

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED AUDIO TAPE PRODUCTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct Learning Through Listening activities, provide library services, and produce required audio digital products for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Training is provided by RFB&D outreach personnel to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. The Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks, library services, and other educational resources to individuals who cannot read standard print because of a visual, physical, or perceptual disability. Located in Miami, it is the only unit of RFB&D in the state of Florida. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 1994.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, reviewed this Board item on March 22, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as RFB&D is the sole source provider of these services. The sole source is based on the fact that RFB&D's Master Library contains about 83,000 titles at all academic levels. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was not initiated since RFB&D is a national, non-profit organization and the only unit in the state of Florida that provides recorded textbooks, library services, and other educational resources to people who cannot read standard print because of visual, physical, or learning disabilities.

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An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001, and the program was found to be effective in improving reading performance. It was recommended that the program should be continued. The program is monitored by administrative staff from the Division of Special Education. Student and institutional membership records, outreach staff activities, and invoices are reviewed monthly.

The Executive Director for the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is Ms. Christine McCarthy.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007, under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3420, Object 5310, Location 9615.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, for RFB&D as the sole source provider of these services.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007.

LCR/BB:cb