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Academics and Transformation

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND PUBLIC CONSULTANT GROUP, SPECIAL EDUCATION ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SPED-EMS) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$782,500, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2015

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: IMPROVE AND EXPAND STUDENT SERVICES

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to renew the contractual agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) for a period of one year beginning on September 30, 2014, and ending on October 1, 2015. The initial contract was approved by the Board at its August 5, 2009, meeting. The contract was initiated in response to Request for Proposals No. 106-JJ10 – SPECIAL EDUCATION – ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SPED-EMS). SPED-EMS is an internet based special education data management system for students' Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Matrix of Services, Educational Plan (EP), and 504 Plan. The system also serves as the M-DCPS Cost Review Agent for Fee-For-Service under the Medicaid Certified School Match Program, which must adhere to state and federal guidelines pertaining to special education and Medicaid recovery. SPED-EMS houses all documents required by the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) and it assists administrators and instructional personnel in meeting reporting requirements.

The system has demonstrated a return on investment by aligning the Individual Educational Plan and Matrix of Services to reduce the possibility of errors in data entry, as evidenced by trend data from the results of State FEFP Audits conducted over the past several years that show marked reductions in the number of special education errors.

The Professional Services Contract Committee, established by School Board Policy 6320, reviewed the contract on September 18, 2014, and recommended that an

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exception to the School Board Policy regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted, as PCG has customized the management system for M-DCPS and has specific expertise in the workings of this system.

The contract renewal fee of \$782,500 covers the annual licensing and hosting costs for the 2014-2015 school year, with no further development planned. This sum also includes coverage for up to \$300,000 for ongoing service as the cost Review Agent for the Fee-For-Service Certified Medicaid School Match program. The recurring costs for licensing and hosting set forth in the original contract were \$865,000 per year. Through negotiations with PCG, these costs have been reduced to \$482,500 for a cost savings of \$382,500. Funding for these services will be paid as follows \$300,000 through the General Fund of the 2014-2015 Budget under Fund 420000, Location 1973100, Program 33710000, Function 520000, Object 531000 and \$482,500 through Federal Entitlement Grant Funds (IDEA).

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. renew the contractual services agreement with Public Consultant Group, Special Education Electronic Management System (SPED-EMS) in an amount not to exceed \$782,500 effective September 30, 2014, through October 1, 2015; and
2. grant an exception pursuant to School Board Policy 6320 based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be paid through the General Fund of the 2014-2015 Budget (\$300,000) and (\$482,500) through Federal Entitlement Grant Funds (IDEA).

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