

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR TREE OF KNOWLEDGE LEARNING  
ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF TREE OF KNOWLEDGE  
LEARNING ACADEMY, AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A  
CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS**

**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 21, 2007, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Tree of Knowledge Learning Academy and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to provide home/hospital-based and center-based education to a maximum of 1,000 highly at-risk and special education students in grades kindergarten through twelve, with a maximum of 150 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, 2013, and concludes in the 2012-2013 school year.

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Ms. Sherry Stein Epstein, General Counsel and Treasurer, ATC Lighting and Plastics, Inc.; Mr. Jason Wasser, Therapist, Applied Behavioral Solutions; Rabbi Moshe Rothchild, Senior Rabbi of Beit David Highland Lakes Shul; Mr. Melvyn Howard, Accountant, Howard, Wersbale, and Co.; and Mr. Ilan Sredni, CEO, Palindrome Consulting, Inc.

The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

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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:

1. approve the application for Tree of Knowledge Learning Academy, Inc., on behalf of Tree of Knowledge Learning Academy; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2013, and concludes in the 2012-2013 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

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