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Office of Public Relations

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH VOX COMMUNICATIONS GROUP LLC, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007 FOR WHWY-FM

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: EXCHANGE MEANINGFUL INFORMATION WITH
STAKEHOLDERS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to operate WLRN-FM, the oldest FM station in South Florida and a National Public Radio member station. WLRN-FM, serving approximately 3.9 million listeners from Palm Beach County to the Florida Keys, applied for federal funds in 2005 to construct a full power 100,000 watt repeater public radio station (WHWY-91.5FM), to be located in Marathon, Florida. Upon completion, this station will provide a first public radio service to the lower two-thirds of the Florida Keys and replace four obsolete radio translators that have been in operation since 1993.

In April 2006, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida accepted a grant award from the United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the amount of \$229,364, under the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program. The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program is a competitive grant program that provides funding to public broadcasting stations for construction of new telecommunications facilities in order to bring educational and cultural programs to the American public.

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Rental of space on the Vox Communications Group tower is necessary in order to place the new antenna and associated transmission equipment. WLRN is requesting Board approval for the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a tower lease agreement with Vox Communications Group LLC subject to the following terms and conditions: The annual rent shall be \$40,800, payable in monthly installments of \$3,400. On each five year anniversary date, the annual rental fee shall be adjusted by a factor of fifteen percent; the duration of the agreement shall be twenty years (initially five years with three renewal terms of five years each).

There will be no additional cost to the District (MDCPS) as all construction costs are covered by grants from USDOC and FLDOE and lease payments will be covered through station fundraising efforts.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a lease agreement with Vox Communications Group LLC, for the use of its tower located at MM 27, Monroe County, FL subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. the initial rental period will be for five years effective October 1, 2007 with an annual payment of \$40,800 each year;
2. there will be three five-year term automatic renewals at a fifteen percent increase in the annual rent; and
3. the lease agreement shall be for twenty years and will terminate on September 30, 2027 unless renewed prior to that date.

FMN/JL/mca