Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of May 21, 2008

May 7, 2008

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN EDUCATION COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD AND THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY**

COMMITTEE: **INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: **EDUCATE AND ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Following the blueprint established by the formation of the Education Compacts between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (District), and other local general purpose governments, the District, the City of Homestead and the City of Florida City (Cities), will partner to bring together each organization's collective resources for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of Homestead and Florida City. The Cities are located in the Southern end of Miami-Dade County. The City of Homestead incorporated in 1913, encompasses approximately 16 square miles, and has a population of over 57,000. The City of Florida City incorporated in 1914, encompasses approximately 5.36 square miles, and has a population of over 11,000. The Cities are home to a number of schools, which encompass the Homestead Senior High School and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns with a student population of over 25,000.

Currently, the City of Homestead is the fastest growing city of its size in the entire United States. This has caused some situations in our schools that require combined efforts from the City and the District. Even though new schools are being built in the area, and the City of Homestead and the District have a history of delivering quality programs, there is a mutual desire and interest to do more, to reach higher and deeper to serve the Cities' students better and to present progress being made in a more coherent manner.

Florida City is also a growing city and has similar needs and challenges. Therefore, because of the geographic proximity and a shared commitment to the future of South Dade the Cities have resolved to join forces with the District to create first-rate educational programs and services to the benefit of the Cities' residents. It is rooted in a mutual recognition of the critical role education plays in the future success of our students' lives and in the life of our Cities.

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It also stems from the reality that new school programs, beyond the traditional, will be required if education is to truly become a part of the fabric of the Cities. Education is the key to the Cities and its citizens' success and sustainability.

The Education Compact is a promise to ensure that the lives of over 25,000 children living within the City of Homestead and Florida City are as educated and well rounded as they can be. It is a promise we intend to keep.

The Compact was created with community input and reflects the desire of the Cities' residents to support excellence in their schools and an investment in the overall enhancement of education for their residents. The District and the Cities recognize that this Compact represents goals and objectives which are consistent with the long term strategic plans of each entity and it is understood that as such goals and objectives evolve, the terms of the Compact may also be modified over time.

The areas of focus in this collaboration include: community involvement; truancy and student support services; teacher/administration/staff/student retention; academic achievement; and extracurricular activities. Below you will find the initial major activities, intended outcomes, and measures associated with each of these major focus areas.

Community Involvement

Activities:

- The City of Homestead, with representation from Florida City, will maintain an Education Committee to host monthly meetings on diverse educational issues with various community and business leaders and school/District staff. The Education Committee will review and may make recommendations for updates to the Education Compact on an annual basis, as necessary.

- The Cities will collaborate with the District to foster local business support for educational programs, including employee programs such as a Mayor's Mentoring Program and creation of internship opportunities in local schools. As an example, the Cities will encourage local business to model the Cities' commitment to community involvement by developing an employee policy that would allow "release time" to engage in mentoring activities. The Cities may develop a pre/post survey to measure data which will be given to both employees/mentors and students/mentees.

- The Cities will collaborate with the District to increase parent participation in The Parent Academy programs by providing locations for meetings; advertising upcoming meetings using all available media; and contributing additional community resources for parents. The District will make available to the Cities all faculty/parent/student School Climate Survey data for schools in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder pattern on an annual basis.

- As a method of crime and unlawful behavior prevention, the Cities will collaborate with the District to arrange with the City of Homestead and Florida City Police Departments to occasionally have officers deliver educational workshops/seminars. These workshops would be created for faculty, staff, city residents, and K-12 students and could include such topics as the dangers of gang and violent activities, the prison system and the punishments associated with certain behaviors from traffic violations to crime that affects another human life.

- The Cities and the District will collaborate to better connect adults who are not in the workforce with M-DCPS's adult education/vocational training programs using city resources, including One-Stop Centers.

- The Cities, with the assistance of the District's grant writers, will pursue the attainment of all grants available that pertain to community involvement.

Key Intended Outcome:

- Increase number of students in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns participating in programs provided by the Cities and the District.

- Increase number of parents of students in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns that participate in programs provided by the Cities and the District.

- Increase number of Homestead and Florida City residents/non-residents participating in educational initiatives created and established by the Education Committee.

- Increase number of local businesses participating in mentoring and internship programs.

- Increase awareness of gang related violent crimes to the youth in our communities.

Measures

- Measure number of parents of students in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder pattern that participate in programs provided by the Cities and the District.

- Measure number of Homestead and Florida City residents/non-residents participating in educational initiatives created and established by the Homestead Education Committee.

- Measure number of local businesses participating in mentoring and internship programs.

- Number of gang related violent crimes within the cities' limits.
- Number of grants and amount of funding secured through collaborative efforts to obtain grants supporting this initiative.

Truancy/ Student Support Services

Activities:

- The District and the Cities will collaborate to provide truancy prevention education in an effort to decrease truancy rates in the Cities. The District's component will be to provide opportunities for the Cities' residents and families to be educated on truancy concerns within the Cities by using The Parent Academy as a vehicle for such workshops and utilizing the services which may be available through the District. The goal of the workshops is to teach parents the definition of "habitual truancy", raise awareness, provide local truancy data, and teach preventive measures to reduce truancy within the Cities. The Cities will work with the District to provide venues for such workshops throughout its neighborhoods in addition to collaborating with faith-based and/or community-based organizations to host such workshops.

- The District and the Cities will work cooperatively to develop truancy awareness outreach initiatives and social marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate within the schools and Cities. Partnerships with local media outlets will provide additional educational opportunities to bring awareness to the Cities residents and families. Available media resources include, but are not limited to; dissemination of truancy awareness literature, local and countywide newspapers, Homestead public access television, and advertisements in public spaces such as bus shelters, bus wraps, and billboards.

- The District will make available to the Cities all truancy data and statistics for the Homestead and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns every grading period.

- The Cities request that the District explore the establishment of and/or enhancements to programs that focus on truancy and alternative education, which will serve the Homestead and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns.

- The District will work with the Cities to research and pursue the attainment of grants to target truancy reduction and alternative to truancy initiatives for our Homestead and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns.

Key Intended Outcomes:

- Increase community awareness and knowledge on truancy and the definition of "habitual truant".

- Reduction of overall truant students in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns to meet or drop below district levels.

- Increase student services support aimed at reducing truancy.

- Pursue collaborative grants aimed at decreasing risk factors leading to truancy while promoting proactive factors to keep youth engaged in school and participate in pro-social extracurricular activities as alternatives to truancy.

Measures:

- Number of truancy prevention and education workshops conducted and number of residents participating in such workshops.

- Number of community residents with increased knowledge of truancy and truancy-related issues through pre-post knowledge surveys as collected by the Cities.

- Number of District and Cities sponsored media outlets/resources aimed at community truancy prevention awareness and education.

- Number and percent of "habitual truant" students who re-engage in school.

- Number of grants and amount of funding secured through collaborative efforts to obtain grants supporting this initiative.

Teacher/Administrator/Staff/Student Retention

Activities

- The Cities will work with the District to increase the number of "Teacher Recruitment Fairs" held in the Homestead and Florida City area to increase the number of applicants available for hire by uniting the resources of the Cities, District, and businesses.

- The Cities will support the District's efforts, those of other stakeholder groups and districtwide initiatives that address the housing needs of teachers and non-instructional staff. In the event the Cities develop a program to provide workforce housing and/or housing support for "essential personnel," the inclusion of public school teachers and/or other public educational personnel will be explored.

- The District will make available to the Cities all survey data pertaining to teacher satisfaction levels (in particular key drivers for recruitment and retention) on a regular basis, segregated by each school of the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns.

- The District will make available to the Cities statistics regarding administrative and instructional staff recruitment and retention for the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns and districtwide that is considered public information.

- The District and the Cities will collaborate to develop a supplemental incentive program for teacher recruitment/retention in the schools in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns. The Cities component of the program will focus on encouraging incentives, which may include discounts, mentoring, training, and tickets to public events. The District will provide support for the Cities programs, which may include, but not be limited to, invitations to participate in District recruitment events and posting of Cities sponsored incentives on the District's recruitment webpage.

- The Cities, with the assistance of the District's grant writers, will pursue the attainment of all available grants that pertain to teacher/administrator/staff/ student retention.

Key Intended Outcomes:

- Maintain teacher/administration/staff/student retention at or above districtwide levels.

- Increase teacher satisfaction rates in the schools in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder pattern.

- Enhance access to workforce and affordable housing.

Measures:

- Number of staff/faculty participating in various incentive programs provided by the Cities.

- Percent of staff/faculty and District school personnel that indicate they agree or strongly agree that they like working at their school in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns.

- Cities staff/faculty personnel retention rate compared to districtwide retention rate.

- Cities staff/faculty personnel vacancy rate compared to districtwide vacancy rate.

- Number of staff/faculty personnel utilizing workforce housing options available throughout the Cities.

- Number of grants and amount of funding secured through collaborative efforts to obtain grants supporting this initiative.

Academic Achievement

Activities:

- The District and the Cities will support the implementation of a feeder pattern from Air Base Elementary to Homestead Middle School to South Dade Senior High. This feeder pattern will incorporate a global studies curriculum beginning with the International Education program at the elementary level and transitioning to International Baccalaureate (IB) programs at the middle and senior high school levels.

- The District will strive to increase the offerings and enrollments of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which would serve the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns.

- The District will strive to ensure that Homestead Senior High and South Dade Senior High School students graduate prepared to enter continuing education options or careers. They should master job readiness skills to ensure that students are ready for gainful employment. The District will explore the integration of financial literacy courses into the secondary curriculum as appropriate.

- The District will identify and pursue implementation of best practices strategies to increase the graduation rate at Homestead Senior High School and South Dade Senior High School.

- The Cities will facilitate discussions with private institutions including but not limited to FPL, Baptist Health South Florida, and Lowes, to jointly develop vocational internships and mentoring opportunities for students in accordance with District requirements.

- The City of Homestead will work with the District toward the creation of an internship and mentoring initiative with the City of Homestead government to provide internship and mentoring opportunities (as appropriate) to secondary schools such as Homestead Senior High School, South Dade Senior High School and Corporate Academy South students, based on parameters within the District's Secondary School Reform plan.

- The District and the Cities will collaborate to ensure that vocational and adult classes offered through the District's adult and vocational components answer the needs of workforce demands of local employers.

- The District will make available to the Cities all student survey data on a regular basis segregated by schools in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder patterns where possible, and the Cities may conduct similar surveys with the assistance of a M-DCPS office of Program Evaluation single point of contact, including the findings on student ratings of self-esteem and sense of community. All research is subject to approval by the M-DCPS Research Review Committee.

- The Cities, with the assistance of the District's grant writers, will pursue the attainment of all available grants that pertain to academic achievement.

Key Intended outcome:

- Establish a record of quality education through all feeder patterns.

- Establish a record of quality education through the AP courses.

- Maintain a high academic achievement standard for Corporate Academy South, Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High Schools.

- Enhance student's awareness and preparation of workforce requirements.

- Increase stakeholders' commitment to academic achievement of Homestead and Florida City youth.

- Increase community access and knowledge of Educational Compact

Measures:

- Percent of high school students that graduate who entered Corporate Academy South, Homestead Senior High School, and South Dade Senior High School in the 9th grade.

- Percent of students participating in AP courses.

- Number and percent of high school target population participating in Cities-sponsored internship and mentoring programs.

- Number of students enrolled in the IB program by school.

- Number of schools in the Homestead Senior and South Dade Senior High School feeder pattern receiving a state accountability grade of A or B.

- Number of grants and amount of funding secured through collaborative efforts to obtain grants supporting this initiative.

Extracurricular Activities

Activities:

- The Cities will work with the District to help structure new programs and re-structure existing programs for after-school. Examples of activities that may be provided through these programs are homework help, tutorial assistance, physical, and cultural activities, as well as activities that build critical thinking skills.

- The Cities will explore the development of middle school-level after school programs. The District will collaborate with the Cities by assisting with the recruitment of students, encouraging that space be made available within area schools and exploring expanded transportation options for participating students.

- The Cities will collaborate with the District to coordinate efforts with other community-based organizations to develop appropriate after-school programs, utilizing both the District and the Cities' facilities/resources where appropriate.

- The Cities will work with the District to explore joint use of public facilities such as schools, parks, libraries, recreational centers and future land use for carrying out the afterschool programs.

- The Cities will facilitate appropriate lease agreements and facility utilization for the District to provide District educational and support services to residents.

- The District will work with the Cities to provide community school programming at sites that serve the local community. Further, the Cities request that the District review opportunities for the placement of a permanent community school as such time as funding becomes available.

- The Cities, with the assistance of the District's grant writers, will pursue the attainment of all grants available that pertain to extracurricular educational activities.

Key Intended Outcome:

- Increase afterschool activities for our youth.

- Increase academic/student support afterschool hours.

- Increase opportunities for youth/adult education via community school and other programs.

Measures:

- Number of youth/adult participation in extracurricular educational activities within our community.

- Number of afterschool programs available to the youth of our community.

- Number of grants and amount of funding secured through collaborative efforts to obtain grants supporting this initiative.

The adoption of this Education Compact between the City of Homestead, City of Florida City and the District establishes a pact to continually strive to promote excellence and relevance in education in the Cities' schools and community at large by joining forces for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of the City of Homestead and Florida City.

