

April 5, 2004

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO INITIATE A "GOOD
SAMARITAN COMMUNITIES' CARING PROGRAM" IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

It is requested that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate a "Good Samaritan Communities' Caring Program" in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), grades K-12. The "Good Samaritan Communities' Caring Program" is a campaign designed to encourage students to feel a sense of responsibility in alerting school administrators or responsible adults of any pending violent or destructive actions in the school community. The purpose of this program is to foster positive behavior and open communication in an environment that results in safe and nurturing schools.

The program implementation could include students' sharing information regarding impending violent or disruptive actions with a trusted adult. This information could be shared through face-to-face contact, a crime prevention box located in an easily accessible and secure area, and the telephone hotline: 1-877-7Be-Brave (1-877-723-2728), facilitated by M-DCPS police in collaboration with the M-DCPS Crisis Intervention Team. Designated staff could then be responsible for following through with the appropriate action regarding the potential for the disruptive situation. The designated staff could include elementary counselors, TRUST specialists, safe school facilitators, school social workers, M-DCPS police, district crisis teams, inter-group relations teams, and school site administrators.

Staff has indicated that no additional local funds would be required.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate a "Good Samaritan Communities' Caring Program" in grades K-12 to foster positive behavior and open communication in an environment that results in safe and nurturing schools.

Staff has indicated that no additional local funds would be required.