

November 29, 2006

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR MATER ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF
MATER ACADEMY EAST CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

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 Mater Academy East Charter High School 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 Mater Academy Charter School, which shares governing board membership with the proposed charter school, and its 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 governance and management company, it is recommended that this application for a new charter school, involving the same parties, 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 Mater Academy, Inc., on behalf of Mater Academy East Charter High School.

LCR/MB/EOW:elg

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