

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR THE NATIONAL BEN GAMLA CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC., ON BEHALF OF BEN GAMLA CHARTER SCHOOL - SOUTH CAMPUS, 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 Ben Gamla Charter School - South Campus 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 900 students in kindergarten through grade eight, through a bilingual and bicultural academic program focusing on Hebrew language immersion, 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 Founding Board for the charter school: Mr. Sander Gerber, President, Gerber Asset Management; Mr. Henry M. Ellenbogen, Vice President, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.; Mr. Brian J. Sherr, Co-Managing Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP; Mr. Howard E. Friedman, Managing Partner, Lanx Capital; and Mr. Marcus Jadotte, Managing Director, Public Affairs for the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing.

On February 14, 2007, the School Board approved a similar application for Ben Galma; however, the applicant exhausted its options to defer its opening and the application expired in August 2008, pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471 (7)(f)(v), Charter Schools (K-12).

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 The National Ben Gamla Charter School Foundation, Inc., on behalf of Ben Gamla Charter School - South Campus; 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