

Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, TO EXPAND ITS SERVICES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Authorization is requested to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adopt-A-Classroom (AAC) for online services and resources to facilitate individual classroom adoptions as part of the Dade Partners program from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The services of Adopt-A-Classroom will be made available through the Dade Partners program to all classroom teachers in the District and offers the ability for partners to make donations for needed classroom supplies. Authorization is also requested for the Superintendent to renew this MOU annually for two additional one-year periods. There will be no cost to the District for this service.

The vision of AAC is to invite the community into the classroom in support of teachers and students. By adopting individual classrooms online, donors form partnerships with specific classrooms by providing financial support to enhance school-site morale. Adopt-A-Classroom directs 100% of the donations to the classroom teacher in the form of online credit. Teachers use the credit to shop online from a network of affiliate vendors, or teachers may work with AAC on a one-on-one basis to meet the classroom needs. The program also provides regular communication online between the donors and the teachers so the donors can learn about the impact that their financial support has made in the classroom. Adopt-A-Classroom has set a goal of \$250,000, in donations to classrooms for the 2008-2009 school year. This effort has been reviewed by the Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee, and the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA, which recommends support of AAC.

Copies of the MOU will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 925, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

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Founder James Rosenberg, a Miami Beach resident, was a mergers and acquisitions attorney at Akerman Senterfitt when he saw first hand, as a mentor, the needs in schools. He started AAC to provide the community with an easy way to help teachers. Mr. James Rosenberg left his job as an attorney in 1998 and is devoted full time to AAC, which has won many local awards including the Dade Reading Council's Literacy Award for its impact on student achievement.

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

1. enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adopt-A-Classroom for services for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009;
2. renew the MOU annually for a maximum of two additional one-year periods;
3. accept the estimated donor contributions of approximately \$250,000; and
4. approve the MOU contingent on no cost to the District.

AMC/ms