

May 31, 2006

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ACADEMY (COUNTRY PALMS)

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement between the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

On December 12, 2001, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Somerset Academy. The Board authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a maximum of nine charter school contractual agreements with the applicant for a term of ten years to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, pursuant to Section 1002.33(7)(a)(12), Florida Statutes. Three contractual agreements have been approved in prior years in accordance with the provisions of the approved application.

The school will be located at 12425 SW 248 Street, Miami, Florida 33032. The school will serve a maximum of 1,000 students in grades kindergarten through five, commencing with the 2007-2008 school year and throughout the term of the contract which expires on June 30, 2017, and concludes in the 2016-2017 school year.

The following is the governing board for the school: Victor Barroso, Chair; Lagarie Woodward; Hui Fang Huang "Angie" Su; Alejandra Salima Jacquinet; Kim Guilarte; Cynthia Hanson; George Pedraza; and, Carlos Resendez.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC) met on May 8, 2006, and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy (Country Palms).

Copies of the charter school contractual agreement will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and 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: Recognizing that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has previously approved the charter school application, it is recommended that the Board grant approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy (Country Palms) for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2007-2008 school year and throughout the term of the contract which expires on June 30, 2017, and concludes in the 2016-2017 school year.

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