

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED DIGITAL AUDIO BOOKS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required digital audio books for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

RFB&D is part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks and trade books, library services, and other educational resources to individuals who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual, physical, or learning disability. Training will be provided by RFB&D outreach staff to teachers, other school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. This agreement is funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). No General Funds are required.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, Professional Services Contracts, reviewed this contract on April 30, 2009, and recommended that an exception to the School Board Rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as RFB&D is the sole source provider of these services.

An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001, and the program was found to be effective in improving reading performance. It was recommended that the program should be continued. The program is monitored by administrative staff from the Division of Special Education.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2009-2010 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2009, under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 4501, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required digital audio books, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, for RFB&D as the sole source provider of these services; and
3. extend this contractual agreement annually for a maximum of two additional one-year periods, contingent upon availability of funds.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2009-2010 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2009.

MRF/jf