

Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP AND TO REPLACE TWO DESIGNEES FROM THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVES, INC., A DIRECT-SUPPORT ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested to permit an increase in the membership on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc., ("FNEI"), at FNEI's discretion and to replace two designees on the FNEI Board from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The FNEI is a direct-support organization of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, created on April 2, 2008, and given the mission to enhance student achievement and community engagement in support of The Parent Academy and other educational initiatives of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, the Board of Directors of a direct-support organization shall be approved by the District School Board. Following approval by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and in accordance with the FNEI Bylaws, the number of Directors may be increased by a Resolution of the FNEI Board of Directors. Currently, the Board of Directors includes the Chair of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Miami-Dade Council of PTAs/PTSAs, two designees from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and one business/civic member representing the largest donor to The Parent Academy.

Pursuant to the grant requirements, KPMG LLP performed a Grant Expenditure Evaluation ("Evaluation") for Grant #2007-0160 awarded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to The Parent Academy. This grant served as a basis for the formation of FNEI. KPMG LLP recommended in its Evaluation that the two representatives from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation relinquish their positions on the FNEI Board of Directors. The Knight Foundation concurs with this recommendation and requests that their members on the FNEI Board be replaced.

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In order to fill the two existing and soon to be vacated positions on the FNEI Board and to also secure FNEI's continued effectiveness, it is recommended that the membership on the FNEI Board be increased beyond its current limit of six members to membership limits established at the discretion of the FNEI. An increase in membership will also bolster FNEI's demanding and ever increasing fundraising efforts. In this endeavor, community representatives from sectors such as, arts & culture, the legal profession, philanthropic organizations, and business leaders will be identified and recommended through a Resolution to the FNEI Board of Directors to fill current vacancies and any new seats that may be established by FNEI.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize an increase in the membership of the Board of Directors for the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc., a Direct-Support Organization of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida and the replacement of two designees from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation on the Board of the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc.