

August 2, 2023

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of August 16, 2023

Lourdes Diaz, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and Transformation

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE RENEWAL CHARTER SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH (1) DOWNTOWN DORAL CHARTER UPPER SCHOOL, INC., D/B/A DOWNTOWN DORAL CHARTER UPPER SCHOOL; (2) ACADEMY FOR INNOVATIVE EDUCATION; AND (3) THE SEED SCHOOL OF MIAMI

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Per Section 1002.33(20)(a), F.S., school districts may provide goods and services to a charter school through a contract, separate from the charter contract, at a mutually agreed upon rate.

Downtown Doral Charter Upper School's (DDCUS) unique dual-language curriculum prepares students, grades 6-12, to excel in a complex global society. Students have a choice of two tracks: Spanish or Portuguese. DDCUS is an authorized World School for the International Baccalaureate Middle-Year Programme and the Diploma Programme. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to a high-quality, challenging, international education important for the development of a future global leader.

Areas of support will include regulatory compliance, head of school/principal support, school operations, financial management services, governance, and human resources coordination.

At the April 2023 school board meeting, the School Board approved the renewal of the charter for a fifteen (15)- year term, commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2038.

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Academy for Innovative Education (AIE) offers academic rigor in grades K-12 including gifted classes, dual enrollment through Florida International University (FIU), and the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma Program. The school features interscholastic sports programs for students in the Elementary and Secondary grade levels. Secondary grade sports teams compete as part of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). AIE's curricular focus is STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math). An award-winning music academy, as well as competition robotics and eSports teams, provide enriching extracurricular activities for students in K-12.

Areas of support will include regulatory compliance, head of school/principal support, school operations, financial management services, governance, and human resources coordination.

At the February 2022 School Board Meeting, the School Board approved the consolidation of the two AIE schools into one for an eight year term, commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2030.

The SEED School of Miami is a college preparatory public boarding school that uses the gift of time to reach beyond the traditional school day to prepare students academically, socially, and emotionally, for success in college and beyond. Students live in college-like dorms between Sunday night and Friday afternoon, returning home on the weekends. In addition to learning to thrive in a rigorous academic environment, SEED students develop essential character traits for lifelong success: compassion, perseverance, integrity, growth, respect, responsibility, and gratitude. All of this happens in a safe, structured, and predictable environment which offers three healthy meals a day, consistent relationships with excellent role models, academic support and opportunities including dual enrollment and AP courses, athletics, visual and performing arts, and community service opportunities. Students are held to strict performance standards and assessments to assure their progress toward college-readiness.

The SEED School of Miami is currently the only boarding charter school in Florida and one of three in the nation. During the 2022-2023 school year, the school served just over 259 students in grades 6-12.

The SEED School of Miami has an Academic and Management Agreement with The SEED Foundation located in Washington, DC. The agreement affords the school the opportunity to provide program design services, including curriculum development, loaned employees, financial services, human resource assistance, and advocacy and governmental relations. The Miami Boarding School, Inc., on behalf of the SEED School of Miami, is seeking charter school management services as provided by Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Office of Innovation and School Choice to assist with localized support and solutions.

Areas of support will include regulatory compliance, head of school/principal support, and school operations (particularly in the area of facilities coordination).

At the June 2021 board meeting, the School Board approved the renewal of the charter for an eight year term, commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2029.

By way of this item, the District requests the Board's authorization for the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a renewal charter school management agreement for services with (1) Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, Inc., d/b/a Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, (2) Academy for Innovative Education and (3) The SEED School of Miami.

Areas of support services will include regulatory compliance, financial management (excluding bill pay responsibilities), head of school/principal support, school operations, and governance and human resource coordination. Partial support services will include regulatory compliance and support, head of school/principal support services, and school operation services.

Additional services, including but not limited to food services and informational technology services, may be provided under separate contracts at cost.

There is no cost to the District associated with this Item.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a renewal charter school management agreement with (1) Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, Inc., d/b/a Downtown Doral Charter Upper School,(2) Academy for Innovative Education, and (3) The Miami Boarding School, Inc., a Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation, on behalf of The SEED School of Miami, for the term of the current charter contract.