

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED AUDIO TAPE PRODUCTS

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$177,300, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Training is provided by RFB&D outreach personnel to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is a part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks, library services, and other educational resources to individuals who cannot read standard print because of a visual, physical, or perceptual disability. Located in Miami, it is the only unit of RFB&D in the state of Florida. An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001 and the program was found to be effective in improving reading performance and it was recommended that the program should be continued.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on May 29, 2003, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the contractor has specific expertise in this field.

The Executive Director for the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is Ms. Christine McCarthy.

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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 0420, Function 5200, Program 3531, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit for the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products, in an amount not to exceed \$177,300, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 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.

RKF/BB:cb