

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D), TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED AUDIO TAPE PRODUCTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$228,000, FROM JULY 1, 2001 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2002

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$228,000. Training is provided by RFB&D outreach personnel to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has contracted with RFB&D since 1994 and is continuing to expand the services to additional schools.

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. An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001. RFB&D was found to be effective in improving reading performance and it was recommended that the program be continued.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on May 31, 2001, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the contractor has specific expertise in this field.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2001 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 Ms. Christine McCarthy.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit for the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products, in an amount not to exceed \$228,000, from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2001.

RKF:as