

Office of School Facilities  
Rose Diamond, Chief Facilities Officer

**SUBJECT:       REPLACEMENT OF DESIGNATED SPECIALIST - ARCHITECTURE IN THE AGREEMENTS WITH AVART, INC. AS PROJECT ARCHITECT/ENGINEERS FOR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PACKAGE #19, RENOVATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS AT SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PROJECT NO. 00261700 AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PACKAGE #9, GENERAL REPAIRS AND REHABILITATION AT MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT NO. 00264300**

**COMMITTEE:   FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION REFORM**

On February 15, 2006, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commissioned Avart, Inc. (Avart) as Project Architect/Engineers for Deferred Maintenance Package #19, Renovations, Maintenance and Repairs at Sunset Elementary, Project No. 00261700. On March 15, 2006, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commissioned Avart as Project Architect/Engineers for General Repairs and Rehabilitation at Miami Palmetto Senior High, Project No. 00264300. In the agreements with Avart, the firm of Landera Associates, P.A. was listed as the Designated Specialist - Architecture. The agreements require prior written approval by the Board for any termination or replacement of the original designated specialists.

Avart has notified staff that they currently have a registered Architect and related support services on staff and therefore will not need to retain the firm of Landera Associates, P.A. on these projects. In addition, Avart management staff has changed. Larry Lehman, Albert Hernandez and Herminia Larrua are no longer with Avart. The current officers of the firm are Neil Weitman, President, Luis A. Olivares, Executive Vice President and Arthur J. Miller, Sr., Vice President. Arthur J. Miller is the principal directly responsible to the Board on these projects.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the replacement of the Designated Specialist - Architecture, in the agreements with Avart, Inc. as Project Architect/Engineers for Deferred Maintenance Package #19, Renovations, Maintenance And Repairs at Sunset Elementary School, Project No. 00261700 and Deferred Maintenance Package #9, General Repairs and Rehabilitation at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Project No. 00264300, as follows:

- 1) Replacement of Landera Associates, P.A., with the firm's in-house registered staff to perform architectural services;
- 2) replacement of the firm's principals as set forth in the body of the agenda item; and
- 3) provide written notification of this action to the firm.

NAD:rg