



# VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE

## Office of the Village Manager

*Village Council*  
Robert L. Vernon, *Mayor*  
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*Village Manager*  
Genaro "Chip" Iglesias

**DT:** September 3, 2008

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council

**FR:** Genaro "Chip" Iglesias, Village Manager

**RE:** Municipal Charter High School Timeline

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Village Council:

1. revise the attached timeline as recommended by Fielding Nair International by commencing the planning process in October with a workshop and the balance of the workshops held in January and February
2. defer further consideration of an application for the August 2009 school year.

### EXPLANATION

**Timeline:** At the August 26, 2008 meeting, the Village Council requested that Fielding Nair International provide their recommended timeline. This is attached for your consideration. The timeline includes six (6) workshops from October to November. Their work product is a "Charter School Feasibility Report" which will provide recommendations dealing with potential sites, financial implications, and selection of an educational model. Should the Council wish to proceed, an additional contract with Fielding Nair or other firm will be required to determine implementation strategies such as selection of a site or sites, the preferred governance model, and financing strategies.

In conversations with staff, Fielding Nair International emphasized the need for a concentrated effort over an 8 to 10 week period of time. Further, that in order to maintain the enthusiasm for the project, the work should begin in October. They also recommended that a committee be appointed to provide direct feedback during the planning process. In a conversation on September 4, they also said the work could commence in January, but that was not the preferred time.

The Administration understands the justification for these recommendations. However, I am recommending that the Educational Philosophy Workshop be held in October with the balance of the workshops in January and February. My recommendation is based on the following:

1. In order to establish a Committee, two readings of an ordinance must occur,

candidates must be submitted by each Councilmember to the Mayor, and nominations by the Mayor must be confirmed by the Council. At best, this process cannot be completed until mid November.

2. Two new Councilmembers will be sworn into office on November 13, 2008. Their participation in the Charter High School process as councilmembers is preferred.
3. Holding the first workshop in October will maintain the enthusiasm for the project and address the above scheduling issues.

**High School Application:** The Miami-Dade County School District is evaluating our application for a Municipal Charter High School. Their schedule requires the Village to provide detailed information over the next several months and calls for meetings with staff and members of Council in the next few weeks. Based on the timeline recommended by our consultant, it is now apparent that we will not be able to provide the school board with the required information in order to meet their deadlines. This information includes, but is not limited to, the approved budget, selected site, governance, curriculum, and operational issues.

There are many parents who have an expectation that the school will be open in August 2009. In order to insure there is no confusion and to provide parents with as much time as possible to make their own educational decisions, I am requesting that the Village Council authorize the Administration to notify the school district that we are deferring further consideration of our application. This in no way prevents an application to be filed for the August 2010 school year.

**EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND CHARTER SCHOOL CONSULTING SERVICES**

**Proposed REVISED Schedule and Time Chart – September 3, 2008**



TASK #	CATEGORY	TASKS	Date	PRIMARY AUDIENCE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE
1	Visioning	WORKSHOP 1: EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	Oct 2008	All stakeholders	Village-wide workshop designed to introduce and obtain stakeholders feedback regarding the applicability of national and international educational best practice to Key Biscayne
2	Educational Planning	WORKSHOP 2: EDUCATIONAL MODELS	Oct 2008	All stakeholders	This workshop features descriptions of 6-7 major high school programmatic models from around the U.S. with highlights of best practices and results common to each. Activities will focus on helping participants understand how these models would or could fit with the Key Biscayne community and their desire for a successful high school. The workshop will culminate with participants selecting preference features.
3	Educational Planning	WORKSHOP 3: BLINK EXERCISE	Oct 2008	As large a community participation as possible. This could be done over 2 or 3 sessions if necessary.	This exercise is geared to understanding, at a very personal level, the extent to which school stakeholders are willing to be innovative in the development of the new school.
4.	Educational Planning for Charter Schools	WORKSHHP 4: PROGRAM FEASIBILITY	Nov 2008	Charter School Sub-Committee plus small contingent of educators (about 20)	This workshop will focus on selecting preferred programmatic components and analyzing their feasibility from an academic, social, logistical and financial perspective. Activities will be centered around feedback and input regarding workability and integration of the key components. The culmination will include a workable draft from which to build the Key Biscayne High School learning and operations model.

5	Educational Planning	WORKSHOP 5: SIGNATURE	Nov 2008	Charter School Sub-Committee plus small, representative group of community stakeholders	This will enable the planning team to understand the ethos of the community which will provide guidance for how best to represent the school signature regardless of which facility the school eventually occupies
6	Charter School Study	WORKSHOP 6: CHARTER SCHOOLS IN FLORIDA AND MIAMI- DADE COUNTY	Nov 2008	All stakeholders	Village-wide workshop designed to educate all stakeholders regarding Charter Schools in the State and in Miami-Dade County. To be conducted by Lisa Mulhall from In-Rem Solutions.
7	Educational Planning	CHARTER SCHOOL FEASIBILITY REPORT	Jan 2009	FNI Deliverable: to be reviewed by a subset of knowledgeable volunteers within the larger stakeholder community and approved by the Council	The results of the Educational Planning work will be captured in the form of a Charter School Feasibility Report. This will provide the information needed for the Village of Key Biscayne to decide whether to proceed with the charter school. It will also enable the Village to select an educational model, have a good sense of potential sites for the school and the financial implications of the school. This report will conclude FNI's work, however a follow-up contract with FNI or another suitable firm will be needed to take the project into the implementation phase which will answer more detailed questions and also provide execution strategies.