

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT- SECURITY AND CRIME STATISTICS, THE REPORT ON PREVENTATIVE MEASURES, AND TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW ALL AREAS RELATING TO PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

**COMMITTEE:       EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

Since 2001, School Board Members have generated several items addressing district safety and security issues. The Board also has made inquiries regarding other issues within Miami-Dade County Public Schools that promote a safe learning environment, which includes initiatives of character and anti-bullying education, other measures for preventing negative behaviors, and strategies of early intervention. As a result, various reports have been generated regarding specific topics of concern. To that end, the Board directed the Superintendent to report annually on the state of district security and protective and preventative measures currently in place, with emphasis on Character Education and Anti-Bullying programs.

On March 1, 2004, a Board workshop regarding district security issues was conducted by Miami-Dade Schools Police Department to discuss the *2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics*. At that time, Board members directed the Superintendent to provide a follow-up report within 60 days which would address the specific questions raised during the workshop. At its March 17, 2004, Board Meeting, the *2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics* was officially received by the Board as item A-4.

The *Workshop Follow-up Report on the 2003 Annual Report-Security and Crime Statistics*, prepared by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department, and the *Report on Preventative Measures*, prepared by the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Student/Career Services, will be transmitted to Board Members under separate cover, and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Although these reports address specific areas of interest and concerns, they do not reflect all efforts within the district that work toward promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment. Other district offices and programs collaborate in ensuring the overall safety of our children, school staff, and visitors on our campuses. Many of these programs consist of strong prevention and intervention components.

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Achieving a safe learning environment for all cannot be obtained if the district is the only entity involved in the process. Safety is a community issue, and the total involvement of diverse stakeholders is imperative. To ensure that all areas are addressed and frequently reviewed, it is recommended that a districtwide task force be established to review, on an ongoing basis, all concerns relating to promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment. It is also recommended that this task force include stakeholders comprised of parent groups, community leadership, law enforcement, and appropriate district staff. Additionally, each Board Member will designate one representative to serve on the task force. The task force should include representatives from the following, but not limited to:

- A representative from the Juvenile Justice Circuit 11 Board;
- A representative from the Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police;
- A representative from the State Attorney's Office;
- A representative from Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council;
- Selected district staff;
- Selected Access Center Operations staff;
- Selected school site administrators;
- School Board Student Advisor;
- A representative from Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA/PTSA);
- A representative from Crimestoppers;
- A representative from Citizens Crime Watch/Youth Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County;
- A representative from the Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF); and
- A representative from each bargaining unit.

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

1. receive the *Workshop Follow-up Report on the 2003 Annual Report-Security and Crime Statistics*, prepared by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department;
2. receive the *Report on Preventative Measures*, specifically addressing Anti-Bullying and Character Education, prepared by the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Student/Career Services; and
3. authorize the Superintendent to establish a task force to review, on an ongoing basis, all areas relating to promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment.

MT/GMK/CR/NJP:jc