

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

**SUBJECT:            ENHANCING CHARACTER & CIVIC EDUCATION**

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

Building a student's ethical and moral character is necessary for active citizenship in a democratic society. This formative foundation is just as important as math, science, reading or writing, to a child's positive development. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has always been at the forefront of character and civic education programs and has led the state since adopting its core values and corresponding curriculum in 1995.

Nevertheless, as evidenced by a general decline in student behavior, there is a great need for enhancing our curriculum and building an active commitment by all stakeholders, including principals, teachers and parents.

Such active commitment has been the goal of prior initiatives presented by several board members in the past, and enjoys broad-based support from the community.

On March 12, 2004, the School Board directed the Superintendent to convene an Ad-Hoc Committee to review and report within three months on the implementation status of the nine board-adopted core character education values and report back to the School Board with recommendations on, but not limited to: increasing teacher training, parental training activities for home and adapting Character Education curriculum to support FCAT preparation activities.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the School Board received the Report on Preventative Measures, specifically addressing Anti-Bullying and Character Education strategies which outlined potential federal grant sources that could serve to increase commitment by stakeholders. Staff in the Division of Social Sciences has applied for one of these grants, requesting \$1.8 Million from the US Department of Education to support teacher training, parental activities and curriculum enhancements.

Revised

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to seek federal grant dollars to implement increased teacher training, parental training activities and adapting curriculum to support FCAT preparation activities for the 2004-2005 school year, not to exceed \$1.8 Million.

Revised

**REVISED  
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