

June 8, 2000

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH BLUE RIDGE LEARNING CENTERS, INC., BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, TO MANAGE AND OPERATE A CHALLENGE ROPES COURSE AT RUTH OWENS KRUSE EDUCATIONAL CENTER, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,500, FROM JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001**

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Blue Ridge Learning Centers, Inc., Boone, North Carolina, to manage and operate the Challenge Ropes Course at Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center. Blue Ridge Learning Centers, Inc., is an outdoor adventure-based learning center, specializing in designing, constructing, and supervising the Challenge Ropes Course. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 1995.

Staff and students at Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center will participate in the course activities under the supervision of the Challenge Ropes Course manager provided by Blue Ridge Learning Centers, Inc. The manager will supervise and facilitate all activities on the course, be available to clarify all procedural questions, inspect equipment on a regular basis, and ensure the maintenance of safety standards.

The proposed contract provides for 18 hours per week of direct management, supervision, and technical consultation for a total of 45 weeks, at a cost of \$50 per hour, in an amount not exceed \$40,500.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by Board Rule 6GX13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on June 1, 2000, and recommended 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 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000 under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

The President of Blue Ridge Learning Centers, Inc., is Mr. Steve Owen.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Blue Ridge Learning Centers, Inc., Boone, North Carolina, to manage and operate a Challenge Ropes Course at Ruth Owens Kruse Educational Center, in an amount not to exceed \$40,500, from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6GX13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

RKF:gb