

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR VANKARA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE A THREE-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 7, 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 Vankara Academy Charter School application. The charter school will serve approximately 225 students enrolled in grades 6-8, with 150 students enrolled in the first year of operation in grades 6-8, at 13307-11 Alexandria Drive, Opa-Locka, FL 33054. The governing board will operate this charter school through a management contract for back office and administrative services with Charter Schools USA, Mr. Jonathan K. Hage, President and CEO.

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 governing board for Vankara Academy Charter School: Rev. John H. Taylor, Vankara Educational Center; Ms. Myra L. Taylor, Vankara Educational Center; Ms. Elvira Smith, Vankara Educational Center; Mr. Aneus McCall, Vankara Educational Center; Dr. Willelyra Smith, University of Miami; Ms. Eleise Patterson, Brandsmart USA; Ms. Sharon Eaddy, Florida International University; Mr. Williams Ferguson, attorney; and Mr. Sonny Wright, Universal Real Estate.

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 Vankara Academy Charter School application; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate with the approved applicant a three-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