

May 9, 2003

Mr. Agustin J. Barrera, Member

**SUBJECT: DIVIDING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO NINE ACCESS CENTERS, WITH EACH ACCESS CENTER ALIGNING WITH A BOARD MEMBER**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES**

At the March 19, 2003, Board meeting Mr. Frank Bolaños presented a board item targeted at reforming our public school system, which stimulated a healthy dialogue at the Board. One item I supported to be studied further was the dividing of the school district into smaller districts. This concept was discussed widely during the recent legislative session and was almost implemented through a house bill targeting the Municipal Conversion of Charter School Districts which won bipartisan support. This would have empowered local governments to convert all the schools within their municipalities to Charter schools through voter, teacher and parental support. The support of this bill at both a local and state level reinforces the municipalities frustration with their local school districts.

Therefore in addressing this need, I propose expanding the roles of the ACCESS Centers in our communities. I propose the creation of three additional Centers and the realignment of the existing six ACCESS Centers to each of the board Members district which averages about 35 schools and 40,000 students per District. The intent is to mimic smaller school districts within the larger district, with the school board setting district wide policy. Each ACCESS Center should be self-sufficient and staffed with existing district personnel. Each ACCESS Center would provide all the direct services required at the school level such as: facilities management, ESE, Curriculum, etc. District wide functions such as purchasing, payroll, food & nutrition, etc., would remain district wide. A community based council comprising of representatives from the ACCESS Center, Board Members, local schools, municipalities, PTA's and residents would be formed. This council would meet quarterly to discuss the needs of its district, growth management, facilities, maintenance, transportation, school safety, etc., empowering the parents, teachers, residents and municipalities in the running of their schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. AGUSTIN J. BARRERA :** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to prepare a feasibility study on creating nine ACCESS Centers, with each ACCESS Center mimicking smaller school districts. This study shall be presented to the Board by the July board meeting.

REPLACEMENT  
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