

Sonia E. Diaz, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL  
APPLICATION FOR BRIDGE ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF  
BRIDGE ACADEMY**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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, the M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee (DRC) met to review the application and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for denial. The Superintendent of Schools instructed staff to provide technical assistance to the applicant, and on December 3, 2004, the DRC met to review a revised application for Bridge Academy and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools, although some members of the committee expressed concerns about the fiscal viability of the entity resulting from the short-term nature of the program model. Notwithstanding the committee endorsement, a recommendation for denial is being made based on unresolved issues associated with the program model.

The charter school proposed to serve a maximum of 1,000 13<sup>th</sup> Year students (12<sup>th</sup> grade students needing to pass the FCAT), with a maximum of 240 students in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2005-2006 school year at a facility located at 115-117 NE 54 Street, Miami, Florida 33137. Based on need, the school also proposed to serve students in a facility in the Homestead area.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Bernardo A. Garcia, Educational Consultant; Jean-Rene Foureau, Educator; Jonathan L. Fried, Community Activist; Leo S. Cardona, Educator; and Georges Magny, Educator.

Copies of the application are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the 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, deny the application for Bridge Academy, Inc., on behalf of Bridge Academy.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr