



# **AN OPEN LETTER *to* COURTNEY ROSS**

***From the Parents and Students of NEST+m***

**Dear Ms. Ross,**

**We are writing to implore you to withdraw from the plan to install the Ross charter school at NEST+m, which is fully occupied and so fruitfully utilized by our students and staff. NEST+m is a model of real school reform and delivers the true progressive promise of quality public education to a diverse community of learners.**

**Your business plans, altruistic or not, have no business interfering in the life of a wonderfully successful public school. If Ross Global moves into NEST's space, NEST will have to cancel its middle and high school Advisory System, eliminate AP's and High School electives, and in order to keep split gender math and science classes, increase class size to 35+. NEST is a K-12 College Preparatory Public School. And yet, your school's insertion into our middle and high school will have the greatest negative impact on those who are closest to achieving our school's mission and vision: our high school students. Moreover, the dining hall and courtyard will be severely overcrowded.**

**All of this negative impact, while your school maintains less than 20 students in each class. Fair? We think not. How can a "Global" School make its very first act a Colonial takeover? How will you fit that into the Ross Global Academy curriculum? We urge you to regroup with your institutional sponsors and find another site and a better plan.**

**We are not against charter schools, but your charter application has flouted many of the most important aspects of charter school law and one of the two signatories on the application is none other than Robert Durkin. Durkin was fired from his job as principal of Washington Irving High School in Manhattan after an investigation revealed that he allowed 19 students to graduate although they had failed required courses. In addition, he had regularly pressured teachers into giving students passing grades (or had changed the grades himself without consulting the teachers at all.)**

**The families of NEST+m have not stopped fighting for a great education since the day our school was founded five years ago. Although we have more important things to do than run an exhaustive legal and political battle, with our children's futures at stake, we will persevere until our school's integrity is absolutely safe.**

