

November 23, 1999

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING LOOPING SCHEDULE PROGRAMS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND REPORT TO THE BOARD THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THESE PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE PERSONALIZATION OF EDUCATION

School boards are accountable for the effectiveness of the public school system they serve.

The unfortunate random acts of violence in Texas, Columbine and Georgia have left the education community searching for measures to ensure that such disasters never happen again. Experts tell us that no school system is immune to such tragedies. Indeed, our own Miami-Dade County school students report that disenfranchised students in their own schools have profiles resembling those of the boys that carried out the Columbine massacre.

Educational journals devoted entire issues to what is termed "personalized" education to combat the profile of violence prone students. My office recently conducted a teacher's symposium attended by ninety M-DCPS teachers. In both the recent literature and at the teachers' conference, reference has been made to the effectiveness of looping as a scheduling strategy to increase the personalization and effectiveness of teaching.

A future where teachers feel their input is regarded as professional contribution and where policies stem from isolated and researched data will go a long way in comforting the public that this board is accountable to the people we serve.

ACTION PROPOSED

BY DR. MARTA PEREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the superintendent of schools to study the effectiveness of existing looping schedule programs in M-DCPS and report to the board the feasibility of expanding these program.