

August 8, 2003

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FIRST
AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST ACADEMY**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

As per Section 1002.33(7)(c), Florida Statutes, a charter school contractual agreement may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

The original charter school contractual agreement was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on July 11, 2001, for a term of ten years commencing with the 2001-2002 school year. The school has been operating from a facility on the campus of Nova Southeastern University, 1750 NE 168 Street, North Miami Beach, Florida 33162, and served approximately 377 students in grades kindergarten through five in the 2002-2003 school year. The school is operated by The Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc., through a management agreement with Charter Schools USA.

On March 17, 2003, Mr. Jonathan K. Hage, President and CEO of Charter Schools USA, notified the district that their negotiation efforts with Nova Southeastern University to extend the lease terms on its North Miami Beach campus, as well as to identify alternate school site locations had been exhausted. As a consequence, the governing board of Northeast Academy voted to terminate the charter and close the school. Soon thereafter, parental support prompted the governing board to seek a temporary facility for the school in order to maintain the educational program during the 2003-2004 school year while it continues to search for a permanent facility in the area.

The Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc., has requested a first amendment to allow for the temporary relocation of the school for the 2003-2004 school year to 3400 NW 135 Street, Miami, Florida 33054. The site currently houses North County Charter School which is also operated by The Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc., and has available space for limited enrollment from Northeast Academy. This first amendment will also allow for the correction of the name of the contracting party for the school to be changed from Northeast Academy, the name originally proposed by the school, to The Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc., on behalf of Northeast Academy.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on June 26, 2003, and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the first amendment to the charter school contractual agreement.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the first amendment to the charter school contractual agreement with Northeast Academy, to:

1. relocate the school to a temporary facility for the 2003-2004 school year; and
2. correct the name of the contracting party for the school from Northeast Academy to The Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc., on behalf of Northeast Academy.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr