

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE TO FIVE YEARS COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/ BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved the following charter school applications and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate the contractual agreements with the approved applicants:

- The New Academy Community Learning Center, approved at the Board meeting of February 18, 1998, will be located at 830 West 84 Street, Hialeah, Florida. This charter school will be operated by John P. Ferrell, Founder.
- ASPIRA Youth Leadership Charter School, approved at the Board meeting of April 14, 1999, will be located at 13300 Memorial Highway, North Miami, Florida. This charter school will be operated by Aspira of Florida, Inc., Mr. Raul Martinez, President and CEO.
- Techworld Public Charter School, approved at the Board meeting of April 14, 1999, will be located at 3750 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida. This charter school will be operated by Techworld Public Charter School, Inc., Mr. Daanen T. Strachan, Founder and Executive Director.
- The Doral Academy, approved at the Board meeting of May 12, 1999, will be located at 9700 Northwest 25 Street, Miami, Florida. This charter school will be operated by Mr. Fernando Zulueta, Founder and Chairman of The Mater Center School, Inc., and of Somerset Neighborhood School, a charter school in Broward County.
- Rosa Parks Community School, approved at the Board meeting of May 12, 1999, will be located at 5026 Northeast 2 Drive, Homestead, Florida. This charter school will be operated by Work America, Inc., Mr. Herbert J. Coleman, Founder and CEO.

Section 228.056, Florida Statutes, governing charter schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of the charter school be considered in advance and written into a contractual agreement between the charter and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input. By statute, the specific type of charter being proposed shall address, and the criteria for approval shall be based on, the following:

- the school's mission, the students to be served, and their ages and grades;
- the focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods to be used, and any distinctive instructional techniques to be employed;
- the current baseline standard of achievement and the outcomes to be achieved and the method of measurement that will be used;
- the methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals and performance standards are met by students attending the charter school. Students in charter schools, shall at a minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program;
- a method for resolving conflicts between the governing body of the charter school and the sponsor;
- the admissions procedures and dismissal procedures;
- the ways by which the school will achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves;
- the financial and administrative management of the school;
- the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage;
- the term of the charter, not to exceed 5 years, which shall provide for cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be achieved before expiration of the charter;
- the facilities to be used and their location;
- the qualifications to be required of the teachers;
- the governance structure of the school, including the status of the charter school as a public or private employer; and
- a timetable for implementing the charter, which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.

These contractual agreements have been reviewed and revised by the appropriate support staff during the contract negotiation process. In addition, compliance with the guidelines and procedures of the Sunshine Law (286.011 F.S.) were followed.

Copies of these contractual agreements will be provided to School Board Members under separate cover, and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the charter school contractual agreements with:

1. The New Academy Community Learning Center, effective June 24, 1999, for a period of three years commencing on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year;
2. ASPIRA Youth Leadership Charter School, effective June 24, 1999, for a period of three years commencing on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year;
3. Techworld Public Charter School, effective June 24, 1999, for a period of five years commencing on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year;
4. The Doral Academy, effective June 24, 1999, for a period of five years commencing on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year; and
5. Rosa Parks Community School, effective June 24, 1999, for a period of three years commencing on the first day of the 1999-2000 school year.

The appropriation for the first year of these contractual agreements will be included in the General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.