

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement, between the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

On December 10, 2008, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (School Board) approved a charter school application submitted for South Florida Autism Charter School (South Florida Autism) and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of five years.

South Florida Autism will be located at Carl Slade Park, 7400 West 24 Avenue, Hialeah, Florida 33016 (site is adjacent to the City of Hialeah Education Academy, an existing charter high school), and will serve a maximum of 117 students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in kindergarten through twelve, with a maximum of 81 students in kindergarten through grade eight in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year. The term of the contract shall be for five years, ending on June 30, 2014.

The Governing Board of the charter school is comprised of the following members: Mr. Glenn R. Pierce, Founder and CEO, Pacific Charter School Development; Mr. Robert L. Cambo, CEO, Alliance Companies; Ms. Tamara L. Moodie-Ramdeen, former Educational Director, The Victory School, Inc.; and Ms. Susana Ledesma-Leon, Private Grant Writer.

Section 7(b) of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), stipulates that charter school contractual agreements that fully conform to the approved Standard Charter School Contract do not require review and recommendation by the Charter School Contract Review Committee and can be forwarded directly to the School Board for consideration.

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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, approve the charter school contractual agreement with South Florida Autism Charter School, Inc., on behalf of South Florida Autism Charter School for a term of five years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2014.

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