

February 10, 2006

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PROVIDE A REPORT DETAILING THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2005 PASSPORT TO SUMMER EXPLORATIONS PROGRAM, THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ZONE, AND STELLAR SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In March of 2004, the Board approved a summer program with an estimated cost of \$19,591,698. The total estimated cost of the 2004 Summer Services to the General Fund was \$14,000,000 and \$5,591,698 to other grant funds. The length of 2004 summer session was 20 instructional days for eligible students.

In March of 2005, the Board approved the 2005 Passport to Summer Explorations with an estimated cost of \$40,000,000. The total estimated cost of the 2005 Passport to Summer Explorations to the General Fund was \$25,000,000. The remaining \$15,000,000 was to come from the Florida Department of Education Summer Reading Camps, Workforce Development, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Title I. The length of 2005 summer session was 20 instructional days for eligible students.

Additionally, on March 14, 2005, a \$25,000 no bid contract was issued to a vendor in order to provide fundraising and development services to help defray the costs of the District's Summer Program. This contract, along with six others, is now under scrutiny by the Florida Auditor General and was reported in a preliminary operational audit issued in December 2005.

On August 10, 2004, the Board approved the establishment of the School Improvement Zone. The cost of establishing the zone, according to the item, **was neutral and the cost was to be covered by the re-appropriation of existing funds and resources. The actual cost associated with implementing the zone from January '05 through June '05 was \$20 million. For the current school year, '05-06, the cost incurred by the Zone is \$47 million. For the upcoming year, '06-07, it is projected that the Zone will cost \$40 million. Additionally, the Board was to receive a detailed plan outlining the re-appropriations once labor negotiations were over.** On October 20, 2004, the Board approved the establishment of STELLAR schools. Once again, the item indicated that the cost of implementation was neutral.

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Considering the fact that the cost of implementing a summer school program doubled in the course of a year and the fact that the board has not been apprised of the re-appropriation of funds and resources covering the costs of the School Improvement Zone and STELLAR schools, it is now the time to request and receive the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of these programs with an eye towards reducing costs in the future.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, direct the Superintendent to provide a report detailing:

- 1) The cost effectiveness of the implementation of the 2005 Passport to Summer Explorations Program;
- 2) The cost effectiveness of the implementation of the School Improvement Zone. Including but not limited to, re-appropriations of resources, funds, purchase of materials, grants, etc.,
- 3) The cost effectiveness of the implementation of STELLAR Schools. Including but not limited to the re-appropriations of resources, funds, purchase of materials, grants, etc.