

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SOUTH HOMESTEAD)

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Section 1002.33(7), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, stipulates that a charter school contractual agreement may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

The initial charter school contractual agreement for Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy (Country Palms) was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (The School Board), on June 14, 2006, for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2007-2008 school year and ending on June 30, 2017. Subsequent actions were approved by the School Board to allow the school to operate at a temporary facility located at 18491 SW 134 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33177 until the construction was completed at the proposed permanent site located at 12425 SW 248 Street, Homestead, Florida 33032.

Somerset Academy (Country Palms) is currently operating at 18491 SW 134 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33177. Although approved to serve students in kindergarten through grade five, Somerset Academy (Country Palms) currently serves approximately 21 students in first grade. Somerset Academy (Country Palms) has requested a second amendment to (1) add an additional campus located at 300 SE First Drive, Homestead, Florida 33030, (2) delete the campus located at 12425 SW 248 Street, Homestead, Florida 33032 and (3) to change the name from Somerset Academy (Country Palms) to Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead). This proposed additional campus is the former site of Sacred Heart, a catholic private school owned by the Archdiocese of Miami scheduled for closure. This same site has been identified by Somerset Academy Middle School (South Campus) as an additional campus (Agenda Item C-36).

The charter school is in its first year of operation; therefore, it has not yet received a grade under Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability and has not yet been audited. The charter school is scheduled for its first audit after the conclusion

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of this school year. The charter school is required to submit audited financial statements by September 1, 2009.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on April 28, 2009, and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the second amendment to the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy (Country Palms).

Copies of the amendment to 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 second amendment to the contract with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy (Country Palms) to:

- (1) add an additional campus located at 300 SE First Drive, Homestead, Florida 33030;
- (2) delete the campus located at 12425 SW 248 Street, Homestead, Florida 33032; and
- (3) change their name from Somerset Academy (Country Palms) to Somerset Academy Charter Elementary School (South Homestead), commencing in the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2017.

FW:elg