

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of November 14, 2001

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Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent

SUBJECT: 2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Attached is a copy of the proposed State Legislative Program for the regular 2002 State Legislative Session scheduled to commence Tuesday, January 22, 2002 and continue for 60 continuous days concluding on Friday, March 22, 2002, barring any extended sessions or special sessions.

The proposed program is comprised of suggestions from School Board members, the Superintendent of Schools, staff, school-site personnel, employee groups, and citizen groups.

The program is divided into priorities, which staff will concentrate most of their efforts on, and additional issues. The priorities are categorized into six main topics:

- Funding of Educational Programs;
- Capital Outlay Funding;
- Accountability;
- Education;
- Workforce Development; and
- Safe Schools.

The additional issues are categorized as:

- Other Education;
- Personnel Management;
- Facilities Management; and
- Other Funding.

The priorities were identified based on the district's needs and are aligned with the Board's strategic goals for preparing students from school to career, providing an effective learning environment and developing efficient management practices.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt the proposed 2002 State Legislative Program.

REVISED
A-2

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to preparing students for graduation, post-secondary education or immediate meaningful employment so that our students become responsible citizens of this state.

PRIORITIES

▪ FUNDING OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ▪

The Florida Education Finance Program, particularly in times of financial crisis, should continue to:

- compensate **HIGHER COST OF LIVING**;
- allocate funds based upon actual **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)** student enrollment;
- provide that the **BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION** is based on a budgetary analysis;
- recognize **PROGRAM WEIGHTS** to account for cost variances between programs;
- continue the **EQUALIZING FEATURES** in the formula; and
- reimburse districts for actual enrollment in programs such as **ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)** and not arbitrarily cap these programs.

Adjust the **ESE GUARANTEED ALLOCATION** to reflect growth and inflation.

Provide additional **FLEXIBILITY** in the use of **CATEGORICAL FUNDING**.

Repeal **AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE**.

Postpone the timeline for implementing the **PERFORMANCE PAY** until 2004-05.

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the **FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FRS)**.

Delay implementation of the **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM (PEORP)** since it increases districts' expenditures from 7.3% to 10.6% of salary.

▪ CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING ▪

Establish a **STABLE, LONG-TERM REVENUE SOURCE OR CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REMODELING** of educational facilities.

Modify the **COMPLIANCE DEADLINE** for meeting **NEW PORTABLE STANDARDS** to July, 2003, and for eliminating portables older than 20 years to July, 2004.

▪ ACCOUNTABILITY ▪

Amend statutes to allow school districts to establish an **ETHICS COMMISSION** with the necessary powers of enforcement.

Allow school districts to create a position of **INSPECTOR GENERAL** reporting directly to the board.

▪ EDUCATION ▪

Re-enact **NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**.

Ensure that the **PASSING SCORE** requirement for students who took the grade 10 FCAT in 2000-01 shall not be increased for students who must retake the test.

▪ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ▪

Maintain the current **DUAL DELIVERY SYSTEM OF POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS**.

Amend the Workforce Development formula to:

- recognize the difficulty of placing students in a **HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AREA**;
- recognize the programmatic differences in serving **TARGETED POPULATIONS**;
- compensate districts for **HIGHER COST-OF-LIVING**; and
- provide for **FINANCIAL AID** for needy students.

Eliminate the competitive grant process for **FUNDING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**.

▪ SAFE SCHOOLS ▪

Maintain **SAFE SCHOOLS FUNDING** to ensure a safe learning environment.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

▪ **OTHER EDUCATION** ▪

Establish a universal **SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM** for all four-year olds after the fiscal crisis passes.

Establish a **DEADLINE** of July 1 **FOR** parents to declare their intention to participate in the **ESE SCHOLARSHIP**.

Amend legislation to allow students to pass **STATE OR FEDERAL LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS** based on the achievement of requisite skills.

Amend the Charter Schools Legislation to:

- Require a **LIST OF REAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT** purchased with state funds;
- Allow school districts to **CONSIDER PRIOR HISTORY OF APPLICANT** and/or management company hired by the applicant as part of the decision in granting such charter.

Oppose any attempt to extend **SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX-EXEMPT STATUS** or lend the full faith credit to a charter school.

Amend **CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL** language to:

- Require a **DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES** implemented by the school to ensure all eligible parents have an opportunity to review application prior to submission;
- Require **VOTING PROCEDURES** to be used be submitted to sponsoring district 30 days prior to the execution of the vote;
- Define **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS** as all students within the school district where the school is located and adhering to local school board attendance boundary policies;
- Ensure that the conversion school must take at least the same **NUMBER OF STUDENTS** as **ENROLLED** at the school prior to the conversion; and
- Amend Florida Statutes to **LIMIT** conversion charter schools **TO "D" OR "F" SCHOOLS** involving action by teachers, parents, and/or school advisory councils only.

Revised

▪ **PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT** ▪

Amend the **STATUTORY DEFINITION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**.

Modify statutes to allow negotiations for the **PROCUREMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND RELATED COVERAGES**.

Fund a **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN QUALITY TEACHERS**.

Amend statutes to allow retirees to participate in the **DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN AS SECOND CAREER EMPLOYEES**.

▪ **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT** ▪

Exempt the **COST OF BUILDING A PARKING GARAGE** from the cost of a student station.

Include workforce development and adult disabled students enrolled in school district technological centers in the calculation of **CAPITAL OUTLAY FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT GROWTH PROJECTIONS**.

Authorize rule making for **PERFORMANCE-BASED FIRE SAFETY CODE** alternatives for existing educational facilities.

Amend **SIT Program** eligibility to allow **for ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL HOUSING CONCEPTS**.

Revised

▪ **OTHER FUNDING** ▪

Oppose the imposition of **UNFUNDED STATE-MANDATED EXPENDITURES**.

Appropriate tobacco funds for **SCHOOL NURSES**.

Repeal **DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM LEGISLATION**.

Oppose deletion of **IMPACT FEES** unless replaced with another revenue source.