



District Eight NEWS!

Welcome District 8 Residents

It is an honor to represent you. Thank you for the support you give my staff and me. As public servants, our office works on your behalf.

One of our office's main priorities is accountability because of our commitment to ethical government and responsibility to the taxpayers. It is a difficult, lonely road, trying to convince the rest of the School Board that reform is necessary. However, in light of the recent scandals that have plagued the school system, many in our community have acknowledged my office's efforts. Samples include:

“...Mrs. Perez’ commitment to student in this county. Her crusade for accountability by the school board and the administration is a desperately needed measure to enable all children to receive the necessary resources for educational success while restoring pride in our teaching profession. Marta, we support your efforts!...”

Benjamin Groff, “Letter,” New Times, March 2001.

“I respect and admire Marta Perez very much...She is the only board member who does not ass-kiss at the shameful cost of sacrificing our children safety and education.”

Alicia Banuchi, “Letter,” New Times, March 2001.

“...My only MDCPS political heroine, Marta Perez. Miami-Dade could use dozen of her kind. Unfortunately, we have only one. May the gods continue to protect her...”

Hector Varela, “Letters,” New Times, March 2001.

“Marta Perez deserves praise for borrowing the concept from the county and seeking support for it (the Ethics Commission) from her colleagues.”

“Editorial,” The Miami Herald, June 13, 2000.

“Thank God we have Marta Perez on the School Board. Ms. Perez is always doing the right thing and defending the correct thing.”

Maria Sanchez, “Readers” Forum, “The Miami Herald, April 16, 2001

“Marta Perez is making decisions for which she was elected; fighting fraud and incompetence; advocating ethics.”

Karelia Martinez-Carbonell, “Reader’ Forum,” The Miami Herald, April 17, 2001.

Issues we continue to propose and work towards:

- **Ethics Commission for the School Board.** This measure has received the help and support of The Alliance of Ethical Government under the direction of Chief Justice Gerald Kogan, the League of Women Voters and The Westchester Homeowners Association, just to name a few organizations. Hopefully, the board will have some incipient plans underway by October 2001.
- **Office of Inspector General for the School Board.** Based on the success of the county Inspector General, as well as the conjunction with the Ethics Commission, have subpoena powers, and fortify the School Board’s measures of accountability and reform.
- **Evaluation of the Superintendent and Attorney.** The only employees accountable to the School Board are the Superintendent and the School Board Attorney. Conducting annual evaluation of these two employees further enhances our accountability goals.

Our office works in earnest **to make our school system the best in the nation**. Our focus for the future continues to be **academic excellence, thrift and accountability, student safety, overcrowding, early childhood education** and many others. We put all our efforts into improving our school system.

Thank you for your comments and again thank you for the honor of your trust and support.

Respectfully yours,

Marta Pérez and Staff