

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE MONTESSORI TRAINING FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$24,800, FROM JULY 1, 2001 THROUGH JUNE 28, 2002

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 sites: Joella C. Good, Phyllis R. Miller, Pine Villa, and Scott Lake elementary schools.

In order to maintain accreditation of the Montessori magnet programs by the American Montessori Society (AMS), intensive staff development must be provided to paraprofessionals who are both new to the magnets and/or who are not AMS certified. Training will be provided to 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 July 1, 2001 through June 28, 2002.

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 or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with the Montessori Teacher Training Institute in Miami, Florida, to provide training for up to 8 paraprofessionals at a cost not to exceed \$3,100 per participant, for a maximum cost of \$24,800.

Ms. Beverley McGhee, serves as the President of the Montessori Teacher Training Institute, in Miami, Florida.

The committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this contract on May 31, 2001, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted because the institution has specific expertise in this area.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2001-2002 General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2001 under Fund 0100, Object 5310, various locations, magnet programs, Function 5101,

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 Montessori Teacher Training Institute in Miami, Florida, to provide training for paraprofessionals, at a cost not to exceed \$24,800, from July 1, 2001 through June 28, 2002; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

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

MT:cm