

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DRAFT
BYLAWS FOR THE PROPOSED ETHICS COMMISSION**

At the Board meeting of October 11, 2000, the School Board received the recommendations on ethics from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Ethics Task Force Committee (Task Force). The Task Force studied the feasibility and need for an Ethics Committee, different models for such a commission or committee, legal issues of creating such an entity and the purpose and powers of an ethics committee or commission.

The recommendation of the Task Force was to establish an Ethics Commission as follows:

The Ethics Commission will be an independent, adequately funded, public accessible, body that would hear and interview complaints, review policy and practices of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and oversee the training of ethics education for staff and the students. Furthermore, the Ethics Commission would provide advisory options to the Board, the public and referral agencies with a commitment of confidentiality to the complainant as legally possible.

Based upon the recommendation of the Task Force, it is now necessary to begin the process of defining the mission, structure, composition and powers of the Ethics Commission in bylaw format. In order to accomplish this, an advisory committee to the Board should be formed to act upon the recommendations of the Task Force to establish the Ethics Commission by drafting recommended bylaws for said Commission. This advisory committee should be composed of not more than seven individuals, five members selected by the reconvened Task Force and two by the Superintendent of Schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

- 1) establish a seven member Ethics Advisory Committee to the School Board and appoint two members to this committee;
- 2) reconvene the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Ethics Task Force Committee for the purpose of appointing five members to the Ethics Advisory Committee; and,
- 3) have the newly appointed seven member Ethics Advisory Committee draft recommended bylaws for the proposed Ethics Commission to be presented to the Board as recommendations by the March 14, 2001 Board meeting.