



District Eight NEWS!

Welcome District 8 Residents

Thank you for your continued support! It is an honor to represent our neighborhood on the Miami-Dade County School Board. This is a most important charge.

Since our last newsletter, our office has undertaken the following:

Meeting Notices:

Requested that the Superintendent of Schools provide 72 hours notice to Board Members of changes in staff meeting schedules where items for board meetings will be discussed.

Charter School Policy Review:

Obtained Board approval on a measure requiring the periodic review and update of the districts charter school policies to comply with state legislation.

Employment Criteria:

Proposed that the School Board establish an ad hoc committee to compare and contrast the selection criteria for the superintendent and school board attorney, and make recommendations to the board.

Ethics Training:

Successfully proposed that the district expand its ethics training program to all M-DCPS employees to promote a climate of ethics.

Fire Safety:

- Gained approval of a recommendation scheduling a conference session where the superintendent's plan for repairing fire safety code violations would be presented to the Board.
- Prioritized fire safety by including compliance with fire codes as part of the principal's performance of duty evaluation.

Double-Dipping:

Proposed that The School Board abolish the policy of paying M-DCPS employees, who also are elected state officials, their district salaries while they are being paid for their service in Tallahassee.

Inspector General:

Requested that an ad hoc committee be established to compare different methods of structuring an Office of an Inspector General and recommend to the Board the most feasible structure for establishing such an office in M-DCPS.

Performance Evaluations:

Put forth a recommendation requesting that the board review the superintendent's performance of duties and discuss the results of the review at a subsequent board meeting.

Ethics Commission:

Gained approval of a recommendation establishing an ad hoc committee to determine if a need exists for a Blue Ribbon Committee of Ethics to oversee operations of M-DPCS.

Ethnic Modification:

Proposed that the superintendent review the district's existing procedures regarding ethnic modification, or the changing of one's ethnic or racial designation on official documents, and recommend language for revision of such procedures for inclusion in school board rule.

Good Governance:

Obtained approval of Resolution No. 00-22 reaffirming the board's commitment to ethical and accountable government by adopting the Florida School Boards Association Standards for Board Member Boardmanship.

Other News:

- The results of the March 2000 Stanford Achievement Tests (SAT-9) are in and Miami-Dade County students exceeded all expectations:
 - Second grade students scored 2 points above the national average on Reading Comprehension and 3 points above the national average in mathematics; and
 - All students, across all ethnic groups, achieved higher reading levels in 2000 than in the previous year. Congratulations!
- The results for the 2000 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) were released earlier this summer and, once again, M-DPCS students shined. This is a testament to the hard work of students, teachers and parents.
- Our office conducted town hall meetings in February, March, and May where we discussed teaching tolerance, coping with crisis, and accountability in M-DCPS. Two students from each middle and high school were honored at each meeting for their academic achievements or outstanding effort. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings.

Our office works in earnest to make this school system the best in the nation. As chair of the Management and Accountability Committee, my office has successfully focused the committee's efforts on reforms that improve test scores, bring accountability to the school system, increase school safety and promote early childhood education. Wishing you much success, I thank you for the honor of your trust.

Respectfully yours,

Marta Pérez and Staff