

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR VANKARA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved the charter school application for Vankara Academy Charter School on December 12, 2001, and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate the charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of three (3) years commencing with the 2002-2003 school year. The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on February 7, 2002, and by a majority vote, made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement.

Vankara Academy Charter School will be located at 13307-11 Alexandria Drive, Opa-Locka, Florida 33054. The governing board will operate the school through a management contract for back office and administrative services with Charter Schools USA, Jonathan K. Hage, President and CEO. The charter school will serve a maximum of 225 students enrolled in grades 6 through 8, with 150 students enrolled in grades 6 through 8 in its first year of operation.

The following is the initial Board of Directors 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. Eleese Patterson, Brandsmart USA; Ms. Sharon Eaddy, Florida International University; Mr. Williams Ferguson, attorney; and Mr. Sonny Wright, Universal Real Estate.

Vankara Academy 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)
Hialeah Middle	1,262	94
Madison Middle	1,348	129
North Dade Middle	814	108
Westview Middle	1,278	143

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Section 228.056, Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement between the charter school and the Sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

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

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the charter school contractual agreement with Vankara Academy Charter School, for a period of three years, commencing on the first day of the 2002-2003 school year.

MT:mb