The Cities and the District agree that any more favorable position provided in any other District Education Compact would be offered to the City of Homestead and the City of Florida City for consideration.

In addition to the items identified above, the Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Councils.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between The City of Homestead, The City of Florida City and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of March 15, 2006

March 1, 2006

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN EDUCATION COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES**

COMMITTEE: **INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

The City of Coral Gables (the City) provides a unique opportunity for its educational environment. Situated fairly central to this county, its 12.5 square miles offer many very special learning opportunities for our students. It is a community full of historically significant structures, restored and preserved by the City to continue to provide a strong link to our South Florida history. As well, through Fairchild Tropical Gardens, opportunities to expand learning are abundant, and the many museums within the City provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The many art galleries can also provide great avenues to display and promote student fine art.

From the business side, with over 140 multinational companies and over 15 consulates located within the City, and a very active Chamber of Commerce, the City is uniquely situated to provide business exposure for our students, including internships, mentorships, and partnership opportunities. Transportation within this Mediterranean gem has been enhanced by the unique and *free,* public trolley system, which can assist students traversing to new learning venues.

Other very special opportunities available to our students within the City include intergenerational programming and parent and child activities. With special efforts to support the senior citizen population within the City, possibilities exist whereby students involved with service learning and community service can support this population. Additionally, with over 5,320 school-age children living within the City, opportunities for parent/child activities are clearly evident.

The Education Compact will undertake efforts that would be enriched, expedited, or enhanced through collaborative efforts. The following is a list of potential programs or efforts which may be included:

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Increasing and Enhancing Academic Programs with the City

- Support the development and enrichment of the International Studies High School to be sited in the Coral Gables Senior High School relief area;

- Develop a consulates connection to expose students to a variety of experiences such as mentoring, internships, or other partnership programs through the foreign consulates located within the City;

- Provide specialized classes sponsored by the City through The Parent Academy;

- Develop a program, in conjunction with the Coral Gables Chamber (Chamber), to recruit and place business partners with schools and explore development of small schools or learning communities on underdeveloped School Board properties within the City of Coral Gables;

- Include the University of Miami (UM) in partnering with college students and resources to support Coral Gables' public schools through community service to provide tutoring, connections to the International Studies High School, web site linking, and access to UM resources for students attending Coral Gables' public schools;

- Develop a plan to connect with the many art galleries to highlight student art work;

- Pledge that by school opening 2008, all schools in Coral Gables would have a grade of B or higher;

- Support the creation of an intergenerational oral history effort, to be housed at the Coral Gables Museum, whereby students create oral histories of local natives and long-time residents, to be included in the museum; and

- Jointly support the creation of an internship initiative with Coral Gables businesses and Coral Gables Senior High School based on parameters within the District's Secondary School Reform plan.

Sharing Facilities, Communications Efforts, and Programs for the Enhancement of Education and the City

- Jointly work on communications through the City's website to include an educational column with information on Coral Gables' schools and district wide initiatives, to be posted on the City's website;

- Consider joint wireless communications hubs;

- Cooperatively work with the City and the Chamber to host a Realtors Breakfast to provide updated information on Coral Gables' public schools;

- Support efforts to create a marketing brochure on the educational opportunities available through public schools in Coral Gables to be disseminated through the Chamber and the City to residents and businesses;

- Consider joint recreational or facility use including access for both partners, as available, for meetings, community receptions, specialized athletic activities, and specialized cultural and historic programs;

- Work with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to support an information kiosk in the City's Youth Center to inform parents and community members about Coral Gables' schools and City resources (joint effort); and

- Work jointly on Emergency Management (EM) issues including the consideration of a shelter in the City for residents, joint information sharing, and inclusion of a school/District representative in EM planning within the City.

Supporting Expanded Community Involvement Efforts Within the City

- Create a Mayor's Roundtable to host quarterly meetings on educational issues with various partners and school staff;

- Consider a youth council for the City to include two students from each school within Coral Gables, to possibly partner with Junior Orange Bowl, as the liaison and support for the council to advise the City and school system on youth issues within the City;

- Support the creation of a speakers bureau for Coral Gables' schools, in conjunction with the Chamber, to provide teachers with access to speakers in specialized topics; and

- Collaborate on the recruitment of CEOs, through the Mayor and Manager's offices, to participate in the PASS or Executive PASS Program with the Council for Educational Change to pair CEO-level executives with Coral Gables principals.

In addition to the ideas identified above, The Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Commission, better coordination of communications and issues, and possible joint grant development opportunities.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the City of Coral Gables.