VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE

Village Council
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Date: January 3, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council

From: Key Biscayne K-8 Education Advisory Board

RE: Recommendations for the Establishment of an Education Compact with M-DCPS

On June 9, 2009, the Council approved Ordinance No. 2009-7 which established the K-8 Education Advisory Board to study, evaluate and make recommendations to the Village Council regarding the establishment of compact(s) or other agreements between the Village of Key Biscayne and Miami-Dade County Schools for the enhancement and greater benefit of K-8 students of Key Biscayne.

On August 26, 2009, the Council approved the appointment of the following seven (7) residents to the K-8 Education Advisory Board: Betty Sime Conroy, Charles Viscito, Brett Graff, Cassia Silva, Margie Meagher, Amy Erwin and Allison Eng Perez. Ana de. Varona was assigned by the Manager as the Village staff liaison to the Board.

The Board met 16 times over the last year and on January 3, 2011 through a unanimous vote of the current four active members makes the following recommendations to the Council:

1. Develop an Education Compact with Miami-Dade County Public Schools with primary areas of concentration that are outlined in appendix A.

2. Include in the Compact as secondary areas of concentration recommendations outlined in appendix B to be continuously monitored and measured to enhance the learning experience and provide benefit to the K-8 students.

3. Establish a process to develop and approve the Compact prior to the start of the 2011 school year.

At the direction of Council, the Board is available to present, review and discuss these recommendations with the Council at a workshop, Council meeting or K-8 Advisory Board meeting.

The Board requests that Council receive these recommendations and provide direction to the Board on any next steps.

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Appendix A - Primary K-8 Education Compact Recommendations

1.) IMPROVING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND EXPANDING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

- The District will develop a plan to expand the middle school curriculum to include a required Spanish course and two electives, and create a 7 period schedule.

- The District and the Village will strive to expand the Extended Foreign Language (EFL) program. In addition, the school and district will examine biannually the language resources available and immediately and creatively employ them – teachers, books to children both enrolled and not enrolled in the program.

- The District and the Village – in conjunction with the Spanish Consulate – will explore all options to further students' understanding of Spanish language and culture by working to establish a formal Spanish Humanities after school program/s at a nominal charge to parents of students in Second through Fifth Grade.

- The District and the Village – in conjunction with the Spanish Consulate – will explore all options to further students understanding of Spanish language and culture by working to establish a formal International Studies Middle School Program that prepares students to enter and excel in the International Studies Preparatory Academy at Gables or other international programs throughout Miami-Dade County and internationally.

- To reflect the language expansion goals, the District will work to rename the school "Key Biscayne International Preparatory Academy."

2.) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

- The District and the Village will collaborate with Mast Academy, RSMAS, NOAA, Key Biscayne Nature Center, Bill Baggs State Park and the Miami Seaquarium to expand formal science enrichment programs.

- The District and the Village will collaborate with Key Biscayne businesses and organizations; including the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, the Art in Public Places Board and the Active Seniors on the Key Board, to establish/expand formal civic, art and intergenerational enrichment programs.

- The Village will work with the District to expand opportunities for grant writing partnerships to provide innovative educational program opportunities to Key Biscayne Community School students.

3.) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

None

4.) MISCELLANEOUS

a.) Student Support Services

- The District and the Village will explore ways in which students can work with the Village to produce educational information broadcasts via Channel 77, Key Biscayne Radio and the Internet for students, parents and Village residents.

5.) PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

- The Village, in coordination with the Key Biscayne K-8 Center PTA, will implement a pilot Community/Senior Volunteer Program to supplement existing PTA parent volunteer programs at the school and will work with the District to explore the feasibility of expanding the program to include tax rebate incentives at the District/State level as has been implemented in Pennsylvania and in other states.

6.) TECHNOLOGY

- The District and the Village will collaborate to identify grants and allotting funds available to fulfill the K-8 technology needs and to maintain its computers, promethium boards and science labs up to date.

7.) COORDINATING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

- The District and the Village will explore partnership opportunities for financing the funding of the planned replacement of the old elementary school building.

- The District and the Village will work together to pursue opportunities to include a community auditorium, enhanced recreational facilities and ample parking in the reconstruction plans for the school.

- The District and the Village will jointly pursue the upgrade and expansion of the outdoor recreational space at the Key Biscayne K-8 Center, including an upgrade to the basketball courts, exploration of the installation of handball, racket and tennis walls, exploration of the installation of a dedicated perimeter track area and the establishment of a secured and locked outdoor bathroom facility.

- The District will work with the Village to review student capacity trends and projections to ensure that the reconstruction plans for the school meet the long term needs of the community.

- The District and the Village will work together to enforce the geographical boundaries of the schools admissions policy.

Appendix B – Secondary K-8 Education Compact Recommendations

1.) IMPROVING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND EXPANDING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

- The District will provide targeted professional development for differentiated instruction and assessments for: foreign language development, co-teaching, and first year teaching.

- The District will develop a plan to expand Everyday Mathematics and Hands-On Science to each class within Kindergarten through Fifth Grades.

- The District will develop a plan to add high school courses in middle school grades for advance foreign language, math and science.

2.) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

- Through the continuing initiative and guidance of the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (EESAC), the District and the Village will strive to achieve increasingly higher academic performance, achievement and recognition, annually.

- The District and the Village will collaborate to explore the establishment of an opt-in student Middle School Volunteer Service Program and service learning opportunities tied to special recognition and acknowledgement.

- The Village will work with the District to expand academic tutoring and mentoring programs for the Key Biscayne K-8 Center.

- The District and the Village will jointly encourage the development of new academic and athletic clubs and organizations for the K-8 Center, particularly focusing on the middle school.

3.) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- The District and the Village will collaborate to develop and jointly cross-market meaningful after school care, youth community education, recreation, enrichment and extracurricular activities programs at the Key Biscayne Community Center and the Key Biscayne K-8 Center for the benefit of Key Biscayne K-8 students.

- The District and the Village will jointly encourage after school student participation in the Village of Key Biscayne Athletic and Community Center programs and at Key Biscayne K-8 Center programs.

4.) MISCELLANEOUS

a.) Student Support Services

- The District and the Village will collaborate to continuously educate students and parents on Student Attendance and Truancy policies consistent with School Board Rules and the formal and informal consequences for students and the school relating to unexcused absences.

- The District and the Village will jointly encourage student participation in the Key Biscayne Youth Council.

- The District and the Village will work together to find and implement student issue programs such as anti-bullying programs, youth issues and self image.

b.) Communications

- The District and the Village will work jointly to enhance the level of relevant information that can be accessed from the Village's website pertaining to Miami Dade County Public Schools for Village residents and visitors.

- The District and the Village, in cooperation with the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce, will promote public school educational opportunities available to Key Biscayne residents, and will disseminate relevant information through strategic placement at the Chamber Offices, Village Offices and the Key Biscayne Community Center.

- The District and the Village, in cooperation with the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce, will develop an education roundtable to host regular meetings on educational issues with various community and business leaders and school/district staff.

- The District will make available to the Village all student and parent satisfaction data on a regular basis.

c.) Health & Safety

- The District will collaborate with the Village's Parks and Recreation department to implement wellness initiatives regarding nutrition, physical activity and health.

- The District and the Village will identify a Police Liaison Officer to insure a coordinated approach on issues related to youth, crime prevention, and other relevant safety concerns.

- The District and the Village will work together to support the efforts of the Village's School Crossing Guard Program by educating parents and students about various safety issues, and conducting pedestrian and bicycle safety seminars twice a year.

- The Village will continue collaborating with the District to arrange Police, Fire and Rescue educational workshops and seminars.

d.) Staff Retention

- The District and the Village, in cooperation with the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce, will collaborate to develop a supplemental staff award program.

- The District will make available to the Village all survey data pertaining to teacher satisfaction levels on a regular basis.

5.) PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

- The District and the Village, in conjunction with the Key Biscayne K-8 Center PTA, will explore the feasibility of creating a separate Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) for Grades Six through Eight to increase the level of parent and student involvement at the middle school level and to provide a specific support group for middle school fundraising, activities and student issues.

- The District and the Village will expand upon existing Village and Community initiatives, including the Village Youth Council, Relief for Life and the Coastal Clean-up, with a focus on expanding upon current civic youth activities and increasing student participation in service learning endeavors.

- The District and the Village, in conjunction with the Key Biscayne K-8 Center PTA, will work together to identify and program relevant workshop topics that will engage and address the needs of Key Biscayne K-8 Center families.

6.) TECHNOLOGY

- The District and the Village will explore the feasibility of establishing a desktop, laptop and printer community donation program.

- The District and the Village will collaborate to identify and communicate additional avenues for student access to technology such as the Library, Key Biscayne Community Center, technology lab and loan program for technology.

- The District will provide opportunities for technology training at the school site for teachers and parents/guardians.

- The District will explore the feasibility of establishing a local strategic plan to integrate the latest technology to all subjects.

7.) COORDINATING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

- The District and the Village will explore the feasibility of temporarily providing facility space and accommodations for up to two M-DCPS Prekindergarten classes at the Key Biscayne Community Center to free classroom space at the Key Biscayne K-8 Center and provide temporary relief due to overcapacity at the school.

- The District and the Village will explore the feasibility of allowing the exchange of facility usage at the Key Biscayne K-8 Center and the Key Biscayne Community Center (i.e. – gymnasium and pool) for the mutual benefit of Key Biscayne K-8 students and the community, and will work to codify any mutual understandings through a formal agreement.

- The District and the Village will explore the feasibility of developing a secured and locked skate boarding facility on the southwest section of the Key Biscayne K-8 Center recreational field.