

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Member

SUBJECT: MODIFY SCHOOL BOARD RULE 6GX13- 6A-1.47, CHARTER SCHOOLS (K-12), TO STRENGTHEN THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION, CONTRACT REVIEW/NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND TO INCREASE CHARTER SCHOOL MONITORING PROCEDURES

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 1996, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation authorizing the establishment of charter schools in the State of Florida. Since its inception, the number of charter schools has grown to 337 statewide, with 50 currently operating within Miami-Dade County.

Under current law, the local school board serves as the sponsor of charter schools located within its jurisdiction. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has been a leader in the development and implementation of charter school policy to help ensure that all of our students' and community's best interests are served through this statutorily-required form of public school choice.

As the number of and interest in charter schools continues to grow throughout the state and in the Miami-Dade County community, the need for a heightened level of monitoring and accountability has manifested to ensure that all charter schools in Miami-Dade County conform to the legislation's intent of meeting high standards of student achievement and financial efficiency by aligning responsibility with accountability.

In order to strengthen the effectiveness of start-up and existing charter schools in Miami-Dade County, the School Board should examine School Board Rule, 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), to codify procedures for strengthening the charter school application and contract review/negotiation processes as well as to ensure ongoing contractual compliance. In so doing, the School Board and the Miami-Dade County community will have greater confidence in the efficacy of all charter schools operating within the District.

B-12

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to modify School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), for initial reading at the December 2005 Meeting to:

1. strengthen the charter school application and contract review/negotiation process to minimally include provisions for
 - a) an earlier timeline for the submission of valid certificates of occupancy,
 - b) greater management and oversight of property purchased with public funds, and
 - c) stricter requirements for the delivery of services to students with special needs;
2. increase charter school monitoring procedures to ensure contractual compliance; and
3. review and report on process of other counties around the state regarding application and enforcement issue.