

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORMULATE AN ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Florida's school districts spend a significant portion of their budgets on energy expenses. The Department of Education estimates that districts spent \$390,319,617.86 on energy in Fiscal Year 2003-04. Of that total, Miami-Dade County spent \$53,071,943.80, the highest amount in the state. Establishing an energy savings plan, as outlined below, is a step towards saving precious dollars that can be returned to the classroom.

- **Establishing energy management plans:**

A first step in controlling energy costs is developing a written energy management plan that provides an overall framework for reducing energy usage and expenses. The plan should set district wide goals and quantifiable objectives. The plan should be developed through a collaborative effort involving district stakeholders and, once created, should be distributed to principals, teachers, and managers who will be responsible for the implementation of the plan.

- **Partnering with energy providers:**

Working with utility providers and other organizations to identify energy efficiency benchmarks and implement actions to increase cost-efficiency has resulted in the substantial reduction of energy costs in several school districts. Utility companies can and have provided districts with free energy audits, reduction in rates or fixed rates, and energy rebates.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to formulate an energy savings plan to be presented to the board at the October 19, 2005 School Board Meeting.