

November 30, 2005

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR LIFE SKILLS CENTER DADE COUNTY, INC., ON BEHALF OF LIFE SKILLS CENTER – OPA-LOCKA 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 November 18, 2005, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Life Skills Center - Opa-locka 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 nine through twelve with a maximum of 400 students 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: Judy Salvador, Human Resources Executive; Jose Antonio Loreda, Attorney; Alicia Rodriguez-Bower, Educational Administrator; Risa J. Berrin, Children's Advocate; Simone Ruiz-Payne Narcis, Educator; Dean William VanderWyden, Educator; and Dannie McMillon, Community Activist.

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 Life Skills Center Dade County, Inc., on behalf of Life Skills Center - Opa-locka; 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