

August 24, 2005

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

**SUBJECT:            AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN  
EDUCATION COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CITY OF MIAMI**

**COMMITTEE:        INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**Background:**

The City of Miami is booming. New construction and redevelopment in nearly every corner of the City is evidence of the City's growth and renewal. Residential and commercial buildings, cultural institutions, and transportation systems under construction or in design or planning, combine to create a sense of a future Miami as a world class, state-of-the-art city. Simultaneously, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools is implementing its first-ever, comprehensive Five-Year Capital Plan. New schools and renovations to existing buildings in the City will ensure that all students attend schools with adequate space and up-to-date facilities. Recently, with the opening of 18,000 new student stations in time for the 2005 school opening County-wide, public confidence has been lifted regarding the school system's ability to meet its commitments. Despite the City's and School District's progress, there is a mutual desire and interest to do more...to reach higher and deeper to serve Miami's students better, and to present progress being made in a more coherent manner.

This is to initiate and codify an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the City of Miami to join forces to create first-rate educational programs and services throughout the City. It is rooted in a mutual recognition of the critical role education plays in the future success of our students' lives, and in the life of the City, and in the reality that new school programs and building types, beyond traditional structures, will be required if education is to truly become a part of the fabric of the City, key to its success and sustainability; if Miami is to become "The Education City". The Education Compact is a promise to ensure that the lives of the nearly 80,000 children living in the City of Miami are as full and rich as they can be. It is a promise we intend to keep.

**Implementation Strategy**

The work of the Compact will be both community and child centered, stressing the link between ensuring the success of the school system and ensuring the rise in the standard of living. It is created with the idea in mind that other institutions, such as the University of Miami, may join as partners. Our goal is to guarantee that every Miami high school graduate is fully prepared to enter college or a career. Our belief is that in

doing so, every citizen of Miami would reap the benefits. Among others, our pledge is that by school opening 2008, no Miami school would have a grade lower than a "B". We want the citizens of Miami to have the same confidence in us to reach this goal as they can now have regarding the light rail...if you choose to ride it, you will be picked up and dropped off at a specified place and within a specified timeframe. It is guaranteed.

The Education Compact will be organized in three major areas:

- Improving academic programs
- Meeting capital/infrastructure needs
- Community involvement

The Education Compact would undertake programs and/or projects that can be either be enriched, expedited, or better realized through collaborative efforts. Following is a potential list of programs and/or projects that would qualify:

- Implementing the District's Five-Year Capital Plan, which includes eight new schools, six school additions, replacement of three schools, and a major restoration of the historic Miami Senior High School;
- Creating at least four Early Childhood Centers by 2008 in the high-rise buildings springing up in the resurgent city;
- Redefining the secondary school options available in Miami to meet the real world demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by:
  - o Including a senior high school component in the proposed new Miami Law Enforcement building in Downtown Miami;
  - o Creating a Young Women's Leadership Academy in Downtown Miami to serve girls in grades 7-12 in a single-gender setting;
  - o Creating an International Studies High School along the Metro Rail corridor at SW 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue to add a senior high school component to a popular elementary and middle school program;
  - o Incorporating a specialized Science High School and Fine Arts High School on the grounds of Museum Park where the City's Science and Art Museums will be relocated;
  - o Working in conjunction with Miami's vast building construction industry, create a Building Trades High School;
  - o Incorporating a High School for Sports-Related Careers, in future planning for the Orange Bowl;
  - o Developing plans for a Public Boarding School, a rigorous residential school for students now living in shelters;
  - o Creating a public/private partnership between the Urban Development Group, MedVance and the M-DCPS to build and support a small High School for Healthcare Professionals within a new residential/commercial development project on a former city-owner parcel at 1700 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- Marshalling a community literacy initiative in at least four Miami neighborhoods, including the location of "reading corners" in public spaces, to arm adults with tools to help develop children's reading skills. In addition, the City recently received a PAC grant for training for parents of at-risk children;
- Expanding the number of schools served via the Mayor's Mentoring Initiative from 11 elementary schools, in collaboration with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Florida Mentoring Partnership and developing internship opportunities within the City or facilitated by the City;
- Collaborating with the City in its development of the Miami Youth Council in 3 pilot communities, including 3 high schools, to provide opportunities for civic engagement. The ultimate goal is to have Civic Engagement programs in every high school;
- Shoring up the city's struggling schools by expanding the existing Mayor's initiative at Holmes Elementary to Edison Senior High and the city's other repeat F schools;
- Building new venues for informing all citizens about M-DCPS by installing information kiosks at City Hall, the government center at 444 SW 2<sup>ND</sup> Avenue, and the Clark and Jose Marti Community Centers;
- Focusing on Miami parents with a "regional model" of the District's new Parent Academy using Neighborhood Enhancement Team offices, parks, and recreation facilities and other community sites;
- Supporting the city's economy by offering downtown workers fuller educational opportunities by:
  - o Transforming the Ada Merritt School, the campus opened to serve downtown's commuter workforce, into a K-8 Center to give those commuters a high-quality middle school option;
  - o Exploring the potential for a commuter high school;
  - o Opening a small senior high school on Virginia Key to serve the Brickell and Downtown areas;
- Building a "college pipeline" program that would guarantee enrollment in partner local and national universities to qualified high school graduates from Miami; and
- Partnering to create a global education network that could use the city's reputation as an international center and distance learning technology to bring Miami students in contact with leaders and other notable figures from around the world;

- In support of the District's Wellness Policy, collaborating with the Mayor's Taskforce on Youth Health and Fitness to implement its recommendations regarding school-based prevention/intervention efforts focused on nutrition, physical activity levels, and centralized health data in full service schools;
- Using city resources to better connect adults who are not in the workforce into the District's Adult Education/Vocational Training programs;
- Identifying and implementing mass transportation options to increase access to education.

In addition to items identified above, the Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Commission, better coordination of potential joint use facilities, particularly of parks and recreation facilities, the recruiting of high quality teachers, and grant development opportunities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
CHAIR FRANK J. BOLAÑOS  
AND SUPERINTENDENT**

**RUDOLPH F. CREW:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the City of Miami.