

June 9, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE TRAINING TO TEACHERS ON THE USE OF THE RFB&D SYSTEM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), to conduct outreach activities and to provide information, training and services to teachers, parents and students on the use of the RFB&D system. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has contracted with RFB&D since 1994 and is continuing to expand the services to additional schools. RFB&D's program supports the initiatives of the Comprehensive Reading Plan for exceptional students.

Training is provided to teachers, school personnel, parents and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. In addition, technical assistance on the integration of these materials into classroom activities and student assignments are provided. Authorization is also requested for the Superintendent to exercise his discretion to renew the contractual agreement for up to two additional one-year periods.

RFB&D is a part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks, library services and other educational resources to people who cannot read standard print because of a visual, physical or perceptual disability. Located in Miami, it is the only unit of RFB&D in the State of Florida. Fifty-four percent of the population served nationally by RFB&D are persons with learning disabilities.

Funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, will be used to provide district-wide dissemination of information, training and services to exceptional students, parents and teachers on integrating the use of audio materials in learning environments, and to cover the registration costs for eligible students who receive free or reduced price meals.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by Board Rule 6Gx13- 3E-1.021 met on March 23, 1998, to review this request and recommends that an exception to the rule be granted as the contractor has specific expertise in this field.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999 under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

The Executive Director for the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is Christine McCarthy.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit for the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to conduct outreach activities and to provide information, training and services to exceptional students, parents, and teachers regarding the use of the RFB&D system, and to cover the registration costs for eligible students who receive free or reduced price meals in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000;
2. authorize the Superintendent to renew the contractual agreement for up to two additional one-year periods; and
3. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.

RKF:as