

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO AN EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH THE MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER INC., TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADE FIVE**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into an educational collaboration with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center Inc. (BNC), to provide environmental programs for grade five students. The BNC has been informally collaborating with M-DCPS for over ten years and has been instrumental in acquiring funds for the construction of the facility at Crandon Park. The agreement formalizes an existing collaboration to conduct environmental programs.

The BNC offers environmental educational programs to both private and public schools. These programs include laboratory and field studies about the Biscayne Bay area and its vast precious resources, including mangroves, sea grasses, the fossil rock reef, sand dunes, and hammocks. The Division of Science in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction actively promotes and encourages integration of these types of environmental studies in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools; therefore the program at the BNC compliments our science curriculum content.

The BNC charges a nominal fee per student for schools wishing to participate. Additionally, they conduct fund raising activities and purchase furniture, equipment, and supplies to improve and enhance the facility. With the approval of M-DCPS and Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation, the BNC also arranges for a variety of community partners to make use of the facility by providing professional development and informational programs for teachers as well as the general public.

No District funds are needed to formalize this educational collaboration.

**C-44**

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to participate in a science education collaboration with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center Inc.

MF/CLB:gl