

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of May 18, 2005

May 17, 2005

Frank J. Bolaños, Chairman
Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: SCHOOL SITE SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

The safety and security of students at school parallels their learning as the paramount concerns of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. With this in mind, the School Board created and, on March 16, 2005, received the recommendations of a Promoting and Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment Task Force.

The Task Force recommendations offered a set of strategies to improve school security, ranging from expansion of video monitoring technology to alternatives to current outdoor suspensions for students.

The School Board, Superintendent and Chief of Police have embraced the Task Force findings and have been working to implement the recommendations. Some have begun, for example, mandatory unannounced school site security checks by undercover detectives. Every high school, middle school and 80 elementary schools have already been visited at least once this year, and Schools Police plan to check every elementary school by the end of the school year. The visits are concluded with a face-to-face meeting with a school's principal to convey the officer's observations about possible security improvements.

In addition, \$45 million in security enhancements, specifically countywide expansion of video security monitoring systems, have been included in the Five-Year Capital Plan approved by the Board in April 13, 2005. Nineteen elementary schools, for example, will get security cameras next school year.

As the Task Force report included an implementation timeline and projected budget, it is appropriate for the Board to review progress after a year's work and in advance of adoption of an operating budget for next fiscal year. Given the importance of the topic, this will allow the Board to make decisions around security enhancements to be included in the budget.

This item is not included in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda to allow for discussion prior to the start of the budget process next month.

GOOD CAUSE
B-10

**RECOMMENDED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS &
DR. RUDOLPH F. CREW:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida receive an update on the adopted recommendations, timetable and budget for school site security. Included in this report should be:

1. an update on school site screenings completed this school year, and
2. security enhancements proposed for the '05-'06 budget