

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH A DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT EMERGENCY PLANS AND TO MEET WITH THE RECOVERY TEAMS OF THOSE DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY RECENT STORMS TO LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES AND REVISE THE DISTRICT'S EMERGENCY PLAN AS APPROPRIATE

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

This hurricane season has been the most active in recent memory, adversely impacting many Florida school districts. Educational facilities throughout the State were damaged, students and employees displaced, and the educational process disrupted. Miami-Dade County Public Schools staff performed admirably during each of the recent emergency situations and are to be commended; however it is always appropriate to conduct an in-depth analysis of existing operations when new information or techniques become available.

Currently across Florida there are a number of districts in the midst of recovery or completing their recovery efforts, presenting a unique learning opportunity to improve our own emergency and recovery procedures. In order to capitalize on the lessons of other districts, it would be beneficial for the Superintendent to establish a disaster preparedness and recovery task force to review this district's current emergency plans, and to meet with the recovery teams of those districts affected by recent storms to learn from their experiences. The goal of this exercise is to determine what measures these impacted districts took to effect such a rapid return to normalcy and if any of those measures are appropriate for implementation within Miami-Dade County Public Schools' own emergency plans.

D-11

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

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

1. establish a disaster preparedness and recovery task force to review the district's current emergency plans and to meet with the recovery teams of those districts affected by recent storms to learn from their experiences; and
2. revise the district's emergency plan as appropriate and submit it to the Board no later than December 2004.