

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THE SUPERINTENDENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF PURCHASING CHILD SAFETY LOCKS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 AND OFFERING THEM TO PARENTS WHO LEGALLY OWN FIREARMS**

Most of us are aware of the dramatic reduction of incidents involving guns in Miami-Dade County Public Schools over the past five years; however, most of us are also aware of the rash of school shootings during the past several months in Paducah, Jonesboro, and Littleton. Earlier this year, a Michigan first-grader brought a gun to school and killed a 6-year-old classmate. Most recently, a shooting occurred closer to home when an honor student shot and killed a teacher at Lake Worth Middle School.

Shootings are among the most senseless tragedies that occur in our society today, mainly because so much can be done to prevent them. First and foremost, gun owners never should leave firearms where they can be seen or touched by children. They should be stored empty under lock and key at all times; however, this doesn't always happen. Some gun owners are careless or simply forget to put a gun in a safe place. Even if this only happens one time, it can be enough to result in a death or serious injury.

The technology exists to reduce this danger almost to zero. Besides keeping firearms safely stored away, an additional protection against harm to children is the child safety lock. Child safety locks can prevent the unauthorized or accidental discharge of a firearm. A trigger safety lock can be purchased for under \$10.

The School Board has an interest in preventing gun tragedies from ever occurring in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Toward that end, it is recommended that the School Board request the Superintendent to study the feasibility of setting aside \$100,000 from the district's budget to purchase child safety locks to offer them to parents who legally own firearms.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY BETSY H. KAPLAN:** That the Superintendent of Schools be requested to study and report back to the Board on the feasibility of purchasing child safety locks for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and offering them to parents who legally own firearms.