

**Executive Summary
Board Item LL-1**

Continuation Agreement with Barry University

Renewal of Contract Between The School Board of Broward County, Florida, and Barry University

Additional Background Information:

The School Board of Broward County, Florida has been a partner with Barry University for training of district teachers on Montessori learning. Barry University is the only university in the state of Florida offering graduate level courses in Montessori education. The program is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) and is affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS).

Barry University offers extensive training in the theory of Montessori addressing the strategies aligned with subject areas. The courses can be selected based upon the teacher's schedule and need within a two year cycle. The certification training consists of 11 courses. Barry University provides a comprehensive program covering the age 3-6 classroom (Early Childhood), 6-9 classroom (Elementary I), as well as the age 9-12 classroom (Elementary II). Barry University also offers teachers an option to take several additional courses at their own expense to obtain a Master's degree in Montessori Education for the Elementary I & II certification.

In addition, for the first time Barry University will be offering Secondary I & II certificate training for middle school teachers. They are the only local school that offers the upper elementary (Elementary II) and middle grades (secondary I & II) training. The program is set up in cohorts, consisting of eight courses over two years.

The Barry University contract will provide up to \$173,419 for the schools to offer training to their identified teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels at the rate of \$1,494.99 per 3-credit course. This reduced rate is a cost savings of 50% per 3 credit course. Barry will be conducting the majority of the courses at Beachside Montessori Village as a cost savings. The funds for this contract are allocated through the 2016-2017 Magnet School Budget and 2016-2017 Boundary Changes/SSOS funds.

The benefits to Broward teachers participating in Barry University Montessori training is the high rigor including research that Barry requires as part of the graduate coursework. The teachers are able to complete the program in two years while attending classes at Beachside Montessori Village. The Elementary I & II Montessori certification allows the elementary teacher to teach in all grades K-5. The teachers will be able to take two additional courses to complete their Master's degree. The Secondary I & II allows the teacher to teach in all grades 6-12.