

Office of School Facilities
Jaime G. Torrens, Temporary Chief Facilities Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FURTHER EXPLORE AND NEGOTIATE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THAT WOULD ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO BUILD AND OPERATE A SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ON COUNTY-OWNED LAND, ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL CENTER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY S.W. 211 STREET AND S.W. 108 AVENUE, CUTLER RIDGE, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION REFORM

**LINK TO
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

Background

Miami-Dade County (County) is in the process of constructing the South Miami-Dade Cultural Center (Cultural Center) adjacent to the South Miami-Dade Government Center in Cutler Ridge at approximately S.W. 211 Street and S.W. 108 Avenue, on 6.3 acres of land. The Cultural Center, projected to open in 2008/2009, was conceived as a multidisciplinary venue for the arts which, once completed, will provide a 1,000-seat theater with ample support spaces, connected by a plaza to an adjacent smaller venue for small scale performances.

While the County and the District have always envisioned the presence of a public school component within or next to the Cultural Center, the County has now formally extended an opportunity to the District for inclusion of a small special interest school catering to the performing arts adjacent to the Cultural Center, on County-owned property, under a long-term Interlocal Agreement. The Superintendent's Task Force on Special Interest Schools previously presented to the Board a recommendation to build and operate a school for the musical arts in South Miami-Dade for grades 6-12. This collaboration presents a unique opportunity for the District to expand upon that recommendation by pursuing the establishment of a broader-based school for the performing arts (school).

Additional Information

In order to facilitate the future construction of the school by the District, the County proposes to make available a parcel of land owned by the County, adjacent to the Cultural Center; preliminary discussions indicate that such land would be made available to the District on a long-term basis, at a nominal fee. Because of the adjacency to the Cultural Center, additional opportunities also exist for sharing of ancillary facilities, and more importantly for the use by students of some of the

specialized spaces within the Cultural Center complex. An interdisciplinary team of District staff is scheduled to visit the Cultural Center site prior to the March 14, 2007 Board meeting, in the expectation of identifying the ideal location for the school.

Should the School Board be supportive of the recommendation to undertake additional discussions with the County on this matter, with the ultimate expectation of finalizing an Interlocal Agreement that will cover all the relevant aspects of the collaboration, as part of the next update of the District's Five-Year Capital Plan, funding would need to be included in a future year, to be determined based on projected revenues, for the design and construction of the school. Additionally, a description of the proposed school's curriculum will be submitted to the Board at a later date.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to further explore and negotiate an Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County that would allow the District to build and operate a school for the performing arts on County-owned land, adjacent to the South Miami-Dade Cultural Center located at approximately S.W. 211 Street and S.W 108 Avenue, Cutler Ridge, Florida.

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