

Joseph Garcia, Chief Communications Officer

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE PARENT ACADEMY PLAN: *BUILDING THE FUTURE ONE PARENT AT A TIME: A REPORT OF PARTNERSHIP, PROCESS AND PROGRESS*

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Far more often than not, successful students have parents who are active participants in their education. Parental involvement outside school is a powerful companion to high-quality teaching within school.

At its November 17, 2004 meeting, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorized the Superintendent to develop specific plans to implement The Parent Academy, a far-reaching initiative to forge a community-wide partnership to support parents in fostering their children's education. Based on the Board's approval, a committee of staff, parents and interested citizens that has grown to more than 100 strong began meeting regularly to define the means by which the partnership could motivate and equip parents to help their children progress academically as well as to build parents' own efficacy in serving their personal and family's interests.

The student body of The Parent Academy will be parents, family members and even prospective parents. Its classrooms will be spread across the county in public schools, private businesses, community based organizations and higher education institutions. Its courses will include offerings that exist in some form today that will be married through extensive community outreach with new courses created to respond to needs identified by parents themselves. All of this will be possible because of an extraordinary mobilization of resources inside and outside of the school system that has been precipitated by the planning process.

Estimates project that The Parent Academy will cost \$1 million in its first year, much of which is the cost of staffing the effort. Plans call for extensive development work to raise funds to defray much of the Academy's cost.

Building the Future One Parent at a Time: A Report of Partnership, Process and Progress details the planning to date on The Parent Academy and the work that will be completed in the coming months to accommodate an opening of classes at the start of the school year for students.

Copies of the report will be transmitted to the Board under separate cover and will be placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, accept the report, *Building the Future One Parent at a Time: A Report of Partnership, Process and Progress*