

January 28, 2004

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER
SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED
PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE 8.5 SQUARE MILE AREA, INC., ON
BEHALF OF LAS PALMAS CHARTER SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

On November 19, 2003, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Las Palmas Charter School. The Board authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of five years.

The school will be located at 14410 SW 197 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33196. The charter school will serve a maximum of 180 students in grades kindergarten through eight, with a maximum of 100 students in grades kindergarten through three in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Ms. Alicia Peña, Financial Consultant; Mr. Eladio Valdes, Businessperson; Mr. Julio Concepcion, Businessperson; Mr. Osvaldo Cueli, Businessperson; Mr. Rene Revilla, Farmer; Mr. Lao Aguilera, Businessperson; Mr. Dionicio Febles, Farmer; and Mr. Marco Martinez, Farmer and Investor.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on January 16, 2004, and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement with The United Property Owners of the 8.5 Square Mile Area, Inc., on behalf of Las Palmas Charter School.

Section 1002.33, 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 the 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 in the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: Recognizing that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has previously approved the charter school application, it is recommended that the Board grant approval of the charter school contractual agreement with The United Property Owners of the 8.5 Square Mile Area, Inc., on behalf of Las Palmas Charter School, for a term of five years, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year and ending on June 30, 2009.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr