

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN EDUCATION
 COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 AND THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The City of Coral Gables (the City) provides a unique opportunity for its educational environment. Situated fairly central to this county, its 12.5 square miles offer many very special learning opportunities for our students. It is a community full of historically significant structures, restored and preserved by the City to continue to provide a strong link to our South Florida history. As well, through Fairchild Tropical Gardens, opportunities to expand learning are abundant, and the many museums within the City provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The many art galleries can also provide great avenues to display and promote student fine art.

From the business side, with over 140 multinational companies and over 15 consulates located within the City, and a very active Chamber of Commerce, the City is uniquely situated to provide business exposure for our students, including internships, mentorships, and partnership opportunities. Transportation within this Mediterranean gem has been enhanced by the unique and *free*, public trolley system, which can assist students traversing to new learning venues.

Other very special opportunities available to our students within the City include intergenerational programming and parent and child activities. With special efforts to support the senior citizen population within the City, possibilities exist whereby students involved with service learning and community service can support this population. Additionally, with over 5,320 school-age children living within the City, opportunities for parent/child activities are clearly evident.

The Education Compact will undertake efforts that would be enriched, expedited, or enhanced through collaborative efforts. The following is a list of potential programs or efforts which may be included:

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Increasing and Enhancing Academic Programs with the City

- Support the development and enrichment of the International Studies High School to be sited in the Coral Gables Senior High School relief area;
- Develop a consulates connection to expose students to a variety of experiences such as mentoring, internships, or other partnership programs through the foreign consulates located within the City;
- Provide specialized classes sponsored by the City through The Parent Academy;
- Develop a program, in conjunction with the Coral Gables Chamber (Chamber), to recruit and place business partners with schools and explore development of small schools or learning communities on underdeveloped School Board properties within the City of Coral Gables;
- Include the University of Miami (UM) in partnering with college students and resources to support Coral Gables' public schools through community service to provide tutoring, connections to the International Studies High School, web site linking, and access to UM resources for students attending Coral Gables' public schools;
- Develop a plan to connect with the many art galleries to highlight student art work;
- Pledge that by school opening 2008, all schools in Coral Gables would have a grade of B or higher;
- Support the creation of an intergenerational oral history effort, to be housed at the Coral Gables Museum, whereby students create oral histories of local natives and long-time residents, to be included in the museum; and
- Jointly support the creation of an internship initiative with Coral Gables businesses and Coral Gables Senior High School based on parameters within the District's Secondary School Reform plan.

Sharing Facilities, Communications Efforts, and Programs for the Enhancement of Education and the City

- Jointly work on communications through the City's website to include an educational column with information on Coral Gables' schools and district wide initiatives, to be posted on the City's website;
- Consider joint wireless communications hubs;

- Cooperatively work with the City and the Chamber to host a Realtors Breakfast to provide updated information on Coral Gables' public schools;
- Support efforts to create a marketing brochure on the educational opportunities available through public schools in Coral Gables to be disseminated through the Chamber and the City to residents and businesses;
- Consider joint recreational or facility use including access for both partners, as available, for meetings, community receptions, specialized athletic activities, and specialized cultural and historic programs;
- Work with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to support an information kiosk in the City's Youth Center to inform parents and community members about Coral Gables' schools and City resources (joint effort); and
- Work jointly on Emergency Management (EM) issues including the consideration of a shelter in the City for residents, joint information sharing, and inclusion of a school/District representative in EM planning within the City.

Supporting Expanded Community Involvement Efforts Within the City

- Create a Mayor's Roundtable to host quarterly meetings on educational issues with various partners and school staff;
- Consider a youth council for the City to include two students from each school within Coral Gables, to possibly partner with Junior Orange Bowl, as the liaison and support for the council to advise the City and school system on youth issues within the City;
- Support the creation of a speakers bureau for Coral Gables' schools, in conjunction with the Chamber, to provide teachers with access to speakers in specialized topics; and
- Collaborate on the recruitment of CEOs, through the Mayor and Manager's offices, to participate in the PASS or Executive PASS Program with the Council for Educational Change to pair CEO-level executives with Coral Gables principals.

In addition to the ideas identified above, The Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Commission, better coordination of communications and issues, and possible joint grant development opportunities.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the City of Coral Gables.