

Personnel Management and Services
Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante, Chief Personnel Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SKILLSOFT CORPORATION TO OFFER DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES AND ACCEPT REIMBURSEMENT IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$7,500 FROM BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND \$5,000 FROM PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Skillsoft Corporation to offer distance learning courses to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) administrators. Skillsoft Corporation courses feature content pertinent to concepts leading to performance excellence through effective leadership and efficient management practices.

Skillsoft Corporation courses have been available to M-DCPS' administrators since September 2000 through the South Florida Annenberg Challenge Professional Development Initiative Partnership (PDI). The PDI is a partnership of the Florida Department of Education, BellSouth, and the South Florida Annenberg Challenge. At the School Board Meeting of December 12, 2001 (Agenda Item E-3), approval was given to enter into a contractual agreement with Skillsoft Corporation. The contractual agreement was jointly funded by M-DCPS, Broward County Public Schools, and the Southeast Florida Annenberg Challenge. The contractual agreement provided 56 courses through distance learning for 1,000 participants, and ended in December 2002. Skillsoft Corporation has provided a no-cost extension to the contract, allowing time for M-DCPS to pursue contract renewal.

In order to continue to provide these valuable staff development programs, authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Skillsoft Corporation for \$50,000. This cost represents a 30% discount being provided by Skillsoft Corporation, and will continue to provide 56 courses for 1,000 users. M-DCPS will receive 750 user slots, Broward County Public Schools will receive 150 user slots, and Palm Beach County Public Schools will receive 100 user slots. Broward County Public Schools will provide a \$7,500 reimbursement and Palm Beach County Public Schools will provide a \$5,000 reimbursement to M-DCPS. The net cost of the program to M-DCPS will be \$37,500.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this item on January 17, 2003, and has recommended that an exception to the rule be made as otherwise determined by the committee, on the basis of continuity of services. The Committee further recommended that a Request for Proposals for a multi-year contract (with the right to review annually) for distance learning services be developed when consideration is given to subsequent training needs.

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The appropriation for this contract is included in the 2002-2003 Title II Teacher and Principal Quality Program grant budget under Fund 0420, Program 4014, Location 9017, Object 5310, Function 6400. Funds received as reimbursements from Broward County Public Schools and Palm Beach County Public Schools will be placed in the same budget structure.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Skillsoft Corporation for \$50,000, from February 13, 2003 through February 13, 2004;
2. authorize the Superintendent to accept reimbursement in the amounts of \$7,500 from Broward County Public Schools and \$5,000 from Palm Beach County Public Schools;
3. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, Professional Services Contracts.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2002-2003 Title II Teacher and Principal Quality Program grant budget.

MCA/gpq