

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Board Member

SUBJECT: CONCURRENCE OF BOARD POLICY CONCERNING SETTING ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES AND TREATMENT OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES BENEFIT DISTRICT

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

On June 16, 2004, the School Board authorized the Superintendent to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County (County), and the City of Homestead (City), for the purpose of creating an Educational Facilities Benefit District (EFBD) in the City, under terms and conditions discussed at the meeting. Subsequently, on December 7, 2004, the Government and Operations Committee (Committee) of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners considered the creation of the EFBD. Establishment of the EFBD involves the adoption of an ordinance by the County and the approval of an interlocal agreement between the School Board, City and County.

The primary purpose of the EFBD is to facilitate the construction of new schools in the area. In the course of their deliberations, several of the Committee members expressed interest in how attendance for these schools will be set and how students will be treated within the schools. The Committee members wanted to be sure that the creation of the EFBD would not result in a "two-tier" system of education within the EFBD schools. I was present at the meeting, and assured the Committee members that attendance boundaries would be set through the normal ABC process and that all students would be treated the same within the schools, regardless of whether the students lived within or outside of the EFBD boundaries.

In order to assure all interested parties of the District's intent in this regard, I am asking the School Board to ratify and affirm this position, prior to consideration of the EFBD item by the full Board of County Commissioners. Accordingly, I am seeking the Board's concurrence to direct the Superintendent to include language within the proposed interlocal agreement creating the EFBD, substantially in keeping with the following:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, reaffirms its obligation to provide for the education of all public school students in Miami-Dade County, regardless of whether or not these students reside within the boundaries of the EFBD. Accordingly, the School Board reaffirms its commitment to designate attendance boundaries for the three schools to be constructed under the terms of this interlocal agreement, in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of Board Rules, and local, state, and federal law, as such may be amended from time to time. Moreover, the School Board reaffirms its commitment to operate these schools, and to treat the students that attend them, in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of Board Rules, and local, state, and federal law, as such may be amended from time to time.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda in order to clarify the School Board's total commitment to all the children who will be attending schools within the proposed EFBD and to forward the Board's position to the County Commission for its consideration of the EFBD's creation at their January 2005 meeting.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to include language within the proposed interlocal agreement creating the Homestead Educational Benefits District, substantially in keeping with the above.

MAL:mo