

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: FINAL GRAND JURY REPORT – JUSTICE INTERCEPTED: THE ALL CONSUMING POWER OF FOOTBALL**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION MAKING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT**

The Final Report issued by the Miami-Dade County Grand Jury entitled “Justice Intercepted: The All Consuming Power of Football”, contains a set of 19 recommendations, 18 of which are directed at Miami-Dade County Public Schools:

1. *That monetary bonuses for school administrators no longer be tied to a reduction in suspensions.*
2. *That the District adopt a policy whereby school utilize indoor suspension as a general practice and outdoor suspension as a last resort.*
3. *That the District refrain from any sort of interference in police investigations.*
4. *That the Miami-Dade Schools Police maintain its autonomy and independence and conduct its investigations free from District meddling.*
5. *That the Miami-Dade Schools Police investigate criminal matters only.*
6. *That once the Miami-Dade Schools Police determines that an allegation is not criminal, that it direct those non-criminal allegations to the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) for appropriate investigative assignment.*
7. *That the Miami-Dade Schools Police clarify in writing its policy and procedure for police report departmental approval.*
8. *That the Miami-Dade Schools Police maintain its cooperative relationship and its policy of sharing information and police reports with all other law enforcement agencies.*
9. *That the District refrain from interfering in criminal investigations conducted by the Schools Police Department.*
10. *That the Schools Police Department maintain its autonomy and independence in conducting criminal investigations, in spite of any meddling from the District.*
11. *That when the new, independent, Inspector General for M-DCPS is appointed, (in correction with a previous Grand Jury’s recommendation), that Inspector General conduct an investigation into whether the practices described above actually exist.*
12. *That Miami-Dade County Schools Police Department should clearly state in writing that all subjects, including school administrators and other school employees, are to be investigated as vigorously as all others, and that this written statement of policy be delivered to each and every police officer with the department accompanied by training during which this policy shall be clearly announced.*
13. *That the initial reporting and investigation assignment concept in the Personnel Investigative Model (PIM) be adopted and applied to investigations of students.*
14. *That any necessary modifications to the initial reporting and investigation assignment concept in PIM be made so it will be appropriately applicable to students.*

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15. *That all school employees be required as individuals to report any and all allegations of child abuse directly to the Miami-Dade County Schools Police and/or the Department of Children and Families; that informing a school administrator or supervisor will not suffice and that this policy be clearly stated in writing and delivered to each and every school employee accompanied by training during which this policy will be clearly announced, explained and discussed.*
16. *That all school employees receive in writing a clear statement explaining the law and statutory reporting requirements re: Sexual Battery, and/or sexual conduct as currently defined in the Code of Student Conduct and receive training in which the law will be explained and discussed.*
17. *That all school employees be trained on all reporting requirements within the law and school police.*
18. *That the M-DCPS place ninth graders in middle schools or in the alternative, create ninth grade academies in all senior high schools.*
19. *That the Department of Education perform a thorough and uncompromising investigation into action and inaction of the Miami Dade County Public School employees who were involved here and impose appropriate sanctions.*

Many of the first eighteen recommendations can and should be implemented immediately. Some additional time may be required to implement others including changes to board rule(s), procedures, etc. The Superintendent should conduct a workshop with the board to discuss the implementation of these recommendations as well as submit, in writing, any recommendation he feels cannot or should not be acted upon immediately, along with the reasons why, and identify the procedure required or alternative actions that may be taken to rectify the problems identified by the Grand Jury.

The 19<sup>th</sup> recommendation falls outside the State Attorney's jurisdiction and requests that a subsequent investigation be performed by the Department of Education. Our School Board members should take this recommendation with the seriousness that it is made and, as a constitutional body, send a letter to the Department of Education in support of this recommendation. This communication from the board adds gravitas to the plea and expresses our concern for our students' safety.

The intent of this board item is to instruct the Superintendent to take the necessary actions to ensure that this school district complies, not only with the letter, but with the spirit of the recommendations made by the Grand Jury. Additionally, we should seek and identify any areas not specifically mentioned by the report that add protection to our students and strengthen the integrity and independence of investigations.

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

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. direct the Superintendent to conduct a workshop with the board to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the Grand Jury as set forth in its report "Justice Intercepted: The All Consuming Power of Football" and submit, in writing, any recommendation he feels cannot or should not be acted upon immediately, along with the reasons why, and identify the procedure required or alternative actions that may be taken to rectify the problems identified by the Grand Jury.
2. send a letter to the Department of Education in support of the 19<sup>th</sup> recommendation, to investigate the actions and inactions of involved employees and impose appropriate sanctions in order to add protection to our students and strengthen the integrity and independence of investigations.

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