

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FIRST
AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT WITH OXFORD ACADEMY OF MIAMI, INC., ON
BEHALF OF OXFORD ACADEMY OF MIAMI**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, stipulates that a charter school contractual agreement may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

The initial charter school contractual agreement for Oxford Academy of Miami, Inc., on behalf of Oxford Academy of Miami (Oxford) was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (School Board) on April 13, 2005, for a term of five years, commencing with the 2005-2006 school year, and ending June 30, 2010. Subsequent action was taken by the School Board to terminate the charter school contractual agreement for good cause, at the November 18, 2008 School Board meeting, and rescind the termination due to an immediate improved financial position and enhanced governance, at the January 14, 2009 School Board meeting.

Oxford is currently located at 10870 SW 113 Place, Miami, Florida 33176 and serves approximately 108 students in kindergarten through grade five. Oxford has requested a first amendment to its contract to increase the grade levels from kindergarten through grade five to kindergarten through grade six. It is anticipated that Oxford may utilize portable/modular units adjacent to the existing school site to accommodate the added grade level. Should such a facility solution be utilized, Oxford would be required to obtain all proper permits and facility approvals prior to occupancy.

Oxford has been ineligible to be graded under Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability as it has never met the threshold of serving at least 30 students with valid FCAT scores in reading and math in both the current year and the previous school years, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 6A- 1.0998. However, a review of the charter school's achievement data for the last two years indicates that student achievement at Oxford showed no statistically significant difference from the achievement of the control students of similar attending traditional schools in any grade in either reading or mathematics where there were a sufficient number of students to make comparisons in either 2006-2007 or 2007-2008 school years.

Oxford's June 30, 2008 financial audit revealed that the charter school was in a state of financial emergency, pursuant to section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes; however, the charter school's Governing Board has successfully submitted an acceptable Financial Recovery Plan and has already undergone measures to implement many of the provisions of its plan in an effort to mitigate the deteriorating financial condition of the school to ensure adequate resources for education, financial stability of the institution, and constructive governance. Financial statements are being provided to Charter School Operations on a monthly basis, and these show the financial condition of the school to be much improved from the June 30, 2008 audit.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on March 3, 2009, and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the first amendment to the charter school contractual agreement with Oxford Academy of Miami, Inc., on behalf of Oxford Academy of Miami.

Copies of the amendment to 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, after considering the foregoing facts and circumstances related to the school's financial position, grant provisional approval of the first amendment to the contract with Oxford Academy of Miami, Inc., on behalf of Oxford Academy of Miami to increase the grade level from kindergarten through grade five to kindergarten through grade six, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2010, pending the successful achievement of the objectives, goals and milestones of the school's Financial Recovery Plan and other conditions set forth for rescission of termination of the contractual agreement.

FW:elg