

March 3, 2004

Dr. Marta Perez, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO (1) CONVENE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE NINE-BOARD ADOPTED CORE CHARACTER EDUCATION VALUES, AND (2) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING MOMENTS OF REFLECTION BEFORE LUNCH AND BEFORE SCHOOL DISMISSAL.

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

In the wake of the recent tragedies that have occurred at our schools statewide, we seek methods to ensure student safety in our schools. A reoccurring theme expressed by experts, parents, teachers, and students is the absence of ethical values in the students capable of undertaking heinous crimes.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools includes character education in its K-12 Social Sciences program. The nine core values adopted by the School Board in 1995 for this curriculum are citizenship, cooperation, fairness, honesty, integrity, kindness, pursuit of excellence, respect, and responsibility. With the daily rigors encountered by faculty and students, the incorporation of the nine core values into the daily curriculum may often go unattended.

The internationally acclaimed child violence expert, Dr. James Garbarino in *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them (February 1999)*, suggests that the strengthening of the nine core character education values is closely linked with the adding to the student's school day moments of silent meditation: one before lunch and another before the child leaves at the end of his/her school day. Such possibilities deserve consideration by the School Board.

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**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. convene an Ad Hoc Committee to review and report within three (3) months on the implementation status of the nine board-adopted core character education values; and
2. study and report within three (3) months on the feasibility of including moments of reflection before lunch and before dismissal.