

May 6, 1999

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE USE OF THE INTERNET IN MAKING DISTRICTWIDE PURCHASES, WITH THE STATED INTENT OF INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING THE DISTRICT'S PURCHASING COSTS

Commerce on the Internet has grown dramatically since the masses discovered the World Wide Web (WWW) in 1993. Analysts predict businesses will trade as much as \$300 billion annually over the Internet in the next five years, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce report The Emerging Digital Economy (April 1998). Miami-Dade County Public Schools must adapt if it is to take advantage of the efficiency and cost savings this development seems to promise. It would be wise, therefore, for the Board to explore the feasibility of 1) expanding its use of the Internet and/or a district intranet system for "Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)" in purchasing goods and services and 2) raising revenue by selling advertising space on the school district's WWW site.

Penn State University's Smeal College of Business Administration defines EDI as the direct, standardized computer-to-computer exchange of business documents (purchase orders, invoices, payments, inventory analyses, and others) between organizations, suppliers and customers to eliminate paperwork and associated costs; minimize errors; and improve inventory management, customer service, and facilitates supply chain management.

Copies of The Emerging Digital Economy will be forwarded to Board members under separate cover and will be placed on file in the Citizen Information Center and the Board Recording Secretary's office.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. PÉREZ:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to review and report back to the Board within 90 days on the feasibility of:

- 1) expanding the use of the Internet and/or a district intranet system in making districtwide purchases, with the stated intent of increasing efficiency and reducing the district's purchasing costs; and
- 2) raising revenue by selling advertising space on the district's WWW site.

MP:jjr

REPLACEMENT

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