

Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF PROPOSAL AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE ON  
CREATING AN ETHICS COMMISSION THAT IS ADVISORY UNTIL  
STATE LAW IS CHANGED TO BROADEN ITS POWERS**

At its June 20, 2001 meeting, the School Board directed the Superintendent to begin the process of establishing an ethics commission and return to the Board at the October meeting with a recommended plan of action to include the establishment of an independent inspector general. The Superintendent subsequently reconvened members of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Ethics Task Force Committee, which had made recommendations to the Board in this regard in October 2000, to advise him in this task.

A proposal on the establishment of an ethics commission, which would function in an advisory capacity until state law is changed to broaden its powers has been developed. Approval of this agenda item will authorize the development of enabling language to be included in the Board's package of legislative priorities for the 2002 legislative session.

The proposal on the ethics commission was based on a report from the Alliance for Ethical Government received by the Board at its June 20, 2001 meeting. That report was authored and reviewed by retired Chief Justice Gerald Kogan.

Also, at its June 20, 2001 meeting, the Board directed the inclusion in its Legislative Priority Package for the 2002 Legislative Session support of proposed legislation allowing local school boards the option of establishing an office of Inspector General reporting directly to the Board.

**RECOMMENDED:**

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

1. establish an ethics commission that is advisory to the Board until state law is changed to broaden its powers;
2. adopt the accompanying Proposal on the Establishment of a Commission on Ethics; and
3. authorize the development of enabling language for the Board to create an ethics commission with powers of enforcement set forth in the Proposal, and include it in the legislative priorities for the 2002 legislative session.