

chiefs

The Montessori Academies of Palm Beach County, Inc

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April 26, 2007

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Dr. Arthur C. Johnson, Superintendent
School District of Palm Beach County
3340 Forest Hill Blvd., C-316
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

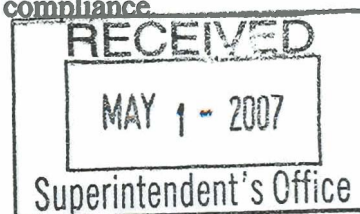
ATING OFFICER

Dr. Johnson:

This letter is a follow up of our verbal request to you for a one year extension of our lease agreement with the School Board to use the old Howell L. Watkins Media Center (HLWMC) for our school, the Montessori Academy of Northern Palm Beach. Our Governing Board is requesting this extension because of certain financial problems we encountered in renovating this building which turned out to be far more expensive than our architect and the PBCSD Building Department anticipated. As you know the building was ravaged by three successive hurricanes and the total extent of the damage was not readily seen except that it was determined by the Building Department that it was no longer usable as a school facility. During the past two years we have renovated and remodel the building and it is now an attractive little elementary school. The problem is: we have used up all of our funds doing this and we do not have the money we need to acquire another building to move to for the 2007-2008 school year as planned; consequently we are requesting that you and the School Board grant us a one year extension so that we can accumulate enough funds to move into our own facility.

It should be noted that in redesigning the building for our use as a small elementary school we took into consideration the future use of the building by the School District. With very few changes; the building can be converted to a training center for north area employees. Mr. Joseph Moore indicated to me that this was one of the proposed uses for the old HLWMC; so when we return the building to you it will have been changed from a hurricane ravaged useless facility to one which has practical use and at no expense to the School District.

It may also interest you and the School Board to know that our school is very diverse and that 75 percent of our students qualify for the Title One Program. As a result, the Montessori program that we offer provides an opportunity to children in Northern Palm Beach County that would not be available to them except at our school. Our UFTE count is 98 and WFTE count is 102.4; and because of the Class Size Reduction Amendment, this is the maximum number of the students that we can accommodate and be in compliance.



Again, we are requesting a one year extension of our lease so that we can continue providing the Montessori teaching and learning methodology in a small school setting to children who ordinarily would not have it available to them. The request to extend our lease is for the 2007-2008 school year only; beyond this period we will not request any further extensions of this lease. We appreciate your assistance with this request.

Sincerely and for the Governing Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Orr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph A. Orr, Ph.D.
Chairman & Managing Director