

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF SOMERSET GRACE ACADEMY

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 November 18, 2008, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted for Somerset Grace Academy (Somerset Grace) and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of ten years.

Somerset Grace will be located at 22800 S.W. 112 Avenue, Cutler Bay, Florida 33170, and will serve a maximum of 675 students in kindergarten through grade eight, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year. The term of the contract shall be for ten years, ending on June 30, 2019.

The Governing Board of the charter school is comprised of the following members: Mr. Victor Barroso, Account Executive, El Sembrador; Ms. Kim M. Guilarte, Principal, Mater Academy Charter School; Dr. Hui Fang Huang (Angie) Su, Program Professor, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services, Nova Southeastern University; Ms. Cynthia Hanson, Vice President, Marketing & External Relations, Brooks City-Base; Mr. Carlos Resendez, Fire Retiree Representative, San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund; Mr. Louis J. Marin, Director, Project Management, San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union; Ms. Meryl Romeu, Co-owner and Chief Financial Officer, Pavillion Consulting; and Mr. David Concepcion, Mayor's Chief of Staff, City of Hialeah. This is the same governing board for the following charter schools currently in existence: Somerset Academy, Somerset Academy Charter Middle School, Somerset Academy Charter High School, Somerset Academy (Country Palms), Somerset Academy Middle School (Country Palms), Somerset Academy Middle School (South Campus), Somerset Academy Charter High School (South Campus), Somerset Academy Silver Palms and Somerset Arts Academy.

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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.

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 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the charter school contractual agreement with Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Grace Academy for a term of ten years, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year and ending on June 30, 2019.

FW:elg