

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 14, 2004

April 13, 2004

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL

As the Florida Legislature approaches the conclusion of its session and debates revisions to the District Cost Differential, Miami-Dade County Schools needs to take a lead and be pro-active in proffering alternative arguments protecting the DCD and alternatives to mitigate the effects of any revisions.

On February 9, 2004, the University of Florida released a report criticizing the Florida Price Level Index as the basis of the DCD and suggested an adjustment by using a wage index. Our own analyses show the negative effect that immigration and other issues place on local wages.

It is imperative that the Miami-Dade School Board and its Superintendent cooperate with other urban school boards and governmental entities to maintain the DCD. One approach should be to explore an analysis by a nationally recognized and non-biased school of economics outside the State of Florida. Furthermore, it would be prudent to study any other avenues the board may wish to pursue to preserve the DCD.

There is good cause to vary from the published agenda being that at the Legislative Relations, Public Relations and Personnel Services Committee meeting on Thursday, April 8th, the members present voted to support such an item being added to the agenda recognizing that the legislative session will conclude on the April 30th.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent and Board Attorney to take necessary steps to preserve the District Cost Differential.

**GOOD CAUSE
D-17**