

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 the terms and conditions approved at the meeting. The establishment of the EFBD requires the adoption of an enabling ordinance by the County and the approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the School Board, City and County.

On December 7, 2004, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Government and Operations Committee (Committee) considered the ordinance and Interlocal Agreement creating the EFBD. The Committee was advised that the School Board's primary purpose for approving the EFBD is to facilitate the construction of new schools in the rapidly growing Homestead area, where new schools are not currently planned. During the Committee meeting, several of the Committee members requested information as to how attendance for the EFBD area schools will be determined. The Committee members wanted to confirm that children living both in and out of the EFBD boundaries would be assigned through the usual and customary School Board practice to schools built with the assessments generated by the EFBD funds.

I was present at the meeting, and advised the Committee members that attendance boundaries for all schools in the entire School District were set by the Attendance Boundary Committee process. The ABC process sets the boundaries based upon the capacity of the school, the needs of the area and many other factors, including diversity. I advised the Committee that it was the intent of the School Board that all students, regardless of whether the students lived within or outside of the EFBD boundaries, would be treated the same.

In order to assure all interested parties of the District's intent in this regard, I am asking the School Board to confirm this position and to transmit this confirmation to the BOCC prior to the consideration of the EFBD item. Accordingly, I am asking the Board to affirm the following:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, affirms that the Interlocal Agreement, Section 11, School Attendance Zone, specifically states:

"the student population at the EFBD facilities shall to the greatest extent possible, reflect the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic balance of the School

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District. As such, the School Board shall utilize its established ABC procedures to establish school attendance zones....”

It is the intent of the School Board to include all students in the area in the normal and usual ABC process, whether or not these students reside within the boundaries of the EFBD or outside the boundaries of the EFBD and to assign all students to public schools in accordance with the normal procedures of the Attendance Boundary Committee.

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.

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**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.

ELG/MAL:mo