

Mercedes Toural, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO  
ACCEPT A DONATION OF \$95,409 FROM THE MIAMI HEAT TO  
CONTINUE OPERATING AN AFTER-SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
PROGRAM ENTITLED THE HEAT ACADEMY AT PAUL  
LAURENCE DUNBAR, LITTLE RIVER, AND RIVERSIDE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE:       EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Miami Heat seeks to continue to implement an after-school academic program which will assist children by providing tutoring and enrichment in reading and mathematics. Using the popularity of professional sports, The Miami Heat will continue to utilize the Heat name to motivate students to stay in the classroom and, just as in sports, encourage practice. The program started in 1999 at Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School. If accepted, a letter of appreciation will be sent to the donor.

The Miami Heat will donate \$95,409 to Miami-Dade County Public Schools to operate The Heat Academy at Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River, and Riverside Elementary Schools five days a week for two hours a day during the 2004-2005 school year. The program is free for 100 students selected through a random lottery at each school. Funds received for the after-school academic program will provide salaries for four teachers and four teacher aides, curriculum materials, daily snacks, supplies, custodial and security services at each school.

The Heat Academy will be managed by a site director hired by The Miami Heat. The Heat Academy will offer additional enhancements, such as motivational speakers, incentives, and appreciation events. Parental involvement opportunities will be encouraged. All procedures as outlined in the *Community School Procedures Manual* will be followed in implementing the program.

These elementary schools were selected by The Miami Heat, based upon tutorial needs, established by recent FCAT scores. In addition, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River, and Riverside elementary schools were chosen because they reflect a diverse student population.

There are no additional costs associated with this project since administration is provided by the existing community school funds.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation of \$95,409 to continue operating The Miami Heat Academy, an after-school academic program, at Paul Laurence Dunbar, Little River, and Riverside Elementary Schools for 100 students at each site during the 2004-2005 school year.

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