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## School Board member sues Crew for public records

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Miami-Dade School Board member Marta Perez filed suit today against Superintendent Rudy Crew, accusing him of misusing his power and unlawfully ignoring numerous public records requests from her.

"The law says you have to provide the information," Perez said in an interview. "You can't provide only the information you want to."

The complaint hinges on seven requests for information that Perez has made, one which dates back to July 2004. The requests included asking for an itemized list of the costs associated with renovating School Board members offices over the past four years.

Perez also alleged that Crew abused his power by his recent refusal to include four items that Perez proposed on the School Board's December meeting agenda.

"State law clearly dictates that virtually all actions of the board are to be taken upon recommendation of the superintendent," Crew wrote in a memo to Perez last month. "While in the past I have permitted the inclusion of items by board members that have appeared to me to encroach on my authority as superintendent ... I find that I cannot continue with this practice as it is impacting my ability to fulfill my duties and responsibilities to the district."

The agenda items, which dealt with a variety of administrative issues, "fall outside the purview of the School Board," Crew wrote.

However, Perez's attorney, Stephen Cody, said today that while it's Crew's job to prepare the agenda, it's not his job to decide what should appear on it.

"What happens if a School Board member wants to fire the superintendent?" Cody said. "If he doesn't have to put it on the agenda, he won't ever be fired."

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