

November 4, 2003

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER
SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR THE HOMESTEAD CHARTER
FOUNDATION, INC., ON BEHALF OF WATERSTONE CHARTER
SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On October 9, 2003, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Waterstone Charter School and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 1,150 students in grades kindergarten through eight, with 700 students in grades kindergarten through seven in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, at a facility located at SW 312 Street and Waterstone Way, Miami, Florida.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Mr. Eduardo Berrones, Le Jardin Community Center; Ms. Cecilia Douglas, Dade County Farm Bureau/Florida Farm Bureau Insurance Company; and Mr. Corey D. Gold, Homestead Hospital.

Any pending issues identified by the Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are under-enrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

Copies of the charter school application will be placed on file and will be available for inspection in the School Board Members' office, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and in the Citizen Information Center.

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

1. approve the application for The Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc., on behalf of Waterstone Charter School; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, which reflects the contents of the application, as approved by the School Board.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr