

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CONVERSION OF FIENBERG/FISHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM A K-6 SCHOOL TO A K-8 CENTER**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE PARENTAL CHOICE OPTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

Pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, the K-8 Center Technical Committee met on January 11, 2006, to consider a proposal to convert Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School to a K-8 Center. At the aforementioned meeting, the Office of Advanced Planning (Facilities) was requested to conduct a feasibility study of a conversion from a K-6 Elementary School to a K-8 Center. In compliance with this request, a feasibility study was conducted. Pending the outcome of the feasibility study, the K-8 Center Technical Committee forwarded the proposal by a majority vote, to the next level of review.

In addition to the feasibility study, a traffic impact study was also conducted by the Office of Advanced Planning (Facilities). The study concluded that, based on available capacity at Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School, the proposed K-8 conversion would require adjustments only in the drop-off/pick-up and parking areas. The K-8 Center Administrative Committee met on March 7, 2007, and by a unanimous vote, recommended to the Superintendent of Schools, acceptance of the proposal to convert Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School to a K-8 Center.

Procedures stipulated in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A- 1.48, K-8 Centers, have been completed. The school would add grade 7 as soon as it would be feasible and grade 8 the following year. The maximum projected population for the proposed K-8 Center would be approximately 900 to 950 students. The school's permanent F.I.S.H. capacity is 1,014, which means there is ample existing capacity to accommodate the additional grades. Furthermore, the fact that the facility was previously used as a high school is an added benefit since it houses the types of spaces conducive for secondary instruction. The only improvements required as grades 7 and 8 are added, will be the provision of an additional thirty (30) parking spaces and traffic crosswalk improvements for the safety of the students at an approximate cost of \$150,000. Although the proposed K-8 conversion will not significantly alter student enrollment at Nautilus Middle School, its impact on the feeder middle school will be monitored and, if necessary, the grade

**C-14**

configuration of Nautilus Middle School may be modified to include grade 6 from selected feeder schools.

Inasmuch as Fienberg/Fisher already serves grade 6, the proposed conversion will extend the middle school program to include grades 7 and 8. As such, there will be a seamless integration of the curriculum across the K-8 spectrum.

Copies of the application and feasibility and traffic studies, will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and will be 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:

1. approve the application to convert Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School from a K-6 grade configuration to a K-8 Center; and
2. authorize the inclusion of funding for parking and traffic safety improvements in the amount of \$150,000, as part of the next annual update of the five-year capital plan.

LCR/MB/HB/LL:swc