

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW THE
POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF GAMBLING IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL
SYSTEM IN SEEKING NEW REVENUES AND TO
EXPLORE OTHER REVENUE RAISING IDEAS**

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

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

High performing schools are essential to the future of business, tourism and quality of life in Miami-Dade County. In the past year, numerous discussions and budget workshops have focused on ways to reduce costs with far less attention on revenues.

At the local community college, a committee was created to address the revenue side of the equation with an emphasis on how to bring in additional dollars.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) should immediately create a task force with representation from the tourism industry, local chambers of commerce, municipal and county leaders, United Teachers of Dade and Dade County Council PTA/PTSA. The members of the task force would focus on strengthening existing revenue streams and embarking on new projects, grants, partnerships or legislation that add needed revenue to M-DCPS.

Recent published reports indicate there are efforts underway to establish a few upscale casinos. While the success of such efforts will depend on a vote in 2010, now is the appropriate time to meet with the principal leaders involved to ensure that our school system will receive the appropriate share of the revenues if the measure is supported. Our staff should review the benefits and consequences while discussion of casinos is in the beginning stages.

As a result of recent legislative practices, a shift of public school funding away from Miami-Dade County Public Schools has occurred. Therefore, this District must be proactive and seek new revenue sources.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to:

1. Have appropriate