

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 12, 2000

April 10, 2000

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH A TASKFORCE TO ANALYZE AND STUDY MODELS OF OFFICES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) TO DETERMINE THE MERIT AND LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR CREATING AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The need for increased accountability of government institutions has led agencies throughout Federal, State and Local jurisdictions to establish OIGs. The purpose of an OIG, as outlined in the Inspector General Act of 1978, is to "promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse." In Chicago, investigations by the state Inspector General's office prompted the School Board to create its own Office of Investigations with full subpoena and investigative powers. On February 8, 2000 the Los Angeles Unified School District unanimously named its first independent OIG.

The large size of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system, and the unique educational challenges it faces makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the Superintendent to enforce accountability over ethical matters. An OIG would provide this service and allow the Superintendent to dedicate himself solely to the business of educating children.

Approval of this item establishes a Task Force, made up of School Board Members or their designees, to analyze and study Inspector General models implemented throughout the nation to determine the merit and legal authority for creating an Office of Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Establishing this office in M-DCPS creates an environment of accountability that increases efficiency, reduces waste, and reassures the citizens of Miami-Dade County that this School Board is accountable and responsible to them.

REPLACEMENT
B-3

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, establish a Task Force, composed of School Board Members or their designees, to analyze and study Inspector General models to determine the merit and legal authority for creating an Office of Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The results of the Task Force study with recommendations shall be presented to the Board no later than the July 19, 2000 meeting.