

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET GRACE ACADEMY, AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF TEN 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 October 30, 2008, M-DCPS' Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Somerset Grace Academy and, by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 675 students in kindergarten through grade eight, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2019, and concludes in the 2018-2019 school year.

Following is the existing Governing Board for the charter school: Mr. Victor Barroso, Account Executive, El Sembrador; Ms. Kim M. Guilarte, Principal, Mater Academy Charter School; Dr. Hui Fang Huang (Angie) Su, Program Professor, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services, Nova Southeastern University; Ms. Cynthia Hanson, Vice President, Marketing & External Relations, Brooks City-Base; Mr. Carlos Resendez, Fire Retiree Representative, San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund; Mr. Louis J. Marin, Director, Project Management, San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union; Ms. Meryl Romeu, Co-owner and Chief Financial Officer, Pavillion Consulting; and Mr. David Concepcion, Mayor's Chief of Staff, City of Hialeah. This is the same governing board for the following charter schools currently in existence: Somerset Academy, Somerset Academy Charter Middle School, Somerset Academy Charter High School, Somerset Academy (Country Palms), Somerset Academy Middle School (Country Palms), Somerset Academy Middle School (South Campus), Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Campus), Somerset Academy Silver Palms and Somerset Arts Academy.

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.

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 Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Grace Academy; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2019, and concludes in the 2018-2019 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

MB/EOW/TP:elg