

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of March 9, 2011

March 3, 2011

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP A PROCESS TO GRANT MINORITY/WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION TO BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN SO DESIGNATED BY THE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, OR OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Because of rapid advances in technology and transportation, business is transacted in an increasingly global economy. Education is moving toward preparing students to operate within this emerging environment. Character education is as integral to that preparation as academics because we are not only creating scholars – we are creating ambassadors.

Fundamentals of character are Equality and Justice and, as an institution, the best way for M-DCPS to imbed these principles into our students is by setting an example. One of the ways that example can be made is through the representation of our faculties, administration, and business partners being reflective of the community we serve.

Pursuant to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3G-1.01, we work continually to “Ensure the maximum opportunity for Minority/Women Business Enterprises to participate in the award and performance of contracts with The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.” The need for more inclusion of M/WBE’s is evidenced by the June 2010 Internal Audit Report on the M/WBE program which shows continuing inconsistency in the award of contracts. The first step to doing business with more M/WBE’s is the certification of those businesses as such, as provided in Board Rule 6Gx13- 3G-1.05.

Budget constraints, changes in administration, and other factors have led to a backlog of applications awaiting certification by the Division of Business Development and Assistance. The delay in certification is a source of frustration for some business owners that are interested in doing business with M-DCPS. At present, there are approximately 225 businesses awaiting approval of certification.

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Other governmental agencies have similar programs and certifications with like or more stringent qualifications. If a business has already been vetted by one of these organizations and designated as an M/WBE it would expedite processing and create a cost savings if they were extended the same status by M-DCPS, up verification thereof from the corresponding agency.

This item requests that the Superintendent review the requirements and processes of other agencies to ensure they are congruent with those of M-DCPS. Further, upon confirmation of program similarities the Superintendent develop methods and procedures to qualify M/WBE's based on the reciprocal agency's designation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to develop a process to grant Minority/Women Business Enterprise certification to businesses that have been so designated by the federal, state, county, or other school districts, on or before the April 13, 2011, School Board meeting.