

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH CO-NECT, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT TO G. HOLMES BRADDOCK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

At its meeting of October 11, 2000, the School Board approved Agenda Item C-3 and authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Co-nect, Inc., to extend a FeederNet grant and include G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School in the FeederNet project.

Co-nect, Inc., is an education consulting organization that helps schools to increase integration of technology and project-based learning across the curriculum. This company uses a unique method supported by research to help teachers, students, and members of the community to raise their level of technology literacy. Co-nect, Inc., provides educational program support through a school consultant, professional development, on-line support, and a national conference.

Due to the number of teachers and students in the school and the success of the program, authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Co-nect, Inc., for educational program support and consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. The support and services will be provided to G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School between June 30, 2003 and December 31, 2004.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx-13- 3F-1.021 reviewed the contractual agreement on March 13, 2003, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposal be granted as the company has specific expertise in this area and provides a unique service to the school.

Mr. Andrew Skoler is the Chief Executive Officer of Co-nect, Inc.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2002 - 2003 budget under Fund 0100, Function 5103, Program 6030, Object 5640, Location 7051.

B-75

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Co-nect, Inc., for the purpose of educational program support to G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000, from June 30, 2003 through December 31, 2004; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx-13- 3F-1.021.

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

WY/CM:hf