

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of February 14, 2001

February 9, 2001

Ms. Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF WATER IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND EDUCATE STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS ABOUT THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

The Florida Everglades was once a vibrant, free-flowing river of grass that provided clean water from Lake Okeechobee down to the Florida Bay. Today, this extraordinary ecosystem is dying. The dramatic increase in population of South Florida has contributed greatly to the steady decline of this ecosystem that is also leading to a severe shortage of clean, reliable water for South Florida.

To ensure and preserve this magnificent natural environment, as well as increase South Florida's clean water supply, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District have developed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The Everglades Restoration Plan is of such significance and magnitude that people of all ages need to be made aware and educated about the plan and the importance of the conservation of the existing water supply. All staff, students, and parents should be urged to conserve water usage at school, at home, and in the community.

To assist with this effort, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the development and implementation of a curriculum that will be utilized in the District's schools. The premise of this curriculum is to educate staff, students, and parents on the importance of conserving this precious and diminishing resource so that fresh water supplies will continue to be available for South Florida.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. BETSY H. KAPLAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to promote the conservation of water in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and educate staff, students, and parents about the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Replacement

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