

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF \$176,576 FROM *THE MIAMI HEAT* TO CONTINUE OPERATING AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ENTITLED *THE HEAT ACADEMY* AT PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR, LITTLE RIVER, AND RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The Miami Heat seeks to continue to implement an after-school academic program which will assist children by providing tutoring and enrichment in reading and mathematics. Using the popularity of professional sports, *The Miami Heat* will continue to utilize the *Heat* name to motivate students to stay in the classroom and, just as in sports, encourage practice. The program started in 1999 at Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School.

The Miami Heat will donate \$176,576 to Miami-Dade County Public Schools to operate *The Heat Academy* at Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River and Riverside elementary schools five days a week for two hours a day during the 2003-2004 school year. The program is free for 100 students at each school, selected through a random lottery. Funds received for the after-school academic program will provide: salaries for four teachers and four teacher aides, curriculum materials, daily snacks, supplies, and custodial and security services at each school.

The Heat Academy will be managed by a site director hired by *The Miami Heat*. *The Heat Academy* will offer additional enhancements, such as motivational speakers, incentives, and appreciation events. Parental involvement opportunities will be encouraged. All procedures as outlined in the *Community School Procedures Manual* will be followed in implementing the program.

These elementary schools were selected by *The Miami Heat*, based upon tutorial needs, as established by recent FCAT scores. In addition, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River, and Riverside elementary schools were chosen due to the diversity of their program.

There are no additional costs associated with this project since administration is provided by the existing community school funds.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation of \$176,576 from *The Miami Heat* to operate an after-school academic program, The Heat Academy, at Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River and Riverside elementary schools for 100 students at each site during the 2003-2004 school year.

GMK/CR:ed