

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER
 SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH LAWRENCE
 ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF LAWRENCE ACADEMY
 ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement, between the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

On December 13, 2006, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Lawrence Academy Elementary Charter School and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of ten years. Subsequent to the approval of the charter application, Lawrence Academy, Inc., requested to change the initial year of the contract to commence operations beginning in the 2008-2009 school year.

This school will be located at 777 West Palm Drive, Florida City, Florida 33034. The school will serve a maximum of 400 students in grades kindergarten through five, with a maximum of 150 students in grades kindergarten through four in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, and continuing throughout the term of the contract which expires on June 30, 2018, and concludes in the 2017-2018 school year.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Dr. Ralph Lewis, Educator; Ms. Lynda Raheem, Marketing Executive; Ms. Sofia Santiesteban, Educator; Mrs. Althea King, Educator; Dr. Dwight Witty, Educator; Dr. Keitha Lawrence-Burnett, Educator; and Mr. Michael Burnett, Public Administrator.

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The Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC) met on March 12, 2007, and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Lawrence Academy, Inc. on behalf of Lawrence Academy Elementary Charter School.

Copies of the charter school contractual agreement 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: Recognizing that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has previously approved the charter school application, it is recommended that the Board:

1. approve the change of the initial year of the contract to the 2008-2009 school year; and
2. grant approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Lawrence Academy, Inc., on behalf of Lawrence Elementary Academy Charter School for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which expires on June 30, 2018, and concludes in the 2017-2018 school year.

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