

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT FOR COLLEGE
PREPARATORY PUBLIC BOARDING SCHOOL FOR AT
RISK YOUTH**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED
STAKEHOLDERS**

For over 25 years, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (The Board) has researched and explored opportunities to partner with outside entities with the goal of providing a public boarding school for a subset of our students.

In 2014, the SEED Foundation successfully contracted with the Florida Department of Education and The Board to establish a college-preparatory, public boarding school for youth living in poverty and at risk of failing school, eligible for social services, in foster care, living in public housing and/or have an incarcerated immediate family member. The SEED Foundation expanded its work into Miami-Dade after successfully implementing the same model since 1998 in Washington D.C. and Maryland with proven results including a 90% high school graduation rate of all 9th graders and a 94% college enrollment rate of SEED high school graduates. This was the type of success envisioned by the School Board, and justifies the School Board's vision that a boarding school option for a small but highly vulnerable subset of our community increases equitable access to quality instructional programs and offers a positive benefit for all of South Florida.

The SEED School of Miami (SEED Miami), a public charter school, currently houses approximately 180 students, grades 6th through 8th at the Florida Memorial University (FMU) campus in Miami Gardens and educates them at a separate site also in Miami Gardens. In just the first two years of SEED Miami, the first class of students attained 3.5 grade levels of reading growth on average. Recently, SEED Miami approached the administration conveying that their residential site at FMU would no longer be available. The academic results garnered for those youth that are often most fragile are undeniable, but with the identified facility challenge the services to South Florida youth will be at risk for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond.

On February 21, 2017, The Board received an unsolicited proposal under School Board Policy 6327 – *Public-Private Partnerships and Unsolicited Proposals* from SEED for the use of the campus of former Westview Middle School to both house and educate its students. Per the rules set forth in this Policy, the administration reviewed the proposal and deemed the residential portion of the submission a qualifying project. The proposal was published and the evaluation of submissions adhered to the published criteria.

Proposals are due on March 28, 2017, and if received will be reviewed following competitive procurement guidelines. The proposed educational component must be considered separately and adhere to the Office of Charter School Compliance and Support procedures.

If approved, the recommended awardee will enter into negotiations with the District on a Comprehensive Agreement/Ground Lease to implement the Qualifying Project. This document, along with any other agreements necessary to effectuate the Project will be brought back to The Board for final approval.

Additional documents related to the successful installation of the Boarding School on the campus will also will be brought to The Board under separate cover. These include:

- A charter agreement and/or an amendment to awardee's charter agreement with The Board including referenced site address
- Any facilities use agreement for the educational use of a portion of the campus of the former Westview Middle School building if needed or beneficial to the residential component of the boarding school.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. **APPROVE** staff's recommendation that (a) there is an educational benefit to be derived from the unsolicited proposal submitted by The SEED School of Miami (SEED Miami) to establish a residential facility for a college preparatory public charter boarding school for at-risk youth on the campus of the former Westview Middle School (Project) , (b) the estimated cost of the Project is reasonable and beneficial to The Board, and (c) SEED Miami's plans will result in the timely design, construction, and operation of the Project;
2. **APPROVE** staff's recommendation, based on the foregoing findings in Paragraph 1, that a portion of the unsolicited proposal submitted by SEED Miami is a qualifying project under Policy 6327, *Public-Private Partnerships and Unsolicited Proposals*;
3. **AWARD** qualifying project to awardee; and
4. **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent to negotiate a Comprehensive Agreement/Ground Lease with awardee in accordance with Policy 6327, along with any other agreements that are necessary to effectuate the Project to be brought back to the Board for final approval.