

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR LAWRENCE ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF LAWRENCE ACADEMY AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On October 27, 2004, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Lawrence Academy and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 450 students in grades six through eight, with a maximum of 120 students in grades six and seven in its first year of operation commencing with the 2005-2006 school year, at a facility to be located at 777 West Palm Drive, Florida City, Florida 33034.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Dr. Keitha Lawrence-Burnett, Educator; Mr. Michael Burnett, Educator; Mr. Eddie Pearson, Educator; Ms. Lynda Raheem, Financial Consultant; Mr. Charles Mays, Attorney; Dr. Ralph Lewis, Educational Administrator; Dr. Richard Campbell, Educator; Mr. Samuel Stinson, Religious Leader and Retired Educator; Ms. Kathy Leahy, Human Resources Director; and Dr. Victoria Noriega, Psychologist.

Any pending issues identified by the Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are under-enrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

Copies of the application 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:

1. approve the application for Lawrence Academy, Inc., on behalf of Lawrence Academy; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2005-2006 school year through the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr