

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF INCORPORATING THE "HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS" CONCEPT INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FACILITIES PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

The "High Performance Schools" concept is a national best practice, which takes a holistic approach to school design. High Performance Schools are essentially facilities that improve the learning environment and at the same time save energy, resources and money. This is accomplished by giving priority to life cycle cost considerations, the integration of key systems and technologies, and design enhancements that are environmentally friendly. Essentially, a High Performance School will exhibit the following characteristics:

1. A healthy environment with good indoor quality, through appropriate ventilation and filtration;
2. Thermal, visual and acoustical comfort;
3. Energy efficiency, which includes not only the right HVAC equipment but also other elements such as integration of electric and daylighting strategies and optimization of fixtures and control devices;
4. Efficient building materials, including the use of recycled materials;
5. Water efficient systems that recognize and promote conservation strategies;
6. Building systems that are easy to operate and maintain in the long-run;
7. An environmentally friendly and responsive site that minimizes water runoff and eliminates site erosion or degradation over time;
8. Enhanced opportunities for a safer and more secure environment through appropriate design;
9. Increased emphasis on life cycle cost considerations, i.e. implementing the best building solution taking into account long-term maintenance and building/site sustainability;
10. Lower operating costs in the long-term;
11. Enhanced customer satisfaction in terms of the students, the faculty and the community.

The High Performance Schools approach, which is one component of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Design Tools for Schools initiative, is one which deserves further consideration by this school district. This best practice has already been adopted by the Los Angeles Unified School District, a peer district which faces many of the same challenges we currently face. Although I believe much has been

accomplished over the years to refine our design criteria and specifications, it is my belief that much can still be done to build facilities that are more cost effective and efficient, and more easily maintainable over time. It is for that reason that I ask that my colleagues to support my request for the Superintendent to undertake a study of the feasibility of incorporating the concepts and criteria embodied in "High Performance Schools" into the school district's facilities program. In light of the many potential positive impacts on the learning environment, the administration's evaluation should engage not only members of the facilities construction and maintenance operations department, but also other relevant stakeholders such as educators and students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to study the feasibility of incorporating the "High Performance Schools" concept into the school district's facilities program; and
2. report back to the Board with findings and recommendations by the October 2004 meeting.