

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY EDUCATION TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT THE TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$428,978 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 18, 2007, THROUGH JULY 30, 2010.**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS**

At the August 1, 2007, meeting of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the Board authorized the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) in the total amount of \$1,739,378, to fund the Teaching American History program. In accordance with the grant proposal submitted to USDOE, authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the American Institute for History Education (AIHE) to provide professional development for 200 American history teachers choosing to participate in the grant. These grant funded services will be provided, in an amount not to exceed \$428,978, beginning October 18, 2007, through July 30, 2010.

AIHE was specifically named in the grant proposal to provide professional development for teachers throughout the three-year grant period. AIHE is a nationally recognized professional organization in the field of American history. Its mission is to provide substantive, engaging historical content and activities for teachers to use in their classrooms and to increase students' comprehension of events, personalities, issues, and trends in American history. AIHE's programs also strive to improve students' problem solving and thinking skills. Through this three-year grant funded contractual agreement, AIHE will provide the following services for the District's Teaching American History grant program.

1. A total of 15 two-day, in-depth professional development opportunities on specific topics in American history will be provided for a cohort of teachers during each of the three years of the grant (5 two-day workshops per year). A total of 90 teachers will receive this in-depth professional development from AIHE during the duration of the grant (30 new teachers each year).

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2. A total of 15 two-hour lectures on specific topics in American history will be offered to an additional group of interested teachers during each of the three years of the grant (5 two-hour lectures per year).
3. AIHE will also provide for a scholar to accompany 60 teachers (20 teachers annually) on a travel study program to places of historical importance in American history; i.e., Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. Through this contractual agreement, AIHE will be responsible for all aspects of the travel study for the participating teachers including airfare, ground transportation, and hotels.

In accordance with the Teaching American History grant application submitted to USDOE, authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with AIHE totaling \$428,978, as listed below, serving schools throughout the District with a concentration on schools that have not met Annual Yearly Progress as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. AIHE will collaborate in the design, implementation and program evaluation of the professional development opportunities provided through the Teaching American History grant in order to meet the goal of increasing teacher knowledge of American history.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on September 27, 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 professional development in the teaching of American history.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Contracted Programs Fund of the 2007-2008 Budget adopted in August 2007, under:

Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 4928, Object 5310, and Location 9634.

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

1. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, based on specific expertise; and
2. enter into a contractual agreement with the American Institute for History Education (AIHE) to provide professional development to support the Teaching American History grant awarded to the District by the U.S. Department of Education, in an amount not to exceed \$428,978, effective October 18, 2007, through July 30, 2010.

AD/MRF/JRD:rcb