

To: Truxton Town Board and Community

From: Truxton Academy Charter School Board of Trustees

12/21/16

The Truxton Academy Charter School (TACS) Board of Trustees thanks all of our faithful supporters throughout our efforts to establish the Truxton Academy Charter School. We would like to share where we now stand in this process. Just as you have not given up on us, we will not give up on this community and most importantly, the young students who live in Truxton and the surrounding communities.

After multiple, demanding, and competitive good faith efforts on our part to meet and exceed the requirements for establishing a charter school in New York State, we were unexpectedly stymied at the highest levels of the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Be assured, without this highly unusual and deliberate move made with the full knowledge of those at the highest levels, we would most likely have been approved by the Board of Regents. The actions of these individuals effectively sent the message that rural areas do not appear to have truly equal access under the NYS Charter School Act of 1998 and denying access to the opportunities available to cities and towns in NYS.

Unfortunately, until we submitted a successful proposal, NYSED did not have to be concerned with this possibility. Our small community of Truxton has apparently created some big waves impacting New York State's powerful political organizations and their supporters (New York State United Teachers Union, BOCES Superintendents, School Administrators Association of NYS, to name a few). Therefore, going forward, our efforts must address the concerns posed by these organizations in terms of their validity and long term consequences.

The TACS Board of Trustees will resubmit an updated proposal with the knowledge that we need to inform and convince the political concerns of our opponents that rural NYS has significant educational needs and rights to remedy those needs as provided for under NYS laws. We will be supported in this effort by the NE Charter Schools Network who also have confidence in our future success.

Therefore, please be assured that we will be updating our web page, scheduling community meetings and requesting your continued support and involvement as we proceed. TACS hopes to be a groundbreaker for other rural communities who are burdened by excessive taxes while continuing to get mediocre results in their children's education. We anticipate continued opposition and will adjust our efforts and resources to successfully meet these challenges. We greatly appreciate and share your strong commitment to establish the Truxton Academy Charter School in Truxton, NY.