

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REPORT ON FINANCIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

In 1996, the Florida Legislature authorized charter schools as part of the state's public school education program. There are over 450 charter schools across the state of Florida, of which over 90 are located in Miami-Dade County. Charter schools are funded like other public schools in the state, receiving funds based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students enrolled. School districts retain 5% of the FTE funding generated for enrollment for the first 250 students enrolled by the charter school to cover district administrative costs for managing the charter contract and collecting and reporting required data to the state.

State Statute 1002.33 – Charter Schools, states that “a district school board may sponsor a charter school in the county over which the district school board has jurisdiction,” and “the sponsor shall monitor and review the charter school in its progress toward the goals established in the charter.” The sponsor shall also monitor revenues and expenditures of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s. 1002.345.

Specifically, state statute requires that sponsoring school districts provide certain administrative and educational services to charter schools, including, but not limited to:

- Contract management;
- Full-time equivalent and data reporting;
- Exceptional student education administration;
- Services related to eligibility and reporting duties for school lunch services at the request of the charter school;
- Test administration services, including payment of the costs of state-required or district-required student assessments;
- Processing of teacher certificate data services;
- Information services, including equal access to student information systems that are used by public schools in the district in which the charter school is located; and
- Student performance data for each student in a charter school, including, but not limited to, FCAT scores, standardized test scores, previous public school student report cards, and student performance measures.

This item seeks to ascertain the financial cost to the district for administering charter school contract operations.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Audit Committee to provide a cost-analysis report to the Board on the financial costs associated with district administration of charter school contracts, no later than the June 2011 School Board Meeting.