

Dr. Michael M. Krop, Chair

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS
AND TO MEET DISTRICT GOALS**

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

No longer can public education solely count on the financial support of government at the federal, state, and local levels to fund its needs. Budget restrictions and the inability of governments to levy new taxes or increase existing ones have led to the inadequate funding of many of our district's priorities.

Education reform in the form of school vouchers and charter schools has forced our public school system to compete for public dollars once considered reserved for public education. Furthermore, in our case, the problem is ever compounded by the explosion in student population attributed to heavy migration from other parts of the nation and the world.

Our sources of funding have remained the same as they were four decades ago when the above-mentioned trends were beginning to emerge. For our local school system to remain competitive and vibrant in these changing times, we should take a look at innovative ways to raise funds from the private sector to help defray the cost of some of our projects and strategic goals.

Various fundraising ideas have been discussed and evaluated by other school boards such as conducting annual fundraising campaigns, hosting special events, activating business executives to engage in one-on-one solicitations from private individuals, philanthropies, trusts, and foundations. Other school systems are also looking at activating their alumni lists for financial support and at the feasibility of private citizens underwriting specific school projects, including naming of parts of facilities for financial donors.

Our current rule (6Gx13-1C -1.081) restricts fundraising activities to Dade Partners and Scholarship Saturday programs. The effect of this rule is to limit or discourage private sector contributions. We should not only encourage and welcome contributions, but should actively solicit such involvement.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MICHAEL M. KROP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, instruct the Superintendent to establish a mechanism to raise funds for specific projects and to meet District goals.

Public Activities Involving Staff or Students**DISTRICTWIDE FUND RAISING FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes the substantial educational benefits available to students through the involvement of private sector organizations in public education. These benefits include, but are not limited to: the donation of in-kind services, the donation of time and business resources and, especially, the donation of monetary resources. The School Board appreciates these donations and wishes to continue working cooperatively with the private sector.

The School Board recognizes that private sector organizations donate their resources based on local and institutional priorities. The Board also acknowledges that the most common mode for donors to give to Miami-Dade County Public Schools is through established DADE PARTNERS and SCHOLARSHIP SATURDAY programs and through separate support foundations such as the DADE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND, and FRIENDS OF WLRN, INC.

The Board does recognize, however, that special or unique projects of a districtwide nature may come along, other than through the usual above mentioned established programs that are of great benefit to students, while at the same time matching corporate donation priorities. As such, there could be interest from private sector organizations in donating services or funds to support these projects if they are made aware of the opportunity to do so.

The purpose of this rule is to provide Miami-Dade County Public Schools' representatives the opportunity to assess private sector interest in donating to unique school system projects, but to do so under certain conditions:

when Miami-Dade County Public Schools' representatives, other than those working within the DADE PARTNERS or SCHOLARSHIP SATURDAY programs, or those affiliated with a sanctioned school system-related foundation, intend to seek or accept private sector donations, a discrete request to do so must come before the School Board; those granted such authorization by the Board will then make every attempt to work with potential donors to see that the funding sought does not result in a reduction or elimination of funding provided to an ongoing Miami-Dade County Public Schools program.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.03(2); 236.24(1) F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

New: 4-3-91

Amended: 11-2-94

Technical Change: 5-1-98