

Dr. Marta Perez, Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO INITIATE RULEMAKING TO AMEND SCHOOL BOARD RULE 6Gx13- 1C-1.16 TO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC MOURNING PERIOD UPON THE DEATH OF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER**

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

Flying a flag at half-staff is probably the last symbolic gesture of what was once in some cultures a common way of showing grief.

School Board rule 6Gx13- 1C-1.16, Observance of Death of Staff and Students, addresses the observance of death of staff and students by displaying the flag at half-staff. The board rule, however, does not specify a length of time that the flag should be at half-staff, nor does it state when the mourning period should commence or end.

In establishing a set period of mourning, the district will uniformly display to the community at large that we have lost one of our own. In performing such a unified gesture, we are honoring the person who has passed and grieving our loss.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 1C-1.16, Observance of Death of Staff and Students, to include a mourning period of one week that will commence the morning after the death has occurred.