Office of School Board Members Board Meeting of May 19, 2004

Mr. Agustin J. Barrera, Board Member

SUBJECT:

DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN ACTION TO THE BOARD ON WHAT ACTIONS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THAT THE CLASS SIZE REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL

YEAR WILL BE MET

COMMITTEE:

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

In 2003, the Florida legislature passed legislation to ensure the implementation of the Class Size Reduction Amendment (CSR) to be phased in over a number of years commencing with the 2003-2004 school year and provided sanctions for those districts that fail to meet the required incremental reduction each year. Unfortunately, for 2003-2004, the district failed to meet the CSR requirement of a reduction of two students in the 9-12 grade grouping on a district wide basis.

The district has created two groups: the Board established ad hoc Class Size Reduction Implementation Task Force and the class size committee made up of various administrative departments within the district. Each body has independently reviewed the issues related to CSR and have provided recommendations for effective implementation. In the interest of ensuring that this district is prepared to meet or exceed the CSR requirements for the 2004-2005 school year, it is imperative that the Superintendent create a balanced plan of action and report that plan to this Board.

Clearly, without an aggressive and coordinated effort to meet the goals of CSR, the district will once again suffer fiscal sanctions imposed by the Florida Department of Education. In this instance, with one year of experience and a two-year planning window, anything short of success is not acceptable.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MR. AGUSTIN J. BARRERA:

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

- 1. devise a balanced plan of action to ensure that the class size reduction requirements for the 2004-2005 school year are being implemented in order to meet the legislative mandate; and
- 2. report back to the Board at its meeting of June 16, 2004 School Board meeting.