

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR THE THEODORE R. AND THELMA A. GIBSON CHARTER SCHOOL WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE A 10-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 January 11, 2002, 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 Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School application. The charter school will serve approximately 600 students enrolled in grades K-6, with 200 students enrolled in the first year of operation in grades K-4, at a facility located at 3629 Grand Avenue, Miami, Florida 33133. The charter school's governing board will operate the school through a management agreement with Academica Corporation, Fernando J. Zulueta, President.

The Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School will be open to any student residing in Miami-Dade County. District schools in close proximity to the charter school include:

School	Student Population	Percentage Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Program Capacity)
Carver Elementary, G. W.	625	129
Coconut Grove Elementary	380	117
Coral Gables Elementary	756	129
Fairchild Elementary, David	599	110
Silver Bluff Elementary	732	108
Tucker Elementary, F. S.	482	95

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 The Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School: Thelma A. Gibson, community leader; Edith Georgi Houlihan, attorney; Dr. Robert Moore, educator; Manuel "Manny" J. Rodriguez, Florida Power & Light; Sandra Wallace, educator; Rabbi Dr. Herbert M. Baumgard, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and a parent representative of the school's EESAC Committee.

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 Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School 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