

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET 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 initial charter school contractual agreement for Somerset Academy was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on March 13, 2002, for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2003-2004 school year. The first amendment was approved on August 20, 2003, to defer the opening of the school until the 2004-2005 school year.

Commencing in the 2004-2005 school year, Somerset Academy has requested a second amendment which would allow the school to:

- open at a temporary facility at NW 87 Avenue and NW 21 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33172;
- reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through six to kindergarten through five; and
- decrease the enrollment capacity from a maximum of 650 students to a maximum of 125 students.

Commencing in the 2005-2006 school year, and throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2013, the amendment will also allow the school to:

- relocate to a permanent facility at SW 117 Avenue and SW 232 Street, Miami, Florida 33170;
- reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through eight to kindergarten through five; and
- decrease the enrollment capacity from a maximum of 800 students to a maximum of 700 students.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on March 8, 2004, and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the second amendment to the charter school contractual agreement.

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Copies of the amendment will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the second amendment to the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy to:

1. open at a temporary facility at NW 87 Avenue and NW 21 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33172; reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through six to kindergarten through five; and decrease the enrollment capacity from a maximum of 650 students to a maximum of 125 students for the 2004-2005 school year; and
2. relocate to a permanent facility at SW 117 Avenue and SW 232 Street, Miami, Florida 33170; reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through eight to kindergarten through five; and decrease the enrollment capacity from a maximum of 800 students to a maximum of 700 students, commencing in the 2005-2006 school year and throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 20, 2013.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr