

School Police and District Security
Gerald L. Darling, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING, INC. FOR EVALUATION SERVICES AND ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2007, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2008

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: CREATE A SYSTEM TO ANTICIPATE, PREPARE FOR, AND MEET THE CHANGING SECURITY NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT

During the Board Meeting of April 18, 2007, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, established a blueprint in the formation of the Education Compacts between the District and other local general purpose governments. In this instance, the City of Miami Gardens designed to bring together each organization's collective resources for the greater benefit of the students and citizens of Miami Gardens. The Board Item, A-2 was intended to educate and engage stakeholders on District initiatives and activities to promote meaningful relationships that would enrich the lives of students, promote academic achievement and enhance the safety and quality of life for the residents of the community.

With a number of existing initiatives already in place to build upon, and 26 District facilities within the city (including eighteen elementary, four middle and two high schools), Miami Gardens is considered a cornerstone within the community and possesses unlimited potential for educational opportunities. However, the outlook for a community can be imprecise and blurred when unfortunate factors such as gangs and violence intersect with order and tranquility.

The South Florida Workforce Investment Board and the City of Miami Gardens Mayor's Office awarded grants to Miami-Dade County Public Schools for funding the Youth Crime Prevention Initiative, Miami Partnership for Action in Communities Taskforce (Project MPACT), for the development of comprehensive plans to address youth gang violence and child murder.

At the July 11, 2007, School Board Meeting, Agenda Item C-94 was approved; this item authorized the acceptance of a grant award, in the amount of \$100,000, from the South Florida Workforce Investment Board for Project MPACT for the term of July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

At the August 1, 2007, School Board Meeting, Agenda Item C-86 was approved. This item authorized the acceptance of a grant award, in the amount of \$166,561, from the City of Miami Gardens Mayor's Office for Project MPACT beginning August 1, 2007, to August 31, 2008.

The Project MPACT includes the following five key elements:

1. **Mobilizing the Community:** bringing together law enforcement, schools, community organizations, citizens and youth.
2. **Intervening with At-Risk Youth:** including in-school and after-school programming, mentoring, family counseling, drug treatment and outreach to gang-involved youth.
3. **Providing Opportunities:** offering education assistance, vocational training, job training and job placement services.
4. **Suppressing Gang Activity:** including targeted police operations.
5. **Improving Organizational Structure:** sharing information, enhancing case management and establishing multi-disciplinary coordination and training.

The Professional Services Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on August 16, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted by the Committee because the contractor provides specific expertise in providing research and evaluation for educational programs and their effectiveness within the learning environment.

Authorization is being requested to enter into a contractual agreement with the Counseling and Educational Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$153,889. Services will include preparation of evaluation methodology, design of an evaluation instrument, program evaluation, data collection, analyses and reporting.

In addition, Counseling and Educational Consulting, Inc. will provide stipends and incentives to students who successfully meet all academic requirements and on-the-job-training benchmarks, in accordance with the grant application.

Official notifications relative to this grant award were received on April 20, 2007, for the South Florida Workforce Investment Board and February 1, 2007, for the City of Miami Gardens Mayor's Office.

The President and Founder of Counseling and Educational Consulting Inc. is James Pann, Ph.D. The organization was commissioned by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to serve as research partners for the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department Project MPACT, previously "Gang-Free Schools and Communities National Demonstration Model."

Fund Source

The appropriation for this item is through grants awarded by the South Florida Work Force Investment Board for \$100,000 and the City of Miami Gardens Mayor's Office for \$166,651. There are neither matching District funds required, nor any District contributions necessary for this item.

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

1. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 based on specific expertise;
2. enter into a contractual agreement with Counseling and Educational Consulting, Inc., for preparation of evaluation methodology and design instrument, program evaluation, data collection, analyses and reporting. In addition, Counseling and Educational Consulting, Inc. will provide stipends and incentives to students who achieve academic and on-the-job-training benchmarks in accordance with the grant application, in the amount of \$153,889, for the period of September 6, 2007, through August 31, 2008; and
3. extend and amend the amount of the contractual agreement as authorized through official notification from the granting agencies in order to complete the goals of the program.