

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE MIAMI METROZOO TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL EDUCATIONAL FIELD EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS AND BRING BACK TO THE BOARD THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PLAN

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With nearly 300 developed acres on a 740-acre parcel of land, Miami Metrozoo is the only zoo in the continental United States located in a subtropical climate. This enables the zoo to showcase animals that cannot easily be exhibited in colder climates. Metrozoo houses more than 1,300 animals representing more than 400 species. Large, open-air exhibits, which approximate many of the animals' natural settings, allow visitors to enjoy beautiful and endangered wildlife at a safe yet remarkably close range.

Because of their array of educational materials, accessibility and ease of cross-curricular instruction, the zoo has been used by many of our teachers and students for school-related activities. This agreement would encourage longer field experiences.

Last November, Miami-Dade voters approved a \$2.9 billion bond which included \$87 million for the zoo's improvement and expansion. The zoo is also spending another \$8 million from the 1996 Safe Neighborhood Parks bond issue toward the expansion. Currently, the expansion of Miami Metrozoo's educational facilities is in the planning phase. Approval of this agreement will impact the design of such facilities in order to accommodate our educational needs.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

ANA RIVAS LOGAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to determine the feasibility of establishing a cooperative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Miami Metrozoo to provide meaningful educational field experiences for students and bring back to the Board the cost of implementing such a plan.