

November 14, 2000

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH BYLAWS FOR THE PROPOSED ETHICS COMMISSION [REVISED]

At the Board meeting of October 11, 2000, the School Board received the recommendations on ethics from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Ethics Task Force Committee (Task Force). The Task Force studied the feasibility and need for an Ethics Committee, different models for such a commission or committee, legal issues of creating such an entity and the purpose and powers of an ethics committee or commission.

The recommendation of the Task Force was to establish an Ethics Commission as follows:

The Ethics Commission will be an independent, adequately funded, public accessible, body that would hear and interview complaints, review policy and practices of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and oversee the training of ethics education for staff and the students. Furthermore, the Ethics Commission would provide advisory options to the Board, the public and referral agencies with a commitment of confidentiality to the complainant as legally possible.

Based upon the recommendation of the Task Force, it is now necessary to begin the process of defining the mission, structure, composition and powers of the Ethics Commission in bylaw format. In order to accomplish this, Retired Chief Justice Gerald Kogan agreed to have the Alliance For Ethical Government draft recommended bylaws for the proposed Ethics Commission. [REVISED]

The Alliance For Ethical Government is an organization headed by Retired Chief Justice Gerald Kogan. It was created, in part, to examine existing laws, ordinances, policies, procedures, and practices of government and private organizations. It advocates for changes that are appropriate for government to achieve ethical goals. This organization has agreed to draft recommended bylaws for the proposed Ethics Commission that it will present to the Board at its March 14, 2001 meeting. [ADDED]

ACTION PROPOSED BY

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

- 1) request that the Alliance For Ethical Government assist the School Board in drafting recommended bylaws for the proposed Ethics Commission;
 - 2) present the recommended bylaws to the School Board at the March 14, 2001 Board meeting.
- [REVISED]

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