

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR EDUCATE TOMORROW, CORP., ON BEHALF OF EDUCATE TOMORROW PREPARATORY 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 7, 2008 and October 28, 2008, M-DCPS' Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Educate Tomorrow Preparatory 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 a college preparatory curriculum for a maximum of 700 at-risk students in grades six through twelve, commencing with the 2010-2011 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2020, and concludes in the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to the proposed charter school component, the school will provide a residential program for its students who are placed in foster care.

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Ms. Melanie Damian, Attorney, Lawyers for Children America; Ms. Virginia Emmons, former volunteer, Family Advocates and the Miami Rescue Mission; Ms. Melissa McCarthy, Consultant; Ms. Erica French, Program Director, Juvenile Court Contact Liaison and Life Skills Camp Director; and Mr. Steve Rios, Project Consultant.

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 Educate Tomorrow, Corp., on behalf of Educate Tomorrow Preparatory Academy; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2010-2011 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2020, and concludes in the 2019-2020 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

MB/EOW/TP:elg