

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER MIDDLE 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 Charter Middle School (South Campus) (Somerset Middle South Campus) was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (The School Board), on July 15, 2008, for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and ending on June 30, 2018.

Somerset Middle South Campus is currently operating at a facility located at 23255 SW 115 Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33032. Although approved to serve students in grades six through eight, Somerset Middle South Campus serves approximately 14 students in sixth grade. Somerset Middle South Campus has requested a first amendment to (1) add an additional campus located at 300 SE First Drive, Homestead, Florida 33030 and (2) change its name from Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Campus) to Somerset Academy Charter Middle 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 (Country Palms) as an additional campus (Agenda Item C-35).

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

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

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 first amendment to the contract with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Homestead) to:

- (1) add an additional campus located at 300 SE First Drive, Homestead, Florida 33030; and
- (2) change its name from Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Campus) to Somerset Academy Charter Middle School (South Homestead), commencing in the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2018.

FW:elg