

Management and Accountability
Carol Cortes, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
HOST THE *MULTILINGUAL SUMMIT - PREPARING FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT* AND ENTER INTO
CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE RADISSON MART
PLAZA HOTEL AND ITS REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTORS**

The demand of a bilingual/biliterate workforce by the Miami-Dade County business community has re-energized the School Board's commitment to bilingual education. The capability to do business in the international market requires personnel who not only are able to communicate in other languages but who also understand diverse cultures of the world and can adjust to their customs and tradition. *The Multilingual Summit - Preparing for Economic Development* is planned in order to assist schools in the implementation of dual language instructional programs and increase awareness of the many cultures that come together in Miami-Dade County.

The summit will provide a forum for educators from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and invited guests to come together and share best practices. They will also have the opportunity to listen to national experts in the field and review the latest instructional materials in languages other than English. Members of the business community will present their need for a bilingual/biliterate workforce. The summit will focus on three instructional goals: Language Arts instruction in multiple languages (Spanish, French, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese, Italian, and German), instruction of content areas in these languages, and multicultural education.

Authorization is requested to host the Multilingual Summit on April 19 and 20, 2001, and to enter into contractual agreements with the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and their required subcontractors with anticipated costs to be approximately \$44,000 (\$37 per person). The cost of this contract is covered by vendors.

Appropriation for this event will be included in the 2000-2001 Trust and Agency Fund account, Program 9858, Fund 0821. Appropriation of \$50,000 has been allocated in the general fund to cover substitute release time for teachers to participate.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. host the one-day *Multilingual Summit - Preparing for Economic Development* on April 19 and 20, 2001; and
2. enter into contractual agreements with the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and required subcontractors to provide facilities and services for the conference with anticipated costs to be approximately \$44,000 to be covered by vendors.

The cost of the contracts will be included in the 2000-2001 Trust and Agency account, Program 9858.

CC:LCR:jhu