

Freddie Woodson, Associate Superintendent
School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO RELOCATE THE PROGRAM ENTITLED YOUNG MEN'S ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT (YMAACD) AT MACARTHUR SOUTH

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENSURE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SCHEDULES MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING

The new relief high school for Miami Palmetto, Miami Killian, and Miami Sunset senior high schools is State School YYY-1 that is scheduled to open in August 2009. It is being built on Board owned property at 11035 S.W. 84 Street, Miami, Florida. The program entitled Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic Development at MacArthur South (YMAACD), currently located on a portion of that site, was scheduled to be relocated further to the south for the 2008-2009 school year.

YMAACD serves students in grades 6-12 that are assigned to this specific alternative education program and addresses explicit needs that cannot be met in a comprehensive high school setting. A closed campus is a critical factor in meeting the needs of this specific population.

As background, it should be noted that the District's Five-Year Capital Plan has for the last two years, included a line item with proposed funding to replace Miami MacArthur South (MacArthur South) to a different site, in recognition of the fact that S/S YYY1 would be built on the 29-acre site where MacArthur South is currently located, and that operationally it is highly desirable to provide distinct campuses for each of the two facilities, rather than co-locating them.

This site is viable for the following reasons:

1. At the School Board Meeting of May 21, 2008, the current boundaries for Naranja Elementary School were consolidated into the boundaries of Coconut Palm K-8 Academy (State School CC-1) when the School Board approved Agenda Item D-45, Proposed Amendment of Board Rule: Final Reading 6Gx13- 5A-1.10, Attendance Areas 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) process documented the involvement of community stakeholders as it relates to the relocation of this program.
2. This location will be more geographically accessible to parents and the students who attend YMAACD. The 245 students currently assigned to this program reside throughout the southern portion of the District.

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3. The site is well suited for the intended use due to the facility size, classroom capacity, ability to accommodate programmatic considerations fairly easily, ease of conversion to a small secondary school, and the ample athletic fields. A new culinary arts area, as well as auto mechanic area will expand appropriate programmatic options.
4. The assignment of all Naranja Elementary students to the new Coconut Palm K-8 facility has made that facility available for reuse, and the relocation of MacArthur South to that location is a cost effective option that can be implemented fairly quickly and with minimal disruption.
5. The Service Learning projects at the school will continue to be a focus in the newly relocated program. The grant award from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) does not limit the spending to any one particular Service Learning Project. While creative efforts will ensure continued relationships with existing partners, the school will focus on establishing relationships with new organizations.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to relocate the program entitled Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic Development at MacArthur South to the Board owned facility located at 13990 S.W. 264 Street, Miami, Florida.

FW/pa