Office of Superintendent of Schools   December 10, 1999
Board Meeting of January 12, 2000

Financial Affairs
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR THE K-3 CLASS
           SIZE REDUCTION APPROPRIATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
           OF EDUCATION

During the 1999 legislative session, Specific Appropriation 19A, SB2500 appropriated 100 million dollars to school districts for the construction of classroom facilities to serve public school students in kindergarten through grade three. At its October 26, 1999 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Commissioner's distribution plan specifically allocating $10,398,475 to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and requiring districts to submit a proposal for specific K-3 class size reduction projects in order to qualify for these funds. The deadline for submitting the proposal to the Florida Department of Education is January 28, 2000.

The Office of Budget Management, in collaboration with Facilities Planning and Construction, and School Operations has prepared Miami-Dade County Public School's application to the Florida Department of Education with specific K-3 class size reduction projects. New prototype facilities lists for a Primary Learning Center, Elementary, and K-8 school are also submitted for approval in order to reduce the size of K-3 classrooms from 25 to 20 student stations.

Copies of the new prototype facilities lists and the Proposal for Specific Class Size Reduction Projects in grades K-3 will be submitted to the School Board separately and will be placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the School Board and in the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

              1) Approve the revised prototype facilities lists for a Primary
                  Learning Center, Elementary, and K-8 school;

              2) Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the 1999
                  Proposal for Specific Class Size Reduction Projects in
                  Kindergarten through Grade Three to the Florida Department of
                  Education; and

              3) Adopt as its goal to fund and maintain the 1:20 teacher student
                  ratio for the proposed projects included in the program.

G-1