



October 2, 2019

Dear Monroe County School Board,

Ocean Studies Charter School is dedicated to providing a high quality education with a marine science focus to the children of the Upper Keys. Our goal is to secure a permanent location to provide our students with the opportunity to become stewards of our unique Florida Keys environment. We recognize the importance of securing a permanent facility that will ensure our ability to educate students in perpetuity.

Ocean Studies Charter School requests approval to move from 92295 Old State Road in Tavernier to 100360 Overseas Highway in Key Largo. The Ocean Studies Charter School Board of Directors is currently in the process of completing due diligence with a scheduled closing date of December 13, 2019. The OSCS Board of Directors has secured the funding to purchase the the property as a permanent facility. Our current building lease expires on June 30, 2020. Our new facility updates and security improvements will begin in March of 2020 and be completed by July 31, 2020 in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year.

The purchase of the new building will significantly decrease our monthly facilities costs allowing us to reallocate the funding towards students. Our current facility is located in a flood zone, which impacted the education of our students after Hurricane Irma. The new building is storm hardened and significantly higher in elevation, as it is located in the X flood zone. This reduces our risk of storm damage in the future. The new building provides significant opportunities to increase student safety.

The current leased facility limits our ability to improve the safety and security of our students. Based on recommendations made by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the new building will have a single point of entry, perimeter fencing, increased classroom security, a public announcement system, and security cameras. The safety of our students is one of our top priorities and the new building will allow us to provide the security our children deserve.

The increased square footage of the building will allow us to improve our current marine science program with a Montessori focus. The new location is more expansive than our current location, as it includes more land for a playground, outdoor classroom space, and improved parking facilities. The

classrooms in the new building will allow us to continue to meet class size requirements. With the increase in square footage, we will offer more children the opportunity to be part of our school with the addition of a new split class of 28 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in the 2020-2021 school year.

A parent survey was conducted at the end of the 2018-2019 school year to determine the geographic needs of our families before choosing a new location for our school. 75% of our parents surveyed agreed that moving the school north would benefit their family. The OSCS Permanent Home Committee used the information from the survey to begin it's search for the best location and has determined that 100360 Overseas Highway meets the needs of our students and families.

The new location will increase our ability to provide a unique foundation for students to become scientists, mathematicians, writers, freethinkers, guardians of our waters, and responsible citizens of the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please let us know if there any questions or concerns.

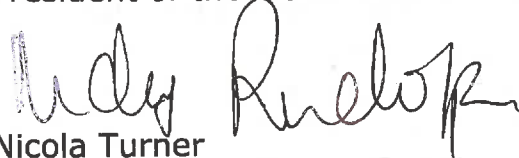
Sincerely,



Trisha Woods  
Principal



David Thompson  
President of the OSCS Board of Directors



Nicola Turner  
Vice President of the OSCS Board of Directors