

May 18, 2004

Business Operations
J.E. Surash, P.E., Chief Business Officer

**SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY TO CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF A
FULL AUDITORIUM IN ALL PROTOTYPE MIDDLE SCHOOL
FACILITIES LISTS**

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Introduction

This item is in response to Board action on Item D-16 from April 14, 2004, introduced by School Board Member Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, requesting that the feasibility of adding a full auditorium to all prototype middle school facilities lists be analyzed.

A committee was created under the auspices of the Chief Education Officer and Chief Business Officer to address this question, evaluate possible alternatives and recommend a course of action. The committee was comprised of middle school principals from all ACCESS Centers, as well as representatives from ACCESS Operations, Curriculum, Vocational, Life Skills, and Facilities.

Additional Information

The first task of this committee was to review the current facilities list for State School NN1, presently under design without the auditorium facility, and the preliminary construction cost estimates for this project. This review yielded an estimated projected budget shortfall vis-à-vis the maximum allowable cost per student station, even without the auditorium facility. This seems to be attributable to primarily two factors: compliance with the state mandated requirement for Class Size Reduction; and recent dramatically escalating costs in the construction industry particularly as it relates to steel, concrete, plywood, and fuel which impacts transportation costs.

In order to bring the above referenced project within the cost per student station cap, the committee reviewed the prototypical facilities list and identified approximately \$824,000 of acceptable cost savings measures, (see Exhibit 1), which would not adversely affect the delivery of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools educational program. These, coupled with the addition of general purpose classrooms consisting of a net increase of 90 student stations will, in the estimation of the project's design professional team, achieve compliance with the maximum allowable cost per student station. Additional funding in the amount of approximately \$1.8 million will be required to build the facility after reducing costs by the \$824, 000 without an auditorium.

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Next, the committee addressed the impact of adding an auditorium to the middle school facilities list. It was pointed out by the middle school principals that the main advantage of a full auditorium is the flexibility it can provide for a variety of uses such as testing. To compensate for the lost flexibility, the principals felt that the additional general purpose classrooms proposed as part of the cost savings measures, could be separated by movable partitions and then clustered and reconfigured into one large multi-purpose space, as or if needed. Inclusion of a full auditorium would require the addition of approximately eight additional general purpose classrooms, for approximately another 176 student stations, in order to stay within the state mandated cost per student station. This would have the effect of increasing the prototype to 1,794 student stations and require a commensurate increase in funding of approximately \$3.25 million, plus the \$1.8 million previously outlined, for a total of additional funding need of approximately \$5.05 million beyond what is currently available.

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Committee Recommendations

The committee's consensus was to recommend the following: 1) approval of the additional cost savings measures estimated at \$824,000 and additional general purpose classrooms, in order to achieve compliance with the requirements of the mandated cost per student station, and 2) due to the substantial increase in the cost of this and other similar facilities in the future, that a full auditorium not be added to the prototype facilities list for middle schools, including State School "NN-1".

RECOMMENDED:

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

1. revise the current prototype middle school facilities list to include the recommended cost savings measures referenced above and more specifically detailed in Exhibit 1; and
2. not include a full auditorium in State School "NN-1" and all prototype middle schools.

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Summary of cost savings measures:

- 1) Reduce Science Demonstration Classrooms from the four to three.
- 2) Replace two Exceptional Education Classrooms with two General Classrooms.
- 3) Eliminate reference area, two practice rooms, and uniform storage from band classroom.
- 4) Eliminate reference area, two practice rooms, and robe storage from Vocal Classroom.
- 5) Eliminate student showers, drying, laundry, first aid, and P.E. multi-purpose room from Physical Education Area.
- 6) Reduce Media Center by 371 net square feet.
- 7) Eliminate student activities room from administrative area and reduce teach planning offices by 50%.
- 8) Eliminate covered exterior dining area from food service area and replace with four general classrooms.