

**SUSPENSION  
A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR RATH**

Re: Support for the Application for Aurora Academy Charter High School

WHEREAS, there remains an Erie County, regional, and State of New York priority to significantly enhance public school educational performance; experiences; and career opportunities for students in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, forty percent of high school students do not graduate in five years from Buffalo Public Schools, with “at risk” student groups particularly susceptible to significantly lower graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, fifty-eight percent of Buffalo’s five year dropout rate is comprised of Economically Disadvantaged Students; and

WHEREAS, there remains an urgent need for innovative, outcome-based, and career pathway initiatives to address achievement gaps, inequities and secondary and post-secondary educational needs for public school students in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, a goal of such innovative educational approaches should be to increase the number of high school graduates with regionally relevant college coursework; career training; and improved linkage to college and/or employment opportunities for students transitioning into the workforce after high school; and

WHEREAS, students with special needs; English language learners and public school students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, must be provided equal opportunities for educational success within Buffalo Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, a proposed unique Aurora Academy Charter High School in Buffalo, in partnership with Daemen College, Niagara University and Erie Community College would bring internationally-proven educational best practices to establish multiple pathways to high school graduation, to college or vocational career choices in the Buffalo Niagara Region, for all Buffalo Public School students; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative coalition of three institutions of higher education provides unique programming that will respond to the Western New York region’s economic and community needs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Aurora Academy Charter High School will give priority to increasing the number of highly qualified educators in Buffalo and diversify the demographic of such educators by providing opportunities for college teacher preparation coursework in eleventh and twelfth grade.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That this honorable body expresses its full support for the authorization of the Aurora Academy Charter High School by the SUNY Board of Trustees, Charter School Committee, and for the partnership with and contributions of Daemen College, Niagara University, and Erie Community College to the proposed school, for the benefit of high school students in Buffalo, in particular, those students most at risk of academic failure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Lt. Governor of the State of New York, the Governor of the State of New York, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact of Resolution: None.