

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO CONTINUE PROVIDING COUNTYWIDE EDUCATIONAL CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES AND ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO UPGRADE EQUIPMENT, PROJECT CYCLE: OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

In 1983, the Miami-Dade County School Board and Miami-Dade County government entered into a contractual agreement to use WLRN-TV Channel 17 production facilities and personnel to provide technical and programming support to an educational cable television service project. Since 1983, the Miami-Dade County Cable Television Access Project or CABLE-TAP has provided broadcast production services to hundreds of non-profit organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies in Miami-Dade County. These organizations, in turn, have been able to broadcast via cable, educational and community issues to Miami-Dade County residents subscribing to cable service. The joint venture between the Miami-Dade County School Board and Miami-Dade County government operates two cable channels (the Learning Channel and the Community Channel) reaching more than 500,000 households in Miami-Dade County.

In October 2001, the start of the fiscal year for Miami-Dade County government, WLRN staff was advised via letter by the Office of the County Manager that Miami-Dade County would not sign a new contract until staff resolved a number of discrepancies in the operation of the project as well as addressed capital improvements regarding updating to digital the equipment needed to operate CABLE-TAP. Operational discrepancies centered on re-writing the underwriting procedures (i.e. the funding of programs to subsidize its production costs) by organizations and producers vying to have a program on the Community Channel of the CABLE-TAP project. In addition, Miami-Dade County government asked for a quarterly accounting of the entire cost of the CABLE-TAP project. Staffs of both WLRN-TV and the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department (department with responsibility to oversee the CABLE-TAP project for the government) met and worked out a new financial reporting plan before a new contract was proposed. Regarding capital improvements, both parties agreed to a six-year capital improvement program with Miami-Dade County government agreeing to fund the purchase of new digital equipment to replace obsolete analog transmitting, playback and recording devices.

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Due diligence by staff led Miami-Dade County government to write a March 28, 2002 letter advising WLRN-TV staff that the existing contract would be extended until the end of September 30, 2002 (the end of the government's fiscal year) pending the signing of a new contract which addresses the issues outlined above. Extending the current contract will provide for the following:

- funding for the period of October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002 will be \$522,000, and;
- an agreement provides for cancellation by either party with 90 days prior written notice.

As part of the negotiations to establish a six-year capital improvement program for CABLE-TAP, the contract extension calls for the following funding:

- an additional \$350,000 in the first year of a six-year capital improvement plan program to upgrade CABLE-TAP equipment from analog to digital. In the subsequent five years, Miami-Dade County proposes to provide between \$300,000 to \$350,000 for capital improvements. The agreement also calls for Miami-Dade County government to withhold in reserve \$67,000 of the \$350,000 provided in the first year. The \$67,000 and any other subsequent amounts withheld in the next five years, the County will place in a digital transition reserve account, which Miami-Dade County government may use to evaluate alternate and emerging broadcast technologies regarding the CABLE-TAP project.

Additional support for this project is provided through grants received from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Florida Department of Education, Friends of WLRN, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Official notification of this agreement was received on March 28, 2002, which is after the start date of the agreement. The grant award allows for the reimbursement of expenditures from October 1, 2001.

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

1. renew a contractual agreement with Miami-Dade County Government, in the amount of \$522,000, to continue providing countywide educational cable television services; Project Cycle: October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002;
2. accept a grant award, in the amount of \$350,000, with \$67,000 retained by Miami-Dade County Government in reserve, to upgrade equipment;
3. extend this contractual agreement and grant award, at no additional cost, for up to one year, as authorized through official notification from the granting agency, if it is deemed necessary, in order to complete the scope of the project; and
4. direct Financial Affairs to establish appropriations in the amounts approved by the granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

AMC:ccs

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BUDGET SUMMARY FORM



Yes
 No Are there any in-kind or matching funds required?
 Entitlement Grant
 Non-Entitlement/Contract

GRANT/PROGRAM NAME: Cable TAP

Grant Period Beginning October 1, 2001 Ending September 30, 2002
 (Date) (Date)

FUNCTION	Total Budget	Salaries (51XX)	Employee Benefits (52XX)	Purchased Services (53XX)	Energy Services (54XX)	Materials and Supplies (55XX)	Capital Outlay (56XX)	Other Expense (57XX)
INSTRUCTION SERVICES	5000							
SUPPORT SERVICES:								
Pupil Personnel Services	6100							
Instructional Media Services	6200	350,000		32,000		14,000	304,000	
Instruction & Curriculum Development	6300							
Instructional Staff Training	6400							
Board of Education	7100							
General Administration	7200	*						*
School Administration	7300							
Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	7400							
Fiscal Services	7500							
Food Services	7600							
Central Services	7700							
Transportation Services	7800							
Operation of Plant	7900							
Maintenance of Plant	8100							
Community Services	9100							
Debt	9200							
TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	350,000			32,000		14,000	304,000	

*Includes Federal Indirect Costs of _____

Reviewed By *M. Sykes*
 Division of Budget

Submitted for Board Approval/Authorization:

Agenda Item B-68 Board Meeting of May 15, 2002
 (Number) (Date)

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BUDGET SUMMARY FORM



Yes
 No Are there any in-kind or matching funds required?
 Entitlement Grant
 Non-Entitlement/Contract

GRANT/PROGRAM NAME: Cable TAP

Grant Period Beginning October 1, 2001 Ending September 30, 2002
 (Date) (Date)

FUNCTION	Total Budget	Salaries (51XX)	Employee Benefits (52XX)	Purchased Services (53XX)	Energy Services (54XX)	Materials and Supplies (55XX)	Capital Outlay (56XX)	Other Expense (57XX)
INSTRUCTION SERVICES	5000							
SUPPORT SERVICES:								
Pupil Personnel Services	6100							
Instructional Media Services	6200	400,180	121,820					
Instruction & Curriculum Development	6300							
Instructional Staff Training	6400							
Board of Education	7100							
General Administration	7200	*						*
School Administration	7300							
Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	7400							
Fiscal Services	7500							
Food Services	7600							
Central Services	7700							
Transportation Services	7800							
Operation of Plant	7900							
Maintenance of Plant	8100							
Community Services	9100							
Debt	9200							
TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	522,000	400,180	121,820					

*Includes Federal Indirect Costs of _____

Submitted for Board Approval/Authorization:

Reviewed By *[Signature]*
 Division of Budget

Agenda Item B-68 Board Meeting of May 15, 2002
 (Number) (Date)