

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE
MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE IN MIAMI,
FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE MONTESSORI TRAINING FOR
TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The main purpose of the Montessori magnet programs is to provide specialized curriculum in a carefully planned, stimulating, and structured learning environment to help students acquire a methodology for life-long learning. It also provides an excellent foundation for the development of sensory awareness, creativity, and intellectual capability.

Currently, Montessori magnet programs are being implemented in grades prekindergarten through five at the following four school sites: Joella C. Good Elementary School, Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School, Pine Villa Elementary School, and Scott Lake Elementary School.

In order to maintain authorization of the Montessori magnet programs by the American Montessori Society (AMS), intensive staff development must be provided to teachers and paraprofessionals who are not AMS certified. Training will be provided to teachers and paraprofessionals only in the event a thorough search for applicants fails to yield AMS-qualified candidates. The proposed training and study/observation activities will take place at the Montessori Teacher Training Institute (MTTI) in Miami, Florida, effective August 2, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the MTTI, in Miami, Florida, to provide training for a maximum of 6 teachers and paraprofessionals, at a cost not to exceed \$3,950 per participant, for a maximum cost of \$23,700.

The training will include:

- classroom instruction, textbooks, materials, and supplies;
- teaching manuals for the programs;
- oral and written examinations;
- periodic meetings and workshops, directed by MTTI for all participants;
- MTTI coordination of the on-site field supervision of each participant; and
- participant fees to AMS and the Montessori Accreditation Council.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this board item on May 27, 2004, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted because the MTTI has specific expertise in this area.

Ms. Beverly McGhee is the Head Mistress at Montessori Teacher Training Institute.

The appropriation for this item will be included as a combination of 6 teachers and paraprofessionals from the four magnet schools from the General Fund of the 2004-2005 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2004 under Fund 0100, Function 5101, Program various magnet programs, Object 5310, Location(s) various locations.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Montessori Teacher Training Institute (MTTI) in Miami, Florida, to provide training for teachers and paraprofessionals, at a cost not to exceed \$23,700, effective August 2, 2004 through June 30, 2005; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2004-2005 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2004.

RKF/MB:dcr