

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORWARD ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AGENDA ITEMS A-2 AND D-15 FROM THE JUNE 16, 2004, SCHOOL BOARD MEETING FOR REVIEW BY THE EXPANDED TASK FORCE REVIEWING ALL AREAS RELATED TO PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND THAT THE TASK FORCE PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD IN 90 DAYS.

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the School Board directed that a task force be established in an effort to ensure consistent school based security measures. Additionally, the School Board voted to have the task force review issues surrounding consolidating all security elements under the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD). Respectively, these items were J-5 of the December 12, 2001, meeting proposed by Mr. Frank J. Bolaños, School Board Member and Item D-6 of the March 13, 2002, meeting proposed by Mr. Frank J. Cobo, School Board Member. These items are included as attachments.

Ultimately, a task force report was prepared and submission was delayed pending the conclusion of an Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) review of MDSPD. On March 1, 2004, MDSPD conducted a School Board workshop, where the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics was reviewed along with other related security issues. At its March 17, 2004, School Board Meeting, the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics was officially received by the Board as Item A-4. Subsequent to that action, a follow-up report was provided to the Board under separate cover which provided status updates on additional issues and questions raised at the School Board workshop.

The former superintendent, Mr. Merrett R. Stierheim, tabled further action on recommendations made in the report pending the establishment of an expanded task force with the following considerations:

- Enhanced representation on the task force
- Review of bargaining and budgetary considerations with the recommendations
- Review by the School Allocation Committee regarding adopting monitor allocation formulas

At its meeting of June 16, 2004, the School Board voted to establish a district-wide task force to review all areas relating to Promoting and Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment (PMSLE), which was presented in item A-2. Also at the June 16, 2004, School Board Meeting, Mr. Frank J. Bolaños, School Board Member, proposed actions under Item D-15. Recommended points numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Item D-15 were adopted by the Board. Item D-15 was also amended to include point #2 from the recommendation of Agenda Item A-2 as point #6 of D-15.

Many of the recommended items mentioned in D-15 have been addressed subsequent to the June 16, 2004, Board Meeting. An update regarding these recommended items was sent to the Board under separate cover. Although there has been much progress in this area, it is imperative that the expanded Task Force on Promoting and Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment review all the recommendations in Agenda Items A-2 and D-15 from the June 16, 2004, School Board Meeting. The Task Force should also submit a comprehensive recommendation to the School Board. Items A-2 and D-15 from the June 16, 2004, School Board Meeting are attached.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to forward all recommendations from Agenda Items A-2 and D-15 from the June 16, 2004, School Board Meeting for review by the expanded Task Force reviewing all areas related to Promoting and Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment and that the Task Force provide a comprehensive recommendation to the Board in 90 days.

RFC:GLD:JCH:dj

Attachment

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of December 12, 2001

December 11, 2001

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL-SITE SECURITY MEASURES – UNIFORMITY

Currently, there exists varying degrees of security measures at our schools. The lack uniform security measures may place our students, employees, and school district in a vulnerable state. Although each school site presents unique security and safety circumstances, there exists a need for certain policies to be district-wide.

In the interest of the safety of our schoolchildren, a task force should be convened to perform a security audit and review these findings and develop uniform policies for all school sites relating to:

- Security of entrances and classroom doors
- Ratio of security monitors to schoolchildren and/or entrances
- Recruitment and training of security monitors
- Communications systems for security monitors and administrators
- Visitation policies

This task force should be appointed by the Superintendent and include representatives from the Miami-Dade Public Schools Police, School Operations, Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA, a representative from the Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police and an appropriate representative from the community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY FRANK J. BOLANOS

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to convene a School Security Task Force for the purpose of developing a plan for consistent school-site security measures and report back to the board within 90 days.

REPLACEMENT

J-5

Attachment

March 8, 2002

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of March 13, 2002

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AN ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATING ALL SECURITY FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNDER THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Currently, security in the school district is sub-divided under several district entities. There are security specialists, security monitors, outside vendor security and school police all of whom, at times, report to different individuals and entities.

In the school districts that have proprietary police departments, the current trend appears to be to centralize these security functions in an effort to provide uniformity and consistency when encountering safety and security issues. Additionally, should there be a major incident or event involving a community or school district security breach without consolidation of all security functions, there might not be the continuity necessary for coordinating and ensuring the security and safe learning environment of our students.

Therefore, this agenda item requests that the School Board direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide an analysis and evaluation of the feasibility of consolidating all security for Miami-Dade County Public Schools under the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide an analysis and evaluation of the feasibility of consolidating all security for Miami-Dade County Public Schools under the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.

REPLACEMENT

D-6

Attachment

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of March 17, 2004

March 8, 2004

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECEIVE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON SECURITY AND CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2003 AND AUTHORIZE A STATUS REPORT ON DISTRICT SECURITY PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Background

At the June 2003 School Board meeting, the Board instructed the Superintendent and the Miami-Dade School Police Chief to generate an annual report on security and crime statistics and to present the report annually at the Board's February meeting. The Board instructed that the report include, but not be limited to, district-wide and school specific summary crime data (UCR) and discipline statistics (SESIR). By federal and state law, Miami-Dade School Police maintains statistics on crime and disciplinary incidents and reports them to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (Uniform Crime Report – UCR) and the Florida Department of Education (School Environmental Safety Incident Report – SESIR).

At the February 11, 2004 School Board meeting, the Board discussed Item D-17, which included the Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics. In addition to the Annual Report, Item D-17 included five recommendations regarding security and anti-bullying initiatives. The aim of the recommendations was to enhance established district security programs as well as anti-bullying initiatives. The recommendations derived in part, from a preliminary draft report commissioned by the Board at its March 13, 2002 Board meeting (Item D-6) directing the Superintendent to evaluate district security functions and the feasibility of placing those functions under the Miami-Dade School Police. The draft report also contained some recommendations from a finalized task force report presented to the Board June 13, 2002 having been authorized by the School Board at its December 12, 2001 meeting (Item J – 5).

At the School Board meeting of February 11, 2004, it was the decision of the Board that Item D-17 be discussed at workshop and directed the Superintendent to conduct a workshop within 30 days of the February 2004 Board meeting.

Pursuant to the direction of the Board, the security workshop was conducted on Monday, March 1, 2004. At the workshop, Board members heard a report from the Police Chief, reviewed the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics and conducted a discussion regarding the five recommendations listed in agenda item D-17. At the conclusion of the workshop, Board members in attendance, in consultation with the Superintendent, provided further direction, which included receiving the report on security and crime statistics, as well as providing the Board with a status report on school district security programs, including reviewing the status of the preliminary draft report recommendations.

Copies of the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics were transmitted to School Board members under separate cover prior to the February 11, 2004 School Board meeting. Upon receipt by the School Board, copies of this report will be distributed to the superintendent of schools and appropriate district staff. The report will be placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the School Board and in the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida receive the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics and to direct the Superintendent to do the following:

1. provide a status report on school district security programs, to the extent possible within the next 60 days, including the status of the preliminary draft report recommendations; and
2. direct the Superintendent to promote district stakeholder input for inclusion in the status report.

MV:cm

Attachment

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of June 16, 2004

June 2, 2004

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.

A-2

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

Attachment

June 7, 2004

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of June 16, 2004

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

On February 11, 2004, the School Board received the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics and scheduled a workshop to review specific recommendations for enhancing safety and security in our schools.

On March 1, 2004, a public workshop was held at which time the School Board reviewed preliminary recommendations made by two other task forces convened within the last two years to review uniformity in school-site security measures.

On March 17, 2004, the School Board once again received the 2003 Annual Report on Security and Crime Statistics, and directed the Superintendent to provide a status report on preliminary draft report recommendations within the next 60 days.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida receive the Superintendent's status report on preliminary draft recommendations and direct the Superintendent to implement the following task force recommendations, effective for the 2004-2005 school year:

1. Amend School Allocation Manuals to include a school security monitor allocation formula that is based on school density level, crime in the surrounding community, SPAR data and other relevant factors.
2. Implement uniform training of all newly hired and currently employed school security monitors.
3. Integrate district security cameras functions and other security systems and services with the corresponding resources to the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department, as recommended by the Superintendent.
4. Establish security teams that would be available for random school site visits to make security recommendations.
5. Create a standing School Security Committee, which will meet regularly to address specific District security concerns comprised of nine members appointed by the School Board, PTA representative, Union representation and a representative from the law enforcement community.