

Dr. Michael M. Krop, Chair

SUBJECT: COUNTYWIDE STUDENT POLITICAL FORUM

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

On the morning of Tuesday, February 24, 2004, selected students from high schools throughout Miami-Dade County will have a lifelong lesson in American democracy, as they participate in a Countywide Student Political Forum to be held at Michael M. Krop Senior High School. All major presidential candidates, including The President, have been invited to attend this event, which will take place two weeks before the Florida Presidential Primary. Ed O'Dell, NBC6 Education Reporter, will serve as moderator.

Each candidate, or his or her representative, will be invited to make a brief presentation, after which the students will have the opportunity to ask questions on domestic and foreign policy issues. Students will then vote for their presidential choice, using hand-held electronic polling devices provided by the Office of Performance Planning.

The Division of Social Sciences is developing educational materials and suggested classroom activities, and will coordinate student representation from each of our high schools. The forum will also include elements of a political convention, with campaign signs, banners and posters from various campaign offices, music and costumed actors from the STAR Academy magnet at Krop Senior High, and actual electronic voting machines provided by Miami-Dade County Elections Department. Lunch will be donated by community supporters.

WLRN will provide full coverage of this event, including live broadcast to all schools via closed-circuit television. The cost will not exceed \$6,800.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to support activities associated with the Countywide Student Political Forum to be held on February 24, 2004.