

Mercedes Toural, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH RYDER SYSTEM CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF RYDER ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

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 with Ryder System Charter School, Inc., was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on March 16, 1999, for a term of five years, commencing with the 1999-2000 school year. On January 14, 2004, the School Board approved the renewal of the charter school contractual agreement for a term of fifteen years. The contractual agreement contains provisions pertaining to the school's status as a "charter school-in-the-workplace." The most significant provision grants enrollment preference to children of employees of Ryder System, Inc.

Ryder Elementary Charter School is located at 8360 NW 33 Street, Miami, Florida 33122, and currently serves approximately 487 students in grades kindergarten through five. In the 2003-2004 school year, the school received a grade of "A" under Florida's A+ Plan for Education. The most recent financial audit found no audit exceptions.

Ryder System, Inc., the founder of the charter school, has relocated from the above site and wishes to cease its association with the charter school. The employees of Ryder System, Inc., who held positions on the school's governing board, have resigned, and new members have been duly elected. Ryder System Charter School, Inc., has entered into a lease agreement with Ryder System, Inc., to continue using the facility for the operation of the school.

Ryder Elementary Charter School has requested a first amendment which would allow the school to change its name to Renaissance Elementary Charter School and remove from the contractual agreement all provisions for enrollment preferences for the children of employees of Ryder System, Inc., commencing with the 2004-2005 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 30, 2019.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on July 1, 2004, and by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation for approval of the first amendment to the charter school contractual agreement with Ryder System Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Ryder Elementary Charter School.

Copies of the amendment 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 first amendment to the charter school renewal contract with Ryder System Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Ryder Elementary Charter School to:

1. change the name of the school to Renaissance Elementary Charter School; and
2. remove all provisions for enrollment preferences for the children of employees of Ryder System, Inc., commencing with the 2004-2005 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 30, 2019.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr