

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH ALCALDE & FAY TO CONTINUE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2004

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

Alcalde and Fay is a Washington-based consulting firm that provides counsel on government, legislative, and public affairs. Since April 1995, Alcalde and Fay has served as the School Board's liaison with various federal agencies and legislative offices and has advanced the Board's Federal Legislative Program.

At its meeting of March 13, 2002, the Board authorized the renewal of a contractual agreement with Alcalde and Fay, effective April 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, for an amount not to exceed \$93,750, which equates to \$6,250 per month for 15 months. At that time, information was provided to the Board indicating that if the contract were renewed for an additional term, that term would not exceed a 12-month period (July-June). Authorization for a longer renewal is now sought for a period from July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004, to coincide with the remaining term of the 108th Congress; and in an amount not to exceed \$112,500, which equates to \$6,250 per month for 18 months.

Alcalde and Fay has represented the Board throughout the 108th Congress on issues such as appropriations requests and re-authorization of major legislation impacting education. Most specifically, Alcalde and Fay has developed expertise with regard to legislation pending re-authorization during the 108th Congress, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Workforce Investment Act, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, and other matters. Because the 108th Congress is in mid-session, it is imperative that the Board maintains continued expert assistance in these areas of critical impact.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 met on May 29, 2003, to review this request and recommends that an exception to the rule be granted based on the specific expertise of the firm.

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A copy of the agreement will be transmitted to the Board under separate cover and will be placed on file in the Citizen Information Center and the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2003 under Fund 0100, Function 7730, Program 7931, Object 5310, Location 9616.

RECOMMENDED:

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

1. authorize the Superintendent enter into a contractual agreement with Alcalde and Fay to continue provision of government relations services in an amount not to exceed \$112,500 for the period beginning July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2003.

AMC:nt