

Agustin J. Barrera, Chairman

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE, COUNTY FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE FBI SAFE ONLINE SURFING PROGRAM (SOS) INTO THE CURRICULUM FOR SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADERS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Students spend an increasing amount of time online surfing the Internet. The Internet may include dangers not easily recognized by children associated with surfing the web and participating in online chat rooms. According to a 1998-99 survey conducted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Justice Department, one in five children will receive an unwanted online sexual solicitation each year.

The FBI-Safe Online Surfing Challenge (SOS) is a free Internet Safety program targeted for sixth and seventh graders in which students learn to recognize potential dangers associated with the Internet, email, and chat rooms. Students take web-based quizzes and review specific web sites aimed at promoting online safety. The three-step program includes a pre-test about Internet safety and online predators, a scavenger hunt through various websites to pick up tips to recognize dangers on the Internet, and a post-test to assess student learning. Each month, a winning school will receive the FBI-SOS trophy and a visit from the FBI. Additionally, each participating student at the winning school will receive a certificate and may have their picture taken with the Special Agent.

This program was developed with the cooperation of the FBI Crimes Against Children Unit at the Miami FBI Office. The program is administered by The Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation, part of the Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

CHAIRMAN AGUSTIN J. BARRERA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to evaluate the feasibility of introducing the FBI-SOS program into curriculum for sixth and seventh graders and report the results at the July 12, 2006 Board Meeting.