



# District Eight ews!

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Volume II, Number II

## Happy New Years, District 8 Residents!

**M**y best wishes for a prosperous and healthy year 2000. Thank you for your continued support. It is indeed an honor to represent you.

The following succinctly shows the work that I have undertaken on your behalf since our last newsletter:

**ITEMS:** Our Office...

**Seat Belts:** Presented, and the Board approved, a resolution of support making the operation of a vehicle while unrestricted by a seatbelt a primary offense in the State of Florida.

**Vision & Mission Statement:** Proposed a vision and mission statement to guide the Board into the new millennium.

**Curriculum Management Audit:** Proposed that an independent curriculum auditor review the implementation of the district's curriculum and recommend reforms that would result in the better delivery of the current programs.

**Looping:** Successfully proposed that the superintendent conduct a study of the effectiveness of existing looping programs, a system that keeps students with the same teacher over a 2-3 year period, in M-DCPS. This item also requested a report describing the feasibility of expanding these programs with the goal of increasing the personalization of education.

**Teachers & Substitutes:** Directed the superintendent to conduct a study comparing the M-DCPS substitute teacher program with those of other large urban school districts, and, recommend to the Board measures to improve the current program.

**Boardsmanship:** Proposed and passed an item scheduling a one day Boardsmanship Retreat to update the School Board, Superintendent, and concerned citizens on the current challenges facing large urban district's throughout the Nation.

**Financial Legislation:** Drafted a resolution supporting federal and state appropriations legislation that allows the School Board to decide the distribution of funds locally.

**ACTIVITIES: WE...**

Conducted town hall meetings in October, November and January. The topics discussed were the closing of High School campuses for lunch, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), Parent Involvement, and the art if leadership. The meetings were informative and well attended. Students from District 8 Middle and Senior High Schools were honored for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Effort. We invite you to attend future meetings. Held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reading Festival at the West Dade Regional Library. Santa Claus distributed more than 1100 books, cookies and refreshments to District 8 elementary school students and their families. As the 1999 chairperson of the Financial Affairs Committee, I am proud of the staff for their continued success in handling the school system's finances. I congratulate them once again and look forward to working as the Chairperson of the Management and Accountability Committee in 2000.

Our staff works in earnest **to make our school system the best in the nation.** Our focus remains on **academic excellence, thrift and accountability, school safety, overcrowding and early childhood education,** among other priorities.

Wishing you the best in the New Year, I thank you again for the honor of your trust.

Respectfully yours,

*Marta Pérez and Staff*