

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
School/District Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

The Charter School District Review Committee (DRC) met initially on October 30, 2008, to review the application for South Florida Autism Charter School at which time, the item was unanimously tabled. On November 21, 2008, the DRC reconvened to review the application and rendered by a unanimous vote to recommend approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 117 students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in kindergarten through grade twelve, with a maximum of 81 students kindergarten through grade eight in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2014, and concludes in the 2013-2014 school year.

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Mr. Glenn Pierce, Founder and CEO, Pacific Charter School Development; Mr. Robert Cambo, CEO, Alliance Companies; and Ms. Tamara Moodie-Ramdeen, Educational Director, The Victory School, Inc.

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.

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Copies of the application 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:

1. approve the application for South Florida Autism Charter School, Inc., on behalf of South Florida Autism Charter School; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2014, and concludes in the 2013-2014 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

MB/TP:elg