

Ava G. Byrne, Deputy Superintendent
Professional Development

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH JACKSON CONSULTING TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES THAT SUPPORT RESEARCH-BASED LITERACY PRACTICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$72,690, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 17, 2005, THROUGH MARCH 1, 2006

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Jackson Consulting to provide rigorous professional development grounded in scientifically based reading research for the sequential acquisition of reading skills tied to the national and state requirements for creating highly qualified teachers, in an amount not to exceed \$72,690, effective November 17, 2005, through March 1, 2006. This is a new contractual agreement.

Three hundred school site reading coaches, placed in six cohorts of 50 coaches, will participate in a 3-day intensive professional development series entitled *Literacy Leaders Course*. This course is designed to provide the specific scientific knowledge base for reading instruction that is not tied to any specific textbook series in order to strengthen understanding of literacy development and reading foundations. Additionally, fifty of these 300 coaches will be provided with more in-depth training to prepare them to be trainers of trainers, thereby building District capacity for literacy development. District curriculum experts will participate in 2-hour sessions following each cohort of the *Literacy Leaders Course* in order to sustain and support the implementation efforts from a leadership and instructional perspective. Jackson Consulting will also provide ongoing phone and e-mail support to the District.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this Board item on November 14, 2005, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted due to Jackson Consulting's specific expertise in this field, as demonstrated by its experience in providing technical assistance targeted at scientifically-based reading research program implementation, effective coaching, and instructional leadership.

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The Founder of Jackson Consulting is Ms. Jill M. Jackson.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 4602, Object 5310, Location 9702.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Jackson Consulting to provide professional development services that support research-based literacy practices, in an amount not to exceed \$72,690, effective November 17, 2005, through March 1, 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 Program Fund).

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