

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND PAPER ON PROPOSED DISTRICT REFORM INITIATIVES

- **DIVIDING THE DISTRICT INTO SMALLER DISTRICTS**
- **TERM LIMITS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**
- **CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD TO INCLUDE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP THROUGH COUNTYWIDE ELECTION AND SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT ELECTION**

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

At the April 9, 2003 meeting, the Board approved Revised Agenda Item D-12, proffered by Member Perla Tabares Hantman, which directed the Superintendent to provide a position paper on possible District reform initiatives and directed the Board Attorney to provide an opinion on any legal implications associated with implementing those initiatives. The initiatives include the following:

- Dividing the District into Smaller Districts
- Term Limits for School Board Members
- Changing the Composition of the Board to Include School Board Membership Through Countywide Election and Single Member District Election

A copy of the report entitled "Background Paper on Proposed District Reform Initiatives" has been transmitted to Board Members under separate cover and has been placed on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center. This report reviews research on three reforms, including district downsizing, Board member term limits, and single-member versus at-large districts.

The School Board Attorney will analyze the background paper for legal implications and provide Board members with a legal opinion under separate cover prior to the June 18, 2003, Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida receive the report entitled "Background Paper on Proposed District Reform Initiatives."