

November 29, 2000

Personnel Management and Services
Nelson E. Diaz, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO EARN A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN SPANISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

At the School Board meeting of March 18, 1998, the Board received the final report of the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force which had been convened for the purpose of making recommendations for the improvement of bilingual programs districtwide. In response to the recommendation to strengthen the language proficiency of teachers assigned to teach in a language other than English, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and NOVA Southeastern University (NSU), in collaboration with the United Teachers of Dade (UTD), developed a Master of Science Degree Program in Spanish Language Education for 50 elementary school teachers. The Board authorized this program at its meeting of October 7, 1998. The program has been so successful that authorization from the Board is requested to offer the program to another cohort of 25 M-DCPS elementary school teachers beginning in February 2001. An additional 25 M-DCPS elementary teachers will be scheduled to begin in February 2002.

This collaboration provides a program which:

- offers practicing K-5 teachers the opportunity to obtain a Master of Science Degree in Spanish Language Education from NOVA Southeastern University while teaching full time;
- equips Miami-Dade County teachers with the ability to connect content and pedagogy with practice;
- enhances the Spanish language proficiency and bilingual abilities of participating elementary school teachers;
- includes a two-week Spanish cultural and language component during the Summer 2001 term for the first cohort, and the Summer 2002 term for the second cohort, which will provide:
 - a one-week course taught by professors from La Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Madrid, Spain, for a total of three graduate credits, offered by NSU; and

- a one-week course offered at the Universidad de La Laguna (ULL) in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, for three credits. The three-credit course offered at ULL will be free of charge to the participants;
- provides a curriculum consisting of 36 credit hours of part time study beginning February 2001;
- provides current teachers with a program whose only cost is textbooks, materials, incidental fees, and a portion of the cost of the immersion component;
- provides a Master's Degree program which is considered to be in-field for advanced credential payment; and
- requires teachers participating in this program to deliver bilingual instruction to students for three full years in Miami-Dade County Public Schools after the completion of the Master's Degree.

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with NOVA Southeastern University to provide a Master of Science Degree in Spanish Language Education for a maximum of 25 M-DCPS elementary teachers beginning February 2001, with an additional 25 M-DCPS elementary teachers beginning in February 2002. The reduced cost per graduate credit is \$143 for a total of 33 graduate credits (three credits are being offered free of charge to the participants by La Universidad de La Laguna). Funding in the amount of \$130 per graduate credit is available through the District's Tuition Reimbursement Account and \$13 per graduate credit is available through the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program, for a total of \$235,950. Participating teachers will receive a \$1000 stipend from the Title II-Eisenhower Program, which will be applied toward the cost of the Summer term in Spain, for a total of \$50,000. The total cost of this program will be \$285,950.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with NOVA Southeastern University to provide an advanced degree program in Spanish Language Education for 50 elementary teachers beginning in February 2001 through January 2004, for a total cost of \$285,950.

The appropriation for this item is included in the District Tuition Reimbursement Fund and the Title II-Eisenhower Professional Development Program budget.

NED/gpq