

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT TASK FORCE TO ALIGN THE DELIVERY OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

On Thursday, October 30, 2003, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Miami-Dade County held their First Annual Joint Workshop entitled *Public School Facility Planning in Miami-Dade County*. In attendance at this historic event were members of the Miami-Dade County School Board, Miami-Dade County Commissioners, and numerous elected municipal leaders. The workshop proposed to set forth an interlocal agreement for public school facility planning to begin a coordinated approach for building new schools in conjunction with planning for residential developments.

Among the many ideas proffered at this meeting emerged the potential for the far-reaching alignment of resources between and among governmental agencies, including the delivery of transportation services. Currently, M-DCPS and Miami-Dade County operate comprehensive, yet largely independent transportation systems. In some instances these systems could better serve the community at-large by identifying common transportation needs and developing an integrative transportation plan which could positively impact the county's neediest residents. Examples may include, but are not limited to, transporting:

- senior citizens, who currently receive free public transportation, to adult education classes;
- students from overcrowded schools to the newly-expanded choice programs being developed in inner-city neighborhoods;
- magnet students who are seeking access to programs which are geographically distant from their home and who are ineligible for district transportation services;
- students enrolled in internships and work-study programs as part of their school experience; and
- volunteers and staff without a viable means of transportation to serve in underperforming schools.

Because it is in the community's best interest to develop policy and programs which maximize existing resources among governmental agencies, it is recommended that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of establishing a joint transportation task force whose express purpose will be the development of an integrative transportation plan. Membership in the transportation task force should minimally include at least two representatives from

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the School Board, two representatives from the Miami-Dade County Commission, and staff representing the Departments of Transportation from both M-DCPS and Miami-Dade County. Additional staff and community representatives may be included as needed (e.g., Risk Management).

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of establishing a joint transportation task force whose express purpose will be the development of an integrative transportation plan between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade County.

RBI:vm