

August 24, 2005

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION
 TO CONVERT MIAMI LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A K-8
 CENTER AND AUTHORIZATION TO REFER THE PROJECT TO
 THE SCHOOL SITE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION
 COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Following the procedure established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Educational Excellence School Advisory Committee (EESAC) of Miami Lakes Elementary School submitted an application to convert the school to a K-8 Center on February 14, 2005. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) K-8 Center Technical Committee (KCTC), which is comprised of Regional and District administrators and the school's PTA representative, met on February 18, 2005, to review the application. The KCTC voted eight to one in support of requesting that Advance Planning conduct a feasibility study. The M-DCPS K-8 Center Administrative Committee (KCAC), which is comprised of senior level District administrators and community representatives, met on August 16, 2005, and by a nine to three vote, made a recommendation for approval of the conversion of the school to a K-8 Center.

Miami Lakes Elementary School served 1,079 students in grades kindergarten through five during the 2004-2005 school year. Should the conversion to a K-8 Center be approved, the school would add grade six as soon as would be feasible and grades seven and eight in subsequent years. The maximum projected population for the proposed K-8 Center, taking into account class size reduction, ranges from 1,470 to 1,600, depending on the precise size of the modifications to the site.

The plan for converting Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center provides for the continuation of the school's emphasis on foreign language, technology, and the arts, furthering the District's extended foreign language initiative. In addition, students with disabilities will continue to participate in a full inclusion program and the school's oral program of instruction to deaf and hearing impaired children will continue into the middle years, providing a unique option for these grade six through eight students.

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Copies of the application will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and 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 to convert Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to refer the project to the School Site Planning and Construction Committee for inclusion in the next regular cycle of facilities planning.

LCR/MB:msm