Office of School Board Members   October 6, 2004
Board Meeting of October 20, 2004

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE
                COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
                SUPPORT SENATE RESOLUTION S.RES.170 IS DESIGNATING THE
                YEARS 2004 AND 2005 AS YEARS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL
                SERVICES

Senate Resolution S.RES.170 IS designates the years 2004 and 2005 as Years of Foreign Language
Study in recognition of the contributions that foreign language study makes to student cognitive
development, the national economy, and national security. Communities across America are
encouraged to promote and expand the studies of foreign languages and observe the Years of
Foreign Language Study with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities. A press
conference will be held in December at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. with public
statements of support from the President of the United States, and the Secretaries of State,
Education, Commerce, and Defense.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is a proponent and has unanimously supported
multilingual education. With this item, the Miami-Dade County School Board seeks to reaffirm
its commitment to the study of world languages beginning in the early grades to enable students
to develop the levels of proficiency needed to communicate effectively with persons from other
cultures, whether at home or abroad. Schools are encouraged to participate in the national and
local events that will promote 2004 and 2005 as the *Years of Foreign Language Study* initiative.

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County,
                                  Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

                                  1. work with local government and the business
                                      community to create a proclamation in support
                                      of 2004 and 2005 as the *Years of Foreign
                                      Language Study*; and

                                  2. encourage all schools to implement activities in
                                      support of the study of world languages.

                                  No local funds are required

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