

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 18, 2012

April 12, 2012

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: KHAN ACADEMY

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Khan Academy is an educational organization created by MIT graduate, Salman Khan. Its mission is, "providing a high quality education to anyone, anywhere." Its website supplies a free online collection of more than 3,000 micro lectures via video tutorials, teaching mathematics, history, healthcare and medicine, finance, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, economics, cosmology, organic chemistry, civics, art history, microeconomics and computer science.

The major components of Khan Academy include:

- a video library with over 3,000 videos in various topic areas;
- automated exercises with continuous assessment; there are 311 practice exercises, mainly in math, including four challenges and 307 individual modules; and
- peer-to-peer tutoring based on objective data collected by the system.

The video tutorials are available through the Kahn Academy website at <http://www.khanacademy.org>. Many interested parties, among them Bill Gates, are looking at the innovative approach and successes of the Khan method, and already summer school camps are planned to start in Northern California this year in order to test curricula for real-world schools.

The program's allure is that very complicated concepts, particularly in subjects like math and science, are explained in simplified terms that many students easily grasp. Information regarding this tool is vital, particularly when new math and science standards are being imposed on Florida school districts. District staff has already shared information about the resources available through Kahn Academy with coaches and department heads. The site is also included in the district's eCampus available through the portal. Many of our students may already be using the free videos to help them with their homework and studies. However, not all of our students and their parents may have sufficient information about this amazing new tool.

**Revised²
H-15**

Khan Academy has stated a vision of turning the academy into a charter school. The program's planned expansion may create opportunities for our school district. Our school district should consider the application of the benefits of this type of instruction, in its various forms, for our students, especially in light of the following: (1) our stated goal to give our students maximum educational opportunities; (2) the applicability to our students; and (2) the district's recent decisions to become charter schools sponsors.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. organize an awareness campaign to help ensure that students, parents, and teachers know about the resources available to them through the Khan Academy, and direct staff to continue highlighting the resource when working with teachers, students, and parents, and explore any other educational innovations where the District and Khan Academy may mutually benefit; and
2. explore any other benefits from Khan Academy which may be useful for our District's students.

Revised