

Office of School Facilities  
Jaime G. Torrens, Chief Facilities Officer

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FINALIZE NEGOTIATIONS AND EXECUTE AGREEMENT(S) WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (“FIU”), AS MAY BE REQUIRED, TO FACILITATE THE START-UP OF A DISTRICT-OPERATED SECONDARY PROGRAM AT THE FIU BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS (3000 NE 151 STREET, NORTH MIAMI) WITH A FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION REFORM**

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

Background

The Board, at its meeting of March 13, 2013, authorized the Superintendent to explore opportunities and report back to the Board at a later date, regarding collaborations with Florida International University (“FIU”) and other interested public or private parties, through which the establishment of a secondary facility at the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus (“FIU BCC Campus”) with a focus on the environmental sciences could be facilitated. Since then, District staff has met with both FIU staff as well as with representatives of potentially interested nearby municipalities to discuss possible options.

While these meetings have been encouraging, it has become clear that on-going discussions on a permanent building solution at FIU will benefit from additional dialogue with interested parties. Consequently, in order to still implement the program for the 2013-14 school year, a short-term solution is being proposed; this solution entails joint use of FIU classroom and lab space by District students enrolled in the program during the upcoming school year, which can be accomplished under the auspices of the Master Joint Use Agreement (“MJUA”) previously entered into between the Board and FIU.

Additional Information

As indicated above, in order to meet the District’s start-up program needs for 2013-14, the Board will need to secure use of approximately four general classrooms and one Biology Laboratory/classroom at the FIU BCC Campus. As provided under the MJUA, specific details will be further discussed and agreed upon by both parties prior to the start of the school year, including daily schedule of use, staff/student parking, and any other special considerations or requirements.

In addition to the above, the District and FIU will execute a separate document to address curriculum, course descriptions, establishment of career paths, student internships, dual enrollment, utilization of FIU/District faculty, student recruitment and support services.

Concurrent with the rollout of the program in the next school year, District staff will accelerate its discussions with both FIU and interested municipalities to define the permanent solution and proposed participation by the parties.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to finalize negotiations and execute agreement(s) with Florida International University ("FIU"), as may be required, to facilitate the start-up of a District-operated secondary program at the FIU Biscayne Bay campus (3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami) with a focus on the environmental sciences for school year 2013-2014.

JT:arc