

November 28, 2001

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE A TEN-YEAR CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BEGINNING WITH THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations from the community. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Charter School District Review Committee met on November 2, 2001, to review the applications, and by a majority vote, made a recommendation for acceptance or denial of each application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The committee members voted to recommend for approval the Somerset Academy application. This application proposes to establish multiple charter schools in the next five years. The applicant will work with district staff to identify overcrowded areas to determine the potential sites for up to nine campuses. The grade level configuration of each charter school will be mutually agreed upon between the applicant and the School Board. K-8 centers will serve between 500 to 1,000 students, and 9-12 centers will serve between 800 and 1,200 students. The governing board will operate this charter school through a management contract with Academica Corporation, Mr. Fernando J. Zulueta, President.

Any pending issues identified by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are underenrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. Final implementation of the charter school will be predicated on the successful and timely completion of the charter school contractual agreement and subsequent approval by the School Board.

The following is the initial Board of Directors for Somerset Academy: Ms. Alejandra Salima Abello, Mater Center School; Hon. Peter Deutsch, United States House of Representatives; Dr. Ruth Jacoby, Somerset Academy; and Dr. Hui Fang Huang (Angie) Su, Nova Southeastern University.

Copies of the charter school application will be placed on file, and will be available for inspection in the School Board members' office, the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center.

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

1. approve the Somerset Academy application; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate with the approved applicant a ten-year charter school contractual agreement, beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, which reflects the contents of the application, as approved by the School Board. Any pending issues identified by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are underenrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. This charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

JHM:dcr