

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF TWO NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS, TWO CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT AMENDMENTS, AND TWO CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT RENEWALS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

**APPLICATIONS**

Section 1002.33, F.S., authorizes the establishment of charter schools by individuals and/or organizations. 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 for approval or denial by the School Board. Section 1002.33(6)(B)(3), F.S., requires School Boards to approve or deny the applications no later than 90 days after receipt, unless the applicant waives the deadline and an extension of time is then granted. This item recommends approval of two charter school applications received, one during the 2017 cycle and the other during the 2018 cycle. If these applications are approved, eligible opening would be the 2018-19 SY and 2019-20 SY, respectively. *(Note: Legislation passed in 2016 affords charter schools the opportunity to defer the opening of the school's operations for up to 2 years to provide time for adequate facility planning.)*

During the 2017 application cycle, a total of sixteen (16) applications were received and to date thirteen applications (13) were approved by the School Board (three of which were High Performing Replications), two applications were withdrawn (one of which was a High Performing Replication), and the remaining application is being presented in this item. During the 2018 application cycle, a total of ten (10) applications were received and to date, three applications have been withdrawn and seven are pending School Board action, one of which is being presented for consideration in this item.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, **Charter Schools**, 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.

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, **Charter Schools**, two charter school applications are being presented for final consideration by the School Board. An overview of the two charter school applications recommended for approval and the associated ARC recommendations is contained in the following table. Additional details of the applications recommended for approval can be found in Attachment "A", which is provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item. The application recommendations are as follows:

Table 1: APPLICATIONS					
	Type of Application	Proposed Name of School	Legal Entity	Committee Recommendation	Supporting Documentation
1.	High Performing Replication* (Replication of AcadeMir Charter School West, MSID 0410)	AcadeMir Charter School East K-5	AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc.	Approval	Attachment A
2.	Standard	Academy of International Education Upper School for Science and Technology	Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc.		

*\*Pursuant to s.1002.33(6), F.S., a "An applicant is considered to be replicating a high-performing charter school if the proposed school is substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-performing charter schools and the organization or individuals involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated schools."*

**AMENDED CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS**

Section 1002.33(7) allows that "a charter may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the charter school's governing board and the approval of both parties to the agreement." Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, **Charter Schools**, two charter school contract amendments that required presentation to the M-DCPS Contract Review Committee (CRC) are being presented in this item for School Board consideration. Additional details of the amendment requests can be found in Attachment "B", which is provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item. The amendment recommendations are as follows:

Table 2: CHARTER CONTRACT AMENDMENT					
	Type of Amendment	Name of School	Legal Entity	Committee Recommendation	Supporting Documentation
1.	Enrollment Increase	AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory (MSID 1015)	AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc.	Approval	Attachment B
2.	Enrollment Increase	Downtown Doral Charter Upper School (MSID TBD)	Downtown Doral Charter Upper, Inc.		

**CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT RENEWALS**

Section 1002.33(7)(b), F. S., states that a charter may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that the significant components of the charter application have been

successfully accomplished and that none of the following grounds for nonrenewal/termination have been established: (1) failure to participate in the state's education accountability system or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter; (2) failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; (3) violation of law; and/or (4) other good cause. Additional details for each renewal contract can be found in Attachment "C", which is provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item. The two renewal recommendations are as follows:

Type of Contract	Name of School	Legal Entity	Committee Recommendation	Supporting Documentation
1. 15-Year Renewal*	Archimedean Upper Conservatory (MSID 7265) <i>(High Performing Charter School)</i>	Archimedean Academy, Inc.	Approved	Attachment C
2. 5-Year Renewal	Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah (MSID 5029)	Excelsior Academies, Inc.		

\*Pursuant to s. 1002.331(2)(e), a high performing charter school may modify its charter contract to a term of 15 years or a 15-year renewal.

**DISTRICT IMPACT**

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 new contract being presented represents an increase in overall charter school enrollment and an anticipated initial loss to the District for the 2018-19 SY.

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. Additional information on the impact is provided in Attachments "B".

District Impact	Initial Loss		Initial Loss - Human Capital			
	Total FEFP Revenue (\$)	Projected Charter FTE (#)	Instructional Positions		Non-Instructional Positions	Total Positions
			Core <sup>1</sup>	Non-Core <sup>2</sup>		
AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory (MSID 1015)	\$230,470	38	2	1	2	5
<b>TOTAL INITIAL LOSS:</b>	<b>\$230,470</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

**DUE PROCESS**

To ensure proper notice and due process, the applicants and non-profit entities were noticed of the Superintendent's recommendation to the School Board and were provided a copy of the final evaluation and/or contract prior to this School Board Meeting. They were also informed of the School Board's Personnel, Student, School and Community Support Committee Meeting and procedures for requesting to appear before the School Board at meetings and public hearings.

<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.

Copies of the applications, evaluations, and contracts 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.

Board approval of this item does not reflect or constitute a finding of need, justification, or endorsement for any charter school as proposed in the item but only that it meets the statutory requirements for Board approval of a charter school application or contract under Section 1002.33, F.S., and School Board Policy, 9800, **Charter Schools**.

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

- A. Approve two new charter school applications and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a contract reflecting the contents of the applications as approved by the School Board with:
  1. AcadeMir Charter School, Inc., d/b/a AcadeMir Charter School East K-5 (High Performing Replication of AcadeMir Charter School West, MSID 0410); and,
  2. Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc., d/b/a. Academy of International Education Upper School for Science and Technology.
- B. Approve two charter school contract amendments with:
  1. AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc. d/b/a AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory (MSID 1015), to increase student enrollment by 50 students to a maximum of 850 students commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021; and,
  2. Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, Inc., (Downtown Doral Charter Upper School), to increase maximum student enrollment by 280 students as follows: (i) in year 2 from 766 to 900 students; (ii) in year 3 from 976 to 1,100 students; and (iii) in years 4 and 5 from 1,070 to 1,300 students commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2023.
- C. Approve two charter contract renewals with:
  1. Archimedean Academy, Inc., d/b/a Archimedean Upper Conservatory (MSID 7265), to renew the charter contract for a 15-year term commencing July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2033; and,
  2. Excelsior Academies, Inc., d/b/a Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah (MSID 5029), to renew the charter contract for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.
- D. Approve a Reduction-in-Force/Layoff as needed, only to the extent described in this item as Total Initial Loss, in accordance with School Board Policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Attachments

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

**CHARTER APPLICATIONS:**

1. AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc., d/b/a AcadeMir Charter School East K-5; and
2. Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc., d/b/a Academy of International Education Upper School for Science and Technology.

School Information	Proposed Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	Focus/Theme	Founding/ Gov. Board Members
	Initial/Exp.	Proposed Initial Year	Maximum Capacity		
<b>AcadeMir Charter School East</b> <i>(High Performing Replication of AcadeMir Charter School West, MSID 0410)</i>  Legal Entity: AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc.  Proposed ESP: Superior Charter School Services, Inc.	5 year	K-5	394	Mathematics and Science	<u>Governing Board Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexander Casas, Board Chair</li> <li>• Dr. Tirso Alonso, Vice Chair</li> <li>• Joanna Pino, Secretary/Treasurer</li> <li>• Sonia Alfaro, Board Member</li> <li>• Ruben Perez, Board Member</li> </ul>
	2019 - 2024	K-5	650		
<b>Academy for International Education Upper School for Science and Technology</b>  Legal Entity: Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc.  Proposed ESP: Miami-Dade County Public Schools	5 year	6-9	88	Science and Technology	<u>Governing Board Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Bell, President</li> <li>• Carol Ballent, Vice President</li> <li>• Darlenys Gil, Secretary</li> </ul>
	2018 - 2024	6-12	664		

Copies of the applications and 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.

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

**CHARTER AMENDMENTS:**

- AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc., d/b/a AcadeMir Charter School Middle (MSID 1015); and,
- Downtown Doral Charter Upper, Inc., d/b/a Downtown Doral Charter Upper School.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS									
School Information	School Location	Current Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	2017 School Grade/Rating	Recommended Action(s) and/or Special Provisions	Geographic Area	DISTRICT IMPACT 2018-19 SY	
	Feeder Pattern	Beg./Exp.	Current					Revenue Positions	
			Maximum Capacity					Instr.	Non-Instr.
<b>AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory (MSID 1015)</b>  Legal Entity: AcadeMir Charter Schools, Inc.  ESP: Superior Charter School Services, Inc.	19185 SW 127 Ave. Miami, FL 33185	5 years	K-5	706	B	<b>Recommended Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to increase student enrollment 50 students to a maximum of 850 students commencing July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021.</li> </ul>	Miami-Dade  South Region Navarro	\$230,470	
	South Miami Heights Elementary School; Redland Elementary School; Cutler Bay Middle School; Richmond Heights Middle School; South Dade Senior High School; and Miami Southridge Senior High School	2016 - 2021	K-5	800				3	2
<b>Downtown Doral Charter Upper School (MSID TBD)</b>  Legal Entity: Downtown Doral Charter Upper, Inc.  ESP: M-DCPS	8390 NW 53 St. Miami, FL 33166 (Temporary Facility)	5 years	6-9	100	[Not open yet]	<b>Recommended Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to increase maximum student enrollment by 280 students as follows: (i) in year 2 from 766 to 900 students; (ii) in year 3 from 976 to 1,100 students; and (iii) in years 4 and 5 from 1,070 to 1,300 students commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2023..</li> </ul>	Doral  Central Region  Castillo VD 5	N/A	
	Folio No. 35-3022-007-0390 Miami, FL 33166 (Permanent Facility)							2018 - 2023	6-12
Total 2018-2019 Instructional Positions:								3	
Total 2018-2019 Non-Instructional Positions:								2	
<b>TOTAL 2018-2019 POSITIONS:</b>								<b>5</b>	

Initial Year Loss (2018-2019 SY): The revenue and positions indicated as "Initial Year Loss" provide an estimate of the potential impact on the District's General Fund (\$) instructional staffing (positions), and non-instructional staffing (positions). The loss of revenue is based on 95% of FEFP funds per student and 75% of the initial year enrollment projection that the District will not realize for the current fiscal year.

Copies of the these amended contracts will be 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, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132, Room 158.

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

**HARTER CONTRACT RENEWALS:**

1. Archimedean Academy, Inc. d/b/a Archimedean Upper Conservatory (MSID 7265)
2. Excelsior Academies, Inc. d/b/a Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah (MSID 5029)

CHARTER CONTRACT RENEWALS							
School Information	School Location	New Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	2017 School Grade / Rating	Recommended Action(s) and/or Special Provisions	Geographic Area
	Feeder Pattern	Beg. / Exp.	Current Enrollment	Maximum Capacity			
<b>Archimedean Upper Conservatory (MSID 7265)</b>  Legal Entity: Archimedean Academy, Inc.  ESP: N/A	12425 SW 72 St. Miami, FL 33183	15 years	9-12	320	A	<b>Recommended Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• under Section 1002.331(3), F.S., <b>High Performing Charter Schools</b>, to renew the charter contract for a 15-year term commencing July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2033.</li> </ul>	Unincorporated Miami--Dade  South Region  Pérez VD 8
	Winston Park K-8 Center; Sunset Park Elementary School; Howard D. McMillan Middle School; Glades Middle School; Miami Killian Senior High; and, Miami Sunset Senior High School.	2018 - 2033		336			
<b>Excelsior Language Academy of Hialeah (MSID 5029)</b>  Legal Entity: Excelsior Academies, Inc.  ESP: N/A	369 E. Tenth St. Hialeah, FL 33010	5 years	K-8	260	C	<b>Recommended Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to renew the charter contract for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.</li> </ul>	City of Hialeah  North Region  Castillo VD 5
	South Hialeah Elementary School; Flamingo Elementary School; Miami Springs Middle School; Westland Hialeah Senior High School.	2018 - 2023		500			

Copies of the renewed contracts will be 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, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132, Room 158.