

Financial Services
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

The Board is requested to approve payment to Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc., for respiratory therapy, registered nursing, and licensed practical nursing services, provided to students with disabilities.

At its meeting of September 10, 2008, the Board awarded Bid No. 097-HH10 – RESPIRATORY THERAPY, REGISTERED NURSING, AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING SERVICES, to provide needed services for students with disabilities who require such services in order to access education, during the contract term of October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2010. The Board authorized Procurement Management Services to purchase up to the estimated amount of \$8,200,000.

The Division of Special Education (SPED) has advised that additional invoices, totaling approximately \$2,200,000, are being submitted for payment, for services rendered to students with disabilities during the contract period. The additional invoices include \$1,200,000 for services rendered through June 30, 2010, and expenditures of \$1,000,000 for services provided through September 30, 2010. Expenses for nursing and respiratory therapy services for students with special needs are difficult to predict and project. These services include diabetes care/management, feeding/medication via gastrointestinal tube, catheterization, support for seizure disorders, significant allergies, tracheotomy care and pulmonary disorders.

Additional costs incurred over the contract period were proximately caused by a significant increase in the number of students requiring these services over the two-year contract period. In particular, from 2008 to date, the number of students requiring in-school nursing services and/or respiratory therapy services increased from 560 to 645. During this same period, the number of nurses retained to provide in-school nursing and/or respiratory therapy services also jumped from 173 nurses serving 124 schools to 284 nurses serving 193 schools. Throughout this period, delivery of services has been uninterrupted in compliance with requirements set forth in Individual Educational Plans and Section 504 Accommodation Plans, and in order to avoid disruption of the educational process.

It should be noted that the budget for contracted services relating to special needs services has not been exceeded and resources are available to pay these invoices. This item requests authorization to pay for additional invoices that exceeded the authority granted by the Board for the initial contract period. The originating office was advised of the unauthorized purchase, as well as proper purchasing procedures set forth in Board Rule 6Gx13- 3C-1.09 – Purchasing Department – Board Designated Authority and 6Gx13- 3C-1.14 – Ordering Goods and Services – Authorization. Staff has replied in writing indicating that any and all future purchasing will be in compliance with the appropriate Board rules and processes.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **APPROVE** payment to Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc., in the amount of \$2,200,000, for services performed pursuant to Contract No. 097-HH10 – RESPIRATORY THERAPY, REGISTERED NURSING, AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING SERVICES, as follows:

MAXIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC.
7227 LEE DEFOREST DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MD 21046
OWNER: BRANDI PHILBRICK, ASSISTANT CONTROLLER

RHH/ae