

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH EXCELSIOR ACADEMIES, INC., ON BEHALF OF EXCELSIOR LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF HIALEAH

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, states that a charter school contractual agreement may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

On December 13, 2006, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Excelsior Language Academy Charter School "A" and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of five years. The Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC) met initially on March 12, 2007, to review the proposed contractual agreement and requested name change, and by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Excelsior Academies, Inc., on behalf of Excelsior Language Academy of Homestead. Prior to submission to the School Board for consideration, Excelsior Academies, Inc. encountered difficulties with securing its facility and requested to defer the school opening and reconvene negotiations, once a new school location was identified.

The CRC met for a second time on November 16, 2007, to reconvene negotiations, to review the School's new location, to change the name of the charter school from Excelsior Language Academy of Homestead to Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah, and to increase enrollment from a maximum of 450 students to 910 students. The CRC rendered a unanimous recommendation for approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Excelsior Academies, Inc., on behalf of Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah.

The school will be located at 590 W 20 Street, Hialeah, Florida 33010. The charter school will serve a maximum of 910 students in grades kindergarten through eight, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, and continuing throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 30, 2013, and concludes in the 2012-2013 school year.

Following is the Governing Board for the charter school: Dr. Antonio L. Nuñez, Educational Consultant; Ms. Carolina Claro, School Psychologist; Ms. Yoselin Guerra, Educator; Dr. Katherine Murphy, Educator; and Mr. Mark J. O'Brien, Attorney.

Copies of the charter school contractual agreement will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, grant approval of the charter school contractual agreement with Excelsior Academies, Inc., on behalf of Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah for a term of five years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and throughout the term of the contract, which expires on June 30, 2013, and concludes in the 2012-2013 school year.

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