

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS CHARTER SCHOOL OF NORTH
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SURVIVORS
CHARTER SCHOOL OF NORTH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On November 28, 2007, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee (DRC) met to review the application for Survivors Charter School of North Miami-Dade County and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for denial of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

Upon completion of the initial review, the applicant was given the opportunity to revise the application to cure deficiencies identified by the Technical Assistance Team (TAT). During the final review by the DRC, the applicant did not successfully cure the deficiencies identified by both reviews performed by the TAT. An application cannot have significant deficiencies in any of the areas required under §1002.33 (6), F.S., and still be considered to have met the standard for approval. The basis of denial was due to deficiencies in the following areas:

- Educational Philosophy;
- Curriculum Plan;
- Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation; and
- Exceptional Students.

In addition, concerns were raised by the DRC regarding the history of this applicant with Palm Beach County, Florida. Contracts for two campuses of Survivors Charter School, West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach, were terminated by the Palm Beach County School Board in 2006 for financial mismanagement.

Since this applicant has also submitted the same application to the Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE), pursuant to §1002.33 (6)(d), F.S., the applicant will be able to appeal to the State Board of Education pursuant to §1002.33 (6)(c), F.S., only if denied by the FSE. The FSE is currently reviewing applications for new charter schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 750 students in grades nine through twelve, with a maximum of 500 students in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2018, and concludes in the 2017-2018 school year.

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Mr. Mark H. Gotz, Licensed Real Estate Broker; and Ms. Patricia A. Hackett, Former Legislative Assistant to Representative William Andrews.

Copies of the application 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: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, deny the charter school application for good cause submitted by Survivors Charter School of North Miami-Dade County, Inc., on behalf of Survivors Charter School of North Miami-Dade County.

LCR/MB/EOW:elg