

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ARTS ACADEMY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement, between the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

On December 19, 2007, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Somerset Arts Academy (Somerset Arts) and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of ten years.

Somerset Arts will be located at 1700 Krome Avenue, Homestead, Florida, 33030, and will serve a maximum of 750 students in kindergarten through grade five commencing with the 2008-2009 school year. The term of the contract shall be for ten years, ending on June 30, 2018.

The Governing Board of the charter school is comprised of the following members: Mr. Victor Barroso, Account Executive, El Sembrador; Ms. Kim M. Guilarte, Principal, Mater Academy Charter School; Dr. Hui Fang Huang (Angie) Su, Professor, Nova Southeastern University; Ms. Alejandra Salima Jacquinet, Lead Teacher, Mater Academy Charter School; Mr. Carlos Resendez, Fire Retiree Representative, San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund; Ms. Cynthia Hanson, Vice President of Marketing & External Relations, Brooks City-Base; and Mr. Louis J. Marin, Director of Project Management, San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union. This Governing Board currently operates four schools in Miami-Dade.

Section 7(b) of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), stipulates that charter school contractual agreements that fully conform to the approved Standard Charter School Contract do not require review and recommendation by the Charter School Contract Review Committee and can be forwarded directly to the School Board for consideration.

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Copies of the charter school contractual agreement 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, approve the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Arts Academy for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and ending on June 30, 2018.

LCR/MB/EOW/TP:elg