

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR THE EXCEL ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF EXCEL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On October 6, 2005, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Excel Academy Charter School and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 700 students in grades kindergarten through five, with 250 students in grades kindergarten through two in its first year of operation commencing with the 2006-2007 school year and through the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Patricia Grimsley, Educational Administrator; Rodney Baltimore, Community Activist/Radio Announcer; Deborah E. Robinson, Mental Health Professional; Charles E. Brown, Civil Servant; Lyvie Fatal, Social Worker; Cheretha Berrieum, Educator/Businessperson; David Shorter, Civil Servant; Annie Ruth Brown, Educator; Kenneth A. Duke, Cleric; Tommy Ford, Actor; Anita Sandler, Educational Administrator; Robert E. Weisberg, Attorney; and Erika Thomas, Community Resident.

The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

Copies of the application are available for inspection by the public in the Office of 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:

1. approve the application for The Excel Academy, Inc., on behalf of Excel Academy Charter School; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2006-2007 school year and through the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

LCR/MB/CR:dcr