

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SOUTH MIAMI CAMPUS

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 of Miami-Dade County, Florida (School Board) approved a charter school application submitted for Somerset Academy (Homestead) and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year. However, pursuant to Section 7(f)(iv) of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), the charter school requested to extend contract negotiations and defer the opening of school until the 2009-2010 school year due to difficulties in obtaining a feasible facility. Furthermore, subsequent to approval, the school requested to change its name to Somerset Academy Elementary School - South Miami Campus (Somerset Elementary).

Somerset Elementary will be located at 5876 SW 68 Street, South Miami, Florida 33143 and will serve a maximum of 750 students in kindergarten through grade five, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year. The term of the contract shall be for ten years, ending on June 30, 2018, as a deferral to open was granted for the 2008-2009 school year.

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, 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 Contract Review Committee met on February 17, 2009, and by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation to approve the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy Elementary School - South Miami Campus.

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 Academy Elementary School - South Miami Campus for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2018.

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