

Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN
INITIATIVE WITH THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE TO
EXPAND THE EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TO STELLAR
SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Last year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools approved The Executive Partnership Program through which CEOs and other business executives are matched with a principal to work in concert to improve student performance. By working together as a team in this on-going, annual program, both partners share their expertise and develop strategies to benefit the educational enterprise.

This request is to initiate Phase II of this program in partnership with the Council for Educational Change (CEC), a not-for-profit organization established by the Annenberg Challenge to affect change in educational practices. The addition of the CEC to The Executive Partnership program brings a number of resources to this effort and provides the needed structure to help nurture the relationships between principals and executives to the next level of impact. The resources that will be added include a structured orientation program, resource support from the CEC and on-line services it offers, strong data from current efforts, and a model network. Data from CEC's existing program, the Partnership to Advance School Success or PASS, show participating schools have raised their state accountability letter grades, with 63% of current schools reaching an A or B grade. Achievement gains and school grades for most schools increase significantly and steadily the longer the schools are in the program (University of Miami, 2004).

CEC has agreed to work with the District to expand the Executive Partnership to the STELLAR schools. Initially, Eight STELLAR schools will be identified to participate through an interview and selection process involving the business leaders who will serve as Partners.

To launch Phase II of The Executive Partnership program, the following CEOs and executives have agreed to serve as an Executive Partner:

1. Andrew Ansin, Sunbeam Properties
2. Robert Balough, Yale Mortgage
3. Bruce Greer, Cornerstone Properties
4. Steven Hayworth, Gibraltar Bank
5. John Kislak, Kislak National Bank
6. Charles Porter, Mellon Financial Services
7. Ed Soto, Ransom Everglades School
8. Frank M. Zohn, Ransom Everglades School

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The program will begin in January 2005 and will be renewed on an annual basis. The program will be monitored on a quarterly basis and a year-end evaluation will be executed to determine its effectiveness. School grades, attendance and FCAT scores will be the core areas of review, along with faculty and stakeholder surveys as to impact.

There will be no costs to the school district to initiate this phase and the Office of Community Services will provide the technical support along with the CEC. Future plans include expansion to other schools, professional development, and on-line support for the relationships.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to participate in an initiative with The Council for Educational Change to expand The Executive Partnership Program (Phase II) to the STELLAR Schools.

RFC/cn