

Manty Sabatés Morse, Member

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT

Since December of 1996, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has experienced a series of dramatic events and challenges from which it has emerged stronger than ever before. A large part of this success is attributable to the leadership of the Superintendent of Schools and the excellent relationship that he has maintained with the School Board.

Based on a number of accomplishments such as: improvements in scores on state and national tests by M-DCPS students; the decrease of schools graded "F" from 26 to 2 schools under the Governor's A+ plan; the enrollment of nearly 27,000 students in 74 magnet school programs; the openings of new schools; the increase in the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses; the *Just Read Campaign* and the math and science initiative; the hiring of over 5,000 new teachers during the past two years; and the lowering of the millage rate through strong fiscal responsibility, it is imperative that the Superintendency of the fourth largest school district in the nation remain constant.

Furthermore, as hundreds of experienced managerial, instructional, and non instructional personnel leave the district in 2002 and 2003 under the State of Florida's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), the direction of this school district must continue to progress during this period of change. No major initiatives can be accomplished when the leadership is in flux. The Superintendent of Schools is the guiding and stable force in the advancement of students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Therefore, authorization of the Board is requested to extend the Superintendent's contract with the same terms and conditions, for two additional years, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004, with no salary increases to be provided during this term of the contract.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MRS. MANTY SABATÉS MORSE:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, extend the Superintendent's contract with the same terms and conditions, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004, with no salary increases to be provided during this term of the contract.