utilities, etc.), while we cover staffing, material, and equipment costs. Martha O'Bryan Center has conducted extensive community outreach through the work of its cradle to career continuum, work as lead agency of the Nashville Promise Neighborhood and through our Department of Justice Byrne grant. We also have strong school partnerships, fostered by community work, our two charter schools (East End Preparatory and Explore! Community) and two academic student unions (Top Floor at Stratford and College Zone at Maplewood) – all models for working with parents and the community as partners.

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 has a long history of delivering cradle-to-career education and employment supports to our city's most distressed residents. This includes two charter schools—East End Preparatory and Explore! Community School. Martha O'Bryan Center began its charter school planning work in 2003, when CEO Marsha Edwards supported the KIPP Foundation's plans to build KIPP Academy Nashville in East Nashville. She also served as the first President of the KIPP Nashville Board of Directors. Throughout 2009, Martha O'Bryan Center completed a series of extensive charter school site visits throughout the country, and project Manager/Founding Academic Dean Julia Halberstam led a team of writers to prepare the application for East End Preparatory (approved in 2010). This led to the hiring of current School Leader, Jim Leckrone, who brought extensive experience in both classroom teaching and leadership at the middle and high school level as well three years of leadership in a K-8th grade school in Williamson County. He has successfully led East End Preparatory through its first four years of operation, garnering exceptional math and reading results, proving economically disadvantaged students can succeed when given the support and tools. During 2014-15, 79.8% of students scored Proficient or Advanced in Math (6th best in the district), 41.9% scored Proficient or Advanced in Reading Language Arts (16th best in the district), and 90.6% scored Proficient or Advanced in Science (4th best in the district). 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), deepening and expanding the work of our high school Academic Student Unions at Stratford and Maplewood, and acting as lead agency of the NAZA out-of-school initiative in the Northeast Zone.