

Quest Academy Charter School: Response to League of Women Voters Charter School Forum- June 2nd, 2010

Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair did not attend the meeting organized by the League of Women Voters on Wednesday evening, a decision that disappointed many of the people who gathered at the public safety building to hear local leaders discuss the issue of charter schools in general and in Montclair community specifically. The Quest Academy team declined Carolyn Lack's invitation to participate as far back as early May. "The team was astonished to see the front page article in The Montclair Times last week which indicated the Quest team had accepted the invitation and would appear," said Tracey Williams, Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair co-founder.

"We have been publicizing Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair for many months, holding community meetings, maintaining a website, developing flyers and sent brochures to residents in the community whose children currently attend Elementary and Middle Schools at Montclair Public Schools," Williams said. "We have collected over 130 letters of support from parents of children in the community. We submitted data to the state that suggests Montclair High School has gaps in its offerings that a charter school would fill for many underserved and/or other interested pupils. We plan to take the full implementation plan for the school to the public when the time is right, and that is after we get the authorization from the state. This meeting was premature." "The format of the meeting would not have allowed Quest Academy leaders to adequately articulate the proposed school's mission and academic goals. That would take more than the ten to fifteen minutes allowed on the LWV panel," said Liliya Panayev, currently a teacher at Montclair High School and Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair co-founder.

We appreciate the additional questions that the members of the community have for the Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair founding group, and the issues the superintendent brought forth. If approved, in November of 2010, we have put together a solid communication plan, as outlined in the Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair application to address any and all concerns and questions. We look forward to engaging with the Montclair community to present the full offerings that Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair will provide for its' students.

For further information, please contact Tracey Williams at 973-707-7901, email us at info@questacademynow.us, or visit our website www.questacademynow.us.