

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION TO CONVERT MIAMI LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A K-8 CENTER AND AUTHORIZATION TO REFER THE PROJECT TO THE SCHOOL SITE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At its September 7, 2005, meeting, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, considered the application to convert Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center and directed staff to conduct a traffic study and subsequently hold a community meeting to present the results of the study. In compliance with the directive, a traffic study was conducted by Edwards and Kelcey Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Professionals. The study concluded that the proposed K-8 Center design, which includes a staggered schedule, would both maintain the current level of traffic flow at the intersections adjacent to the school and increase the proportion of parent vehicles that could be accommodated within the school grounds during student drop-off and pick-up times from 50% to 81%. The latter improvement should significantly decrease vehicular congestion in the neighborhood.

A well-publicized community meeting was held in the school cafeteria from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on November 10, 2005, and was attended by over 111 parents and community members. Mr. Jorge Luaces, Design Officer, Office of School Facilities, presented the design of the project, and a representative from Edwards and Kelcey presented the results of the traffic study. Both presenters responded to questions from the audience.

The Board's directive having been satisfactorily carried out and all of the procedures stipulated in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, having been previously completed, the proposal to convert Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center is being brought back to the School Board. Should the conversion to a K-8 Center be approved, the school would add grade six as soon as it would be feasible and grades seven and eight in subsequent years. The maximum projected population for the proposed K-8 Center, taking into account class size reduction, would be approximately 1,550.

The plan for converting Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center provides for the continuation of the school's emphasis on foreign language, technology, and the arts, furthering the District's extended foreign language initiative. In addition, students with disabilities will continue to participate in a full inclusion program, and the school's oral

program of instruction to deaf and hearing impaired children will continue into the middle years, providing a unique option for these grade six through eight students.

RECOMMENDED:

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

1. approve the application to convert Miami Lakes Elementary School to a K-8 Center; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to refer the project to the School Site Planning and Construction Committee for inclusion in the next regular cycle of facilities planning.

LCR/MB:msm