

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE TERMINATION
 OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH
 COOPERATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF
 COOPERATIVE CHARTER SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Section 1002.33(8), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, provides guidelines for the termination of a charter school contract and for the dissolution of a charter school.

The initial charter school contractual agreement for Cooperative Charter School was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on April 13, 2005, for a term of five years, commencing with the 2005-2006 school year, to serve a maximum of 200 students in grades kindergarten through five. The first amendment to the charter school contractual agreement to defer the opening of the school until the 2006-2007 school year was approved by the School Board on July 13, 2005.

Cooperative Charter School did not receive a grade under Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability. Pursuant to State Board Rule 6A-1.09981, all schools must serve at least 30 students with valid FCAT scores in reading and math in both the current year and the previous year to receive school grades. The School is required to submit audited financial statements by September 1, 2007, in preparation of its first independent audit.

After several District-issued notices of non-compliance, Cooperative Charter School has repeatedly failed to submit valid facility permits and related documentation (Certificate of Occupancy/Use, Fire Safety Permit, and Fire Inspection Reports) for the facility housed at 1743-51 Northwest 54 Street, Miami, Florida 33142 for the 2006-2007 school year. The health, safety, and welfare of students enrolled at Cooperative Charter School cannot be guaranteed in the absence of the above required documents.

C-4

Additionally, despite several notices of non-compliance throughout the year, Cooperative has failed to properly submit the following items:

- (1) Adequate insurance coverage for the facility, employees, directors and Sponsor (Part IV, section F of the charter school contractual agreement);
- (2) Quarterly Financial Statements for the 2007 fiscal year, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Part IV, section A (7) of the charter school contractual agreement); and
- (3) Evidence of retention of a Certified Public Accountant or Auditor for the annual financial audit (section 1002.33 (9)(k)(1), Florida Statute).

Pursuant to section 1002.33(8)(d), Florida Statutes (2006), these reasons constitute good cause for immediate termination. Cooperative Charter School's governing body and principal were noticed on June 30, 2007, of my intent to make a recommendation of termination to the School Board. Should the School Board approve this recommendation for termination, Cooperative's governing body may, within 30 days after receiving the School Board's decision to terminate the charter, appeal the decision pursuant to the procedure established in section 1002.33(6), Fla. Stat. (2006).

Copies of the notice of termination will be transmitted to 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, grant approval of the immediate termination of the charter school contractual agreement with Cooperative Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Cooperative Charter School, effective August 2, 2007.

LCR/MB/EOW/TP:elg