

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE MONTESSORI TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$38,400, FROM AUGUST 1, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 29, 2001**

The main purpose of the Montessori magnet programs is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating, and structured learning environment to help students acquire a methodology for life-long learning. It also provides an excellent foundation for the development of sensory awareness, creativity, and intellectual capability.

Currently, Montessori magnet programs are being implemented in grades Pre-K through five at the following four school sites: Joella Good Elementary, Phyllis R. Miller Elementary, Pine Villa Elementary, and Scott Lake Elementary.

In order to maintain authorization of the Montessori magnet programs by the American Montessori Society (AMS), intensive staff development must be provided to teachers and paraprofessionals who are both new to the magnets and/or who are not AMS certified. Training will be provided to teachers and paraprofessionals only in the event a thorough search for applicants fails to yield AMS-qualified candidates. The proposed training and study/observation activities will take place at the Montessori Teacher Training Institute (MTTI) in Miami, Florida, from August 1, 2000 through June 29, 2001.

The training will include:

- classroom instruction, textbooks, materials, and supplies;
- teaching manuals for the programs;
- oral and written examinations;
- periodic meetings and workshops, directed by MTTI for all participants;
- MTTI coordination of the on-site field supervision of each participant; and
- participant fees to AMS and the Montessori Accreditation Council.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Montessori Teacher Training Institute of Miami, Florida, to provide training for up to 12 teachers and paraprofessionals at a cost not to exceed \$3,200 per participant, for a maximum cost of \$38,400.

The committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this contract on June 27, 2000, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted because the institution has specific expertise in this area.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 General Fund of the Tentative Budget under Fund 0100, Object 5310, various locations, magnet programs, Function 5101, to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Montessori Teacher Training Institute (MTTI) in Miami, Florida, to provide training for teachers and paraprofessionals, at a cost not to exceed \$38,400, from August 1, 2000 through June 29, 2001; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

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

MT:MB