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**CIVIC LEADER ANNOUNCES THE EFFORT FOR A NEW
CHARTER SCHOOL
IN THE NORTHWEST BRONX**

The possible availability of space for a charter school, the result of the revocation of the charter of the KIDS School, has encouraged a number of local residents, educators, public officials, and community leaders to examine the possibility of forming a charter in this community.

Civic leader Alec Diacou said today that he is trying to form a group that will explore various creative options for a new school, to begin in the lower grades and add grades annually, one that promises a return to a “back to basics” education based on a classical model.

“This is not an effort to counter anyone else’s proposal, but rather a positive, pedagogically driven attempt to provide educational options for parents in the northwest Bronx,” said Mr. Diacou. “The program we are developing will take children in a different direction from that we have seen in too many of our public schools.”

The new school, as yet unnamed, will concentrate on math, science, history, geography, art and music. “We will attempt to integrate the various disciplines into a cohesive knowledge-based curriculum that goes even beyond the common core standards now being adopted. We seek to be

a model that parents will want to see replicated in their schools.”

Even the physical education and recreational program will get considerable attention. “Activities like fencing and chess will enable children to build academic skills by improving focus and concentration,” noted Mr. Diacou.

The school will conform to the rules governing charters, mandating an open lottery of all appropriate-aged children in District 10. “It should be clear that a charter school cannot serve only one community, or be limited to just ‘gifted’ children. We don’t want to create confusion on the part of parents.” Mr. Diacou noted that he has toured possible locations. “We’re fortunate to have a number of new buildings available and we hope to find the best possible site.”

“I anticipate that there will shortly be a formal announcement, one that gives specific details and will reveal a remarkable organizing committee of extremely talented educators and civic leaders from within and outside our community,” said Mr. Diacou. “We will continue to invite participation, ideas, and expertise in our effort to build a great school worthy of this great community.”