

Carmen B. Marinelli, Regional Center Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THREE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR LINCOLN-MARTI CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC., ON BEHALF OF LINCOLN-MARTI SCHOOLS (EAST HIALEAH CAMPUS, EAST LITTLE HAVANA CAMPUS AND LEISURE CITY CAMPUS)

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,

Initially, Lincoln-Marti Charter Schools, Inc. (Lincoln-Marti) proposed eighteen charter schools throughout Miami-Dade County, serving various grade levels and enrollments, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2019.

On October 27, 2008 and November 10, 2008, M-DCPS' Charter School Technical Assistance Team (TAT) reviewed the 18 applications for Lincoln-Marti and identified a number of concerns. On November 10, 2008 the applicant was provided an opportunity to revise the application to address the deficiencies.

On November 21, 2008, M-DCPS' Charter School District Review Committee (DRC) convened to review the revised applications for Lincoln-Marti. Representatives of the charter school attended the meeting. In addition to not fully addressing the concerns initially identified by TAT, the DRC raised other issues pertaining to the eligibility of the applicant to seek charter school status as well as the capacity of the applicant to open 18 schools in one year. Consequently, by a unanimous vote, the DRC made a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools for denial of the applications.

In order to address the additional concerns raised by the DRC, on November 25, 2008, Lincoln-Marti withdrew fifteen of the eighteen applications, expressed their intention to address the DRC's concerns on the three remaining applications, and requested to extend the timeline for the District to review the revised applications. On December 15, 2008, the DRC reconvened to review the revised applications and, by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation to the Superintendent for approval of the applications for the following three Lincoln-Marti Schools:

Charter School	1 st Year Enrollment		Maximum Enrollment	
	1. Lincoln-Marti Schools (East Hialeah Campus)	K-8	350	K-8
2. Lincoln-Marti Schools (East Little Havana Campus)	K-8	800	K-8	800
3. Lincoln-Marti Schools (Leisure City Campus)	K-8	800	K-8	800

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Dr. Arminda Espinosa, Retired Educator, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Dr. Dominica Alcántara, Educator, Florida Memorial College; and Mr. Samuel B. Reiner, President, Reiner & Reiner, P.A. The aforementioned Board Members also oversee the existing private schools operated by Lincoln-Marti.

Copies of the applications 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 three charter school applications for Lincoln-Marti Charter Schools, Inc., on behalf of:
 - a. Lincoln-Marti Schools (East Hialeah Campus);
 - b. Lincoln-Marti Schools (East Little Havana Campus); and
 - c. Lincoln-Marti Schools (Leisure City Campus) and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate three charter school contractual agreements for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which ends on June 30, 2019, and concludes in the 2018-2019 school year, which reflects the contents of the applications as approved by the School Board.

MB/TP:elg