

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL, INC., TO PROVIDE A PROGRAM WHICH INCREASES ONE-TO-ONE FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$98,600, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Best Buddies International, Inc., to provide opportunities to promote friendships between students with developmental disabilities (buddies) and students without disabilities (peer buddies) at 17 middle schools, in an amount not to exceed \$98,600, effective September 8, 2005, through June 30, 2006. Best Buddies International, Inc., will provide program initiation strategies, training, and support to teachers, school personnel, and student leaders. This is a new collaborative contractual agreement. Due to the number of middle schools that requested to participate in the Best Buddies Middle Schools Program, a contractual agreement representing the participating schools will be facilitated through the Division of Special Education to expedite the process.

All middle schools received a memorandum in the 2004-2005 school year inviting them to participate in the Best Buddies Middle Schools Program. The twelve (12) middle schools that responded participated in the Best Buddies Middle Schools Program through individual contracts utilizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds: Allapattah, Campbell Drive, Citrus Grove, Charles Drew, Glades, Henry Filer, Hialeah, Horace Mann, Miami Springs, North Miami, Redland, and Rivera. Five additional middle schools with large populations of students with developmental disabilities will be implementing the Best Buddies Middle Schools Program during the 2005-2006 school year: Brownsville, Cutler Ridge, MA Milam, Howard D. McMillan, and Thomas Jefferson. Public and private high schools Best Buddies programs are funded by the Florida Department of Education, the Miami-Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, and the Dade Community Foundation Grant.

Best Buddies International, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships, social inclusion, and integrated employment. The headquarters for Best Buddies International, Inc., is located at 100 SE Second Street, #2200, Miami, FL 33131.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this Board item on August 18, 2005, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the contractor has specific expertise in this field, as demonstrated by its recognized international programs.

The Vice President for Administration for Best Buddies International, Inc., is Ms. Lisa M. Plante.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3283, Object 5310, Location 9615.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Best Buddies International, Inc., to provide a program which increases one-to-one friendship opportunities for students with and without developmental disabilities in middle schools, in an amount not to exceed \$98,600, effective September 8, 2005, through June 30, 2006; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund).

AD/BB:las