

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO  
LEASE THE DENTAL FACILITY AT LINDSEY HOPKINS  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER TO THE DADE COUNTY  
DENTAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE:   EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Dade County Dental Research Committee uses the dental facility at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center (LHTEC), and has approximately 200 dentists who donate their services to the needy of Miami-Dade County. These clients are referred to the dental clinic from the Public Health Trust of Miami Dade County (Jackson Memorial Hospital). The dental research clinic is partially funded through a grant award from Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County. The dental clinic has been in operation at LHTEC for approximately fifty years.

Authorization is requested to enter into negotiations to lease the dental facility at LHTEC to the Dade County Dental Research Committee for \$1 per year, effective July, 2004. This endeavor will empower the dental research committee to enter into negotiations directly with the Public Health Trust of Miami Dade County and other funding agencies to foster a coordinated system of dental healthcare for Miami-Dade County. Ultimately, the negotiations will provide an opportunity for the Dental Research Committee to function independently of M-DCPS, allowing the district to reduce its liability and to continue the use of the dental clinic as a teaching facility for its dental assisting students.

Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is paying salaries for the following employees at the clinic: two residents, three dental assistants, an office manager, and a front desk receptionist. Impact on existing personnel will be minimal and will be addressed during contract negotiations. Students from the LHTEC dental assisting program use the facilities for their clinical training. The goal is to have the dental clinic absorb the costs of the salaries, and to reduce the district's liability beginning in the 2004-2005 school year.

Dr. Shari A. Witkoff is the President of the Dade County Dental Research Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into negotiations to lease the dental facility at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center to the Dade County Dental Research Committee.