

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR SUNSET HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved a charter school application submitted by Miami-Dade Charter Foundation, Inc. on December 13, 2000. The Board authorized the Superintendent to negotiate up to ten individual charter school contractual agreements with the applicant for the opening of two schools per year over a five-year period, for a term of ten years. The Charter School Site Selection Ad-Hoc Committee approved the proposed site on March 19, 2002. The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on March 20, 2002, and by a majority vote made a recommendation for approval of the proposed site and the charter school contractual agreement for Sunset Heights Charter School.

Sunset Heights Charter School will be located at SW 84th Avenue and 72nd Street, Miami, Florida (a final address will be provided by the Post Office). The governing board will operate the school through a management contract with Charter Schools USA, Mr. Jonathan K. Hage, President and CEO. The charter school will serve a maximum of 1,200 students in grades kindergarten through twelve, with 600 students in grades kindergarten through eight in its first year of operation.

The following is the initial Board of Directors for Sunset Heights Charter School: Mr. Jesse Jones, Chairperson; Mr. Joaquin Aviñó, Member; and Mr. Edward J. Pozzuoli, Member.

Sunset Heights Charter School will be open to any student in grades kindergarten through twelve residing in Miami-Dade County. District schools in close proximity to the charter school include:

School	Student Population	Percentage Utilization (Permanent Capacity)	Percentage Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Capacity)	Number of Relocatables
Ludlam Elementary	563	126	99	10
South Miami Elem.	576	200	116	10
Glades Middle	1,692	130	105	13

School	Student Population	Percentage Utilization (Permanent Capacity)	Percentage Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Capacity)	Number of Relocatables
South Miami Middle	1,165	135	120	8
South Miami Senior	2,821	142	121	12
Southwest Miami Sr.	3,509	150	124	18

Source: M-DCPS Report T0500P08-R1 dated March 2, 2002

Section 228.056, 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.

Copies of the charter school contractual agreement will be placed on file, and will be available for inspection in the School Board Members' office, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and in the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: Recognizing that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has previously approved this application, it is recommended that the Board:

1. approve the proposed site; and
2. grant final approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Sunset Heights Charter School, for a period of ten years, commencing with the 2002-2003 school year.

MB:dcr