


MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2006

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF AGENDA ITEM C-15 - REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH CAMPUS)

The aforementioned Item is being withdrawn from the Agenda of the December 13, 2006 School Board Meeting. The charter school applicant has agreed to waive the statutorily-required timeline in which the School Board must act on the application in order to provide additional time to potentially resolve pending issues. Unless the applicant formally withdraws the charter school application, an Item to either approve or deny this charter school application will be brought forth for the School Board's consideration no later than the February 14, 2006 School Board Meeting.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, at 305-995-1451 or Mr. Michael Bell, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Programs, at 305-995-7260.

RFC/AD/LCR/MB:lhb
M688
Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Cabinet
School Board Attorney
Dr. Lourdes C. Rovira
Mr. Michael Bell
Ms. Ellen O. Wright
Mrs. Beatriz Zarraluqui

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF
SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH
CAMPUS)**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On November 27, 2006, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Campus) and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

However, serious concerns have recently been raised as a consequence of an ongoing investigation by the School Board's Chief Auditor involving possible undisclosed related party transactions and other governance issues at an existing charter school involving the applicant's management company, Academica, Inc. The State Attorney's Office has also recently opened an investigation into the matter. In light of these pending investigations and concerns regarding the School's management company, it is recommended that this application for a new charter school, which involves Academica Inc., be denied at this time.

Copies of the application 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, deny the charter school application submitted by Somerset Academy Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Campus)

LCR/MB/EOW:elg

C-15
ITEM WITHDRAWN
12/7/06