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 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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**OPTION FOR PARENTS
 CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) this Notice of Intent to Submit Charter Application (“NOI”) must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below **and** to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. *Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.*

This year the NOI is due by close of business, January 10, 2012. Notice by mail will be timely if it is postmarked on or by January 6, 2012.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered one of the following methods:
 Electronically to: By mail or personal delivery:

KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
 c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
 Attn: Ms. Kelly Callahan, General Manager
 Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
 300 Don Gaspar, Room 301C
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is to provide information for the primary point of contact, enrollment projections and a concise proposal overview (not to exceed 5 pages).

You are strongly encouraged to send notice to the Superintendent of your local district by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact your local district regarding electronic filing.

1. General Information:

Name of Proposed School:	Taos Waldorf School - a public charter school	
Primary Contact Person	Allison Bradley, Ph.D.	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 2276	
City: El Prado	State: New Mexico	Zip: 87529
Phone: (503) 460.6616	Email: mesanorthwest@yahoo.com	

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**Santa Fe Charter
 Schools Division**

2. Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on the applicant team, and qualifications of the team members to establish a high-quality charter school:

Name	Role	Employment	Qualifications
Allison Bradley	Primary organizer	TWS/Self	Ph.D. in Social Psychology, 6 years in outdoor education, 10 years in non-profit organizational development, post-graduate work in sustainability education, current TWS substitute teacher and volunteer organizational consultant, current TWS parent
Scott Esty	Primary organizer	TWS/Self	20 years in private and public music education, former public school teacher, current TWS parent
Emily Cohen	Researcher/organizer		Former TWS staff, current TWS Parent Council chair, 9 years as TWS parent
Steering committee (to be formed from current board and parent body)	Guide charter development process	Various	various

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):

The proposed charter will be based the Waldorf educational philosophy and curriculum.

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation?

Yes: Describe the entity and role it will have in the school's operational plan. No: X

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: No: X

6. If the proposal is a replication, identify the school(s) you are replicating and what data that you have to support this model should be replicated.

n/a

7. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

Our mission is:

- **To create a non-competitive, physically and emotionally safe learning environment that encourages community involvement**
- **To foster a life-long love of learning by sparking the children's imagination and developing their capacity for independent thinking**
- **To cultivate each student's unique gifts**

- To enable students to become balanced, vigorous, life-affirming and compassionate beings
- To promote respect and cultural awareness

8. Describe student body to be served, including key demographic data and targeted geographical area of the proposed school. Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL and special education populations). Identify where these students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.

The charter would be taking the place of the current Taos Waldorf School, which is situated on nearly 10 acres directly adjacent to Taos Pueblo buffalo grazing land. This proximity to the pueblo, along with the Waldorf curriculum being in many ways consistent with the holistic worldview of Native American cultures, makes for a likelihood of increased enrollment from the pueblo community.

Other Waldorf-inspired groups would have the option of joining the school community with the financial burden of tuition removed. While the draw to Waldorf education has been strong and consistent in the Taos area throughout the years, the financial challenges faced with the economic recession have caused many families to leave TWS out of necessity, resulting in a dispersion of those interested to several different schools and homeschooling scenarios. Creating a financially accessible charter school would allow an opportunity for a coming together of those drawn to this educational approach.

9. Evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature: Detail any objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program.

Interest in Waldorf education has been thriving in the Taos area for decades, as evidenced by Waldorf-inspired educational initiatives beginning in the 1980's. The current Taos Waldorf School is in its 17th year, having been through several stages of development and change. The school has been operated, as most Waldorf schools, on a private school, tuition-based model.

The current economic realities have made a tuition-based model difficult if not potentially impossible to maintain in the Taos community. While enrollment at the current Taos Waldorf School is in the area of 80 students, a significant number have either left the school or not re-enrolled this year due to financial challenges.

The strong interest in Waldorf education that lives in the Taos area could be served with a financially accessible charter school model.

10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)

The Waldorf curriculum is based on a holistic approach to educating the whole human being. Arts, festivals, seasonal awareness, and individual and collective presence within the natural world are foundational to curriculum.

Garden-based education including soil care, planting, harvesting, and food production are key to our history and practice at Taos Waldorf School, along with animal care, handwork/fiber arts, and service learning.

With the increased enrollment and staffing potential of a charter school, we will be enabled to increase our community service efforts, resulting in more outreach involving local food production, youth engagement, and alternative economies.

11. How the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

There are no other schools in the Taos area based specifically upon the Waldorf approach and curriculum.

Signature of founder(s)

Allison Bradley
Allison Bradley
[PRINT NAME]

Date: 1.6.11