

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH INFORMED FAMILIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARENT INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE, COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT) AT SOUTH MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL AND JOSÉ DE DIEGO MIDDLE SCHOOL, AT A COST OF \$100,000, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2003 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003

COMMITTEE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is sought for a contractual agreement with Informed Families, a nonprofit organization for the establishment of a Parent Involvement Initiative, Community Action Team (CAT) at South Miami Middle School and José de Diego Middle School. The selection of the two schools is based primarily upon need, interest, and participation in the philosophical commitment to the parent involvement mission and objectives.

The Parent Involvement Initiative, Community Action Team (CAT) is an innovative parent involvement program which is targeted for middle school children. Its aims include prevention through the promotion of positive social norms while reducing risk factors. This objective supports the Board's Strategic Goal II, Effective Learning Environment and the Division of Student Services' objectives to provide support and parent training to schools for creating a climate of parental involvement as specified in "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

Additionally, this project is evaluated on a continuing basis by researchers from the University of Miami. M-DCPS district and school-site staff will be informed at regular intervals of the research findings. The University of Miami and M-DCPS will share and retain a non-exclusive right to data collected from the participation in the project.

The Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on October 30, 2002, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the Informed Families staff have specific expertise in this field.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Entitlement Grant, under Fund 0420, Program 4017, Function 6100, Object 5310, Location 9721.

The Executive Director of Informed Families is Ms. Peggy Sapp.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Informed Families, for the establishment of a Parent Involvement Initiative, Community Action Team (CAT) Program at South Miami Middle School and José de Diego Middle School, at a cost of \$100,000, effective January 2, 2003 through June 30, 2003; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 1.021.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2002-2003 Adopted Budget.

RKF/PH:kc