

Agustin J. Barrera, Member

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO COMMISSION A FORENSIC ACCOUNTING FIRM TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION OF THE CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS AND ACCOUNT

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

On May 15, 2003, Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board recommended that a forensic accounting firm be commissioned to conduct a forensic investigation of the capital outlay program and funds in order to confirm or dispel any possibilities of misuse, improper diversion, or mismanagement of capital outlay funds.

There have been a number of issues raised in recent years that the Miami-Dade County Public School system has misspent, diverted or misused capital outlay dollars. Public officials, agencies and the media including The Miami Herald and WPLG have reported several instances of expenditures that far exceeded the value of the results. We as a Board and the Superintendent have expressed a desire to reform the capital outlay department. We have hired FMI Corporation to evaluate the department. We are looking forward to their recommendations at the October 22, 2003 School Board meeting. Nevertheless, this type of audit is important since it will directly address the issues involved and has been recommended by both the Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board and the League of Cities. I feel confident the results will lead to improvements in the operation of the District and in our ability to produce desirable results from the capital construction program in the future.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. AGUSTIN J. BARRERA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to do the following:

1. Issue a Request For Proposal to commission a forensic accounting firm to conduct a comprehensive forensic investigation of the capital outlay funds and accounts, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.
2. That the firm be instructed to report to the Miami-Dade County School Board, the Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board and the Superintendent of Schools in order to insure the credibility of this process.