

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL, INC., TO PROVIDE A PROGRAM WHICH INCREASES ONE-TO-ONE FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN 17 MIDDLE SCHOOLS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$98,600, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement with Best Buddies International, Inc., to provide opportunities to promote friendships between students with intellectual disabilities (buddies) and students without disabilities (peer buddies) at 17 middle schools, in an amount not to exceed \$98,600, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

Best Buddies International, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Program initiation strategies, training, and support will be provided by Best Buddies International, Inc., to teachers, school personnel, and student leaders at the participating middle schools.

An invitation to participate in this program was extended to all middle schools in the District and the following schools have committed to participate in the Best Buddies program for the 2009-2010 school year: Allapattah Middle, Brownsville Middle, Campbell Drive Middle, Citrus Grove Middle, Charles Drew Middle, Cutler Ridge Middle, Glades Middle, Henry Filer Middle, Hialeah Middle, Horace Mann Middle, H.D. McMillan Middle, Milam K-8 Center, North Miami Middle, Redland Middle, Riviera Middle, Rockway Middle, and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools. Contingent upon available funding, additional middle schools may be added.

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This program is evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluation includes school site visits and review of Best Buddies records and reports.

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 Best Buddies International, Inc., has specific expertise in this field, as demonstrated by its recognized international programs.

Funding for this item is through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). No General Funds are required.

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 on 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 Best Buddies International, Inc., to provide a program which increases one-to-one friendship opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities in 17 middle schools, in an amount not to exceed \$98,600, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010;
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 based on specific expertise; and
3. extend the contractual agreement 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