

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE TERMINATION OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE, INC., ON BEHALF OF SPIRAL TECH ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Section 1002.33(8)(e)(f), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, provides guidelines for the dissolution of a charter school.

The initial charter school contractual agreement for Spiral Tech Elementary Charter School was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on June 9, 1998, for a term of five years, and renewed on March 12, 2003, for a term of five years expiring on June 30, 2008.

On May 15, 2002, the School Board approved the termination of the contractual agreement for good cause, namely the failure of the school to maintain conditions which ensure the proper health, safety and welfare of the students and for other good cause shown. However, Spiral Tech Elementary Charter School sought and obtained injunctive relief from the Circuit Court on August 27, 2002, and continued in operation.

The most recent financial audit, dated June 30, 2005, indicated recurring losses and net capital deficiencies, with the net assets deficits exceeding \$500,000. In addition, the audit revealed liabilities totaling \$150,983 consisting of unpaid rents and \$137,488 in other debts. Furthermore, the auditor's report reflected doubts as to the school's ability to continue as a going concern. A Notice of Termination of Charter School Contract was sent to the school's governing board chairperson, Ms. Dorcas Varela, on February 23, 2006.

Spiral Tech Elementary Charter School exercised its right under the law, and an Informal Hearing was held on April 6, 2006. The Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC) was instructed to determine if the school met generally accepted standards of fiscal management; provided a remediation plan that would correct the pending financial issues by May 24, 2006; and whether it supported the recommendation to terminate the charter school contractual agreement. The CRC concurred unanimously on all three issues and voted to recommend that the charter school contractual agreement be terminated.

District staff is working closely with the school administration to facilitate the closing of the school according to the provisions of the contractual agreement, and to ensure a smooth transition of the students to other school settings.

Copies of relevant documentation will be transmitted to 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: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, grant approval of the termination of the charter school contractual agreement with Successful Enterprise, Inc., on behalf of Spiral Tech Elementary Charter School, effective June 30, 2006.

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