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February 15, 2019

Mr. Joseph Belluck
Member of the Board of Trustees
Chairman of the Charter School Committee
The State University of New York
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Mr. Belluck,

I write in opposition to the application by KIPP Beyond Charter to open a 5th – 8th grade charter middle school in School District 3. This school district sits in my City Council District 6 in the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

School District 3 recently added a public middle school – West End Secondary School – and it is very successful and has filled capacity needs. D3 has also recently implemented, and I have supported, admission reform for its middle schools. The district is making important strides in academic and admissions equity. I feel strongly that adding a charter middle school at this point would undermine our existing schools and set back integration, academic and enrollment equity efforts throughout the district significantly.

The Middle School Plan of School District 3 was developed and coordinated through a years-long effort with Community Education Council 3 (CEC3) as they engaged parents, teachers, school administrators and district leaders in community discussions around reform proposals for middle school admissions. The NYC Department of Education has accepted those reform proposals and new admissions criteria have been instituted with the first class to start in the 2019-20 school year. The goal of these criteria is to better integrate our schools and bring academic equity and supports to all our schools.

The district and its families deserve the opportunity for their Middle School Plan to succeed. The timing, and frankly the language of the charter school proposal which plays on the district's work to address integration, is disingenuous and disruptive. This charter school proposal will not only disrupt the very plan carefully conceived to address integration but will also impact the

enrollment of our local elementary schools. The KIPP proposal to serve ages 5th-8th grade will pull students from our elementary schools and negatively affect enrollment and budget for those schools. This would be an unacceptable outcome for our community.

I urge SUNY to recognize the important work and strides of School District 3 and support the public school families, schools and school leaders by disapproving the application from KIPP Beyond Charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Rosenthal".

Helen Rosenthal