

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF ONE CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT, SIX CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

**NEW CHARTER CONTRACT**

Section 1002.33(7), F. S., states that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contract between the charter school and the School Board following a public meeting. Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools*, the new charter school contract presented on this board item was required to be negotiated by the M-DCPS' Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC). The recommendation is as follows:

Type of Contract	Proposed Name of School	Legal Entity	Committee Recommendation	Supporting Documentation
1. 5-Year Initial Charter	Avant Garde Academy (Virtus Academy)	Avant Garde Academy of Florida, Inc. (Virtus Education, Inc.)	Approval	Attachment A

Any significant increase in charter school student enrollment (Charter FTE) directly impacts the District's operating budget as well as instructional and non-instructional staffing levels. The charter school contract presented in this Board item represents an increase in overall charter school enrollment. To ensure that the District's financial position remains positive, Board authorization is requested to allow a Reduction-in-Force/Layoff only if it becomes necessary. Any such Reduction-in-Force/Layoff affecting instructional and non-instructional staff would be implemented in accordance with School Board policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements. The number of position reductions will not exceed the stated Initial Loss included in this item and will be re-evaluated and adjusted in subsequent years to reflect changes in FTE. The impact caused by this contract is further illustrated in Attachment A.

District Impact	Initial Loss		Initial Loss - Human Capital			
	Total FEFP Revenue (\$)	Projected Charter FTE (#)	Instructional Positions		Total Positions	
			Core <sup>1</sup>	Non-Core <sup>2</sup>		
New Contract (1) [2016-2017 SY]	\$2,844,122	458	19	8	19	46
<b>TOTAL INITIAL LOSS:</b>	<b>\$2,844,122</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>

<sup>1</sup> Core includes: elementary education, language arts/reading, mathematics, science, and social science.

<sup>2</sup> Non-Core includes: electives and all other subject areas and programs.

**APPLICATIONS**

Section 1002.33, F.S., authorizes the establishment of charter schools in Florida. As provided in Section 1002.33(6), F.S., and School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools*, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) receives and reviews charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations. Pursuant to Section 1002.33(6)(b)(3), F.S., a sponsor must approve or deny an application no later than 60 calendar days after the application is received unless the applicants have agreed in writing to extend the statutory timeline. Twenty-four (24) charter applications were received for the 2015 cycle. To date, four (4) applications were approved in November and fourteen (14) applicants have withdrawn their applications from consideration by the Sponsor.

Revised

**APPLICATION EVALUATION**

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools*, (School Board Policy) the District reviews all applications using an evaluation instrument developed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and may include additional information or documents requested by the District. The Standard Model Application includes standards of evaluation, certification and assurance declarations and an Applicant History Addendum. The Sponsor shall deny any application that does not comply with the State’s statutory requirements and rules and/or Sponsor’s instructions for charter school applications.

The Superintendent has appointed the Application Review Committee (ARC) with the responsibility to review and evaluate charter school applications after an initial technical review is conducted by staff. The ARC is comprised of representatives from various District departments and is charged with identifying strengths and deficiencies in the written application and/or areas that require clarification to fully evaluate the quality of the application or the capacity of the applicant to properly implement the proposed plan.

Deleted Revised

Pursuant to School Board Policy, six (6) charter school applications are being presented for final consideration by the School Board. Details are contained in the Table 3. Additional details on the applications can be found in Attachment A, which are provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item.

Table 3: Applications Recommended for Approval					
Type of Application	Proposed Name of School	Legal Entity	Committee Recommendation	Supporting Documentation	
1. Standard	BridgePrep Academy of Advanced Studies	BridgePrep Academy, Inc.	Approval	Attachment A	
2. High-Performing Replication*	Highly Inquisitive & Versatile Education (HIVE) Preparatory School - Riverside	Advanced Learning Charter School, Inc.	Approval		
3. High-Performing Replication*	Pinecrest Academy West K-8	Pinecrest Academy, Inc.	Approval		
4. High-Performing Replication*	Pinecrest Glades Academy		Approval		
5. Standard	Pinecrest Glades Preparatory Middle High School		Approval		
6. Standard	Somerset Gardens Academy	Somerset Academy, Inc.	Approval		

\*Pursuant to s.1002.33, "high performing" is a designation made by the Commission of Education for certain charter schools that allows that school to replicate an existing program.

**DUE PROCESS**

To ensure proper notice and due process, each applicant was noticed of the Superintendent's intent to recommend approval or denial to the School Board and provided a copy of the final evaluation prior to this School Board Meeting. The applicants were also informed of the School Board's Personnel Services and Student and School Support Committee Meeting and procedures for requesting to appear before the School Board at meetings and public hearings. Additionally, prior to submission, a courtesy orientation for charter school applicants was noticed on the Charter School Support department's website and facilitated by multiple district departments on May 7, 2015. Individual appointments regarding application preparation were also held throughout the year by Charter School Support staff, upon request.

Copies of the contract, applications and the evaluations have been 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:

1. Approve one (1) new charter contract with Avant Garde Academy of Florida, Inc., on behalf of Avant Garde Academy (i.) a 5-year term charter school contract, commencing with the 2016-2017 school year and ending on June 30, 2020, as a deferral was granted for the 2015-2016 school year; (ii.) to change the legal entity's name from Avant Garde Academy of Florida, Inc., to Virtus Education, Inc.; and (iii.) to change the school's name from Avant Garde Academy to Virtus Academy.
2. Approve six (6) charter school applications and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate contracts reflecting the contents of the applications, for:
  - a. BridgePrep Academy, Inc., on behalf of BridgePrep Academy of Advanced Studies;
  - b. Advanced Learning Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Highly Inquisitive & Versatile Education (HIVE) Preparatory School – Riverside;
  - c. Pinecrest Academy, Inc., on behalf of:
    - i. Pinecrest Academy West K-8;
    - ii. Pinecrest Glades Academy;
    - iii. Pinecrest Glades Preparatory Middle High School;
  - d. Somerset Academy, Inc., on behalf of Somerset Gardens Academy.

VGB:elg  
Attachments

**School Board Agenda Item D-65  
ATTACHMENT A**

**NEW CONTRACT:**

1. Avant Garde Academy (Virtus Academy)

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. BridgePrep Academy of Advanced Studies
2. Highly Inquisitive & Versatile Education (HIVE) Preparatory School – Riverside
3. Pinecrest Academy West K-8
4. Pinecrest Glades Academy
5. Pinecrest Glades Preparatory Middle High School
6. Somerset Gardens Academy

The M-DCPS' Charter School Application Review Committee (ARC) reviewed one charter school contract and six (6) charter school applications. Listed below are the recommended approvals to the Superintendent.

(1)(2)(3)	(4)(5)	(6)	(7)		(8)	(10)	(11)	(12)	
Name of School	School Location	Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme	Special Provisions and/or Requested Action(s)	Geographic Area	DISTRICT IMPACT 2016-17 SY	
	Impacted Traditional Schools	Initial/ Exp.	Initial Year					Revenue (\$)/ Positions	Inst.
NEW CONTRACT (SY 2016-2017)									
<b>Avant Garde Academy (Virtus Academy)</b> ESP: N/A  Feeder Pattern: Miami Southridge SHS  CRC recommended approval on October 30, 2015.	10750 Caribbean Boulevard Cutler Bay, Florida 33189	5 years	6-10	610	None	Approval of (i.) a 5-year term charter school contract, commencing with the 2016-2017 school year and ending on June 30, 2020, as a deferral was granted for the 2015-2016 school year; (ii.) to change the legal entity's name from Avant Garde Academy of Florida, Inc., to Virtus Education, Inc.; and (iii.) to change the school's name from Avant Garde Academy to Virtus Academy.	Miami-Dade South <b>Feldman</b>	\$2,844,122	
	Cutler Bay MS  Cutler Bay SHS  A&P Mays Conserv. of the Arts  Richmond Hghts MS  MAST at Homestead	2015/2020	6-12	888				27	19
<b>TOTAL 2016-2017 REVENUE (\$):</b>								\$2,844,122	
Total 2016-2017 Instructional Positions:								27	
Total 2016-2017 Non-Instructional Positions:								19	

Initial Year Loss: The revenue and positions indicated as "Initial Year Loss" provide an estimate of the potential impact on the District's General Fund (\$2,844,122) instructional staffing (27 positions), and non-instructional staffing (19 positions). The loss of revenue is based on 95% of FEEP funds per student and 75% of the initial year enrollment projection that the District will not realize for the current fiscal year.

(1)(2)(3)	(4)(5)	(6)	(7)		(8)
Name of School	Legal Entity	Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme
		Initial/ Exp.	Initial Year		
			Maximum Capacity		
<b>APPLICATIONS</b>					
<b>BridgePrep Academy of Advanced Studies</b> ESP: S.M.A.R.T. Management  ARC recommended approval on November 5, 2015.	BridgePrep Academy, Inc.	5 years	9-12	1,400	Academy of Aviation/Aerospace Technologies
		2016/2021	9-12	1,400	Academy of Engineering/Robotics
					Academy of World Languages in Spanish
<b>Highly Inquisitive &amp; Versatile Education (HIVE) Preparatory School - Riverside</b> ESP: Bridgerock Education  *High Performing Replication  ARC recommended approval on November 5, 2015.	Advanced Learning Charter School, Inc.	5 years	K-4	820	None
		2016/2021	K-8	820	
<b>Pinecrest Academy West K-8</b> ESP: Academica Dade, LLC  *High Performing Replication  ARC recommended approval on November 3, 2015.		5 years	K-8	650	None
		2016/2021	K-8	900	
<b>Pinecrest Glades Academy</b> ESP: Academica Dade, LLC  *High Performing Replication  ARC recommended approval on November 3, 2015.	Pinecrest Academy, Inc.	5 years	K-5	515	None
		2016/2021	K-5	876	
<b>Pinecrest Glades Preparatory Middle High School</b> ESP: Academica Dade, LLC  ARC recommended approval on November 3, 2015.		5 years	6-9	775	Academy of Health and Medical Sciences
					Academy of Visual and Performing Arts
		2016/2021	6-12	2,124	Academy of Journalism and Broadcasting

(1)(2)(3)	(4)(5)	(6)	(7)		(8)
Name of School	Legal Entity	Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme
		Initial/ Exp.	Initial Year	Maximum Capacity	
Somerset Gardens Academy ESP: Academica Dade, LLC  ARC recommended approval on November 3, 2015.	Somerset Academy, Inc.	5 years	K-5	330	None
		2016/ 2021	K-5	535	

*\* Pursuant to 1002.331(3)(a) a high performing charter school may submit an application in any school district in the state to establish and operate a new charter school that will substantially replicate its educational program.*

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