

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON  
THE STATUS OF EXPANDING THE CHESS PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

Chess has been recognized as a builder of strong intellect. The game of chess improves the cognitive abilities and reasoning of children and adults alike. In addition to empowering the intellect, chess facilitates the development of values such as hard work, concentration, objectivity, persistence, and commitment. Schools throughout the United States and in Canada have successfully included chess in their curricula.

At the School Board meeting of April 12, 1999, Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member, proposed agenda item D-4 which directed the Superintendent to research and to report to the Board on the feasibility of expanding the district's chess programs. Dr. Pérez's action was supported and the Division of Advanced Academic Programs, in cooperation with the Chess Advisory Committee, developed a comprehensive report detailing the current use of chess throughout the district at that time and the options available to expand its use. The recommendations that were included in the report were implemented.

At the School Board meeting of March 12, 2003, Dr. Pérez introduced agenda item D-4 to investigate the feasibility of creating a position for a district chess coordinator. The Board approved item D-4, and staff completed a feasibility study. The recommendations are being implemented by staff.

Chess and all the rewards of playing the game cannot be denied. Therefore, in support of the role chess can play in enhancing student achievement, it is requested that a status report, be submitted to the Board prior to its meeting of September 8, 2004.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. FRANK J. COBO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade-County, Florida:

1. direct staff to develop a status report on the districtwide expansion of chess; and
2. receive status report prior to its meeting of September 8, 2004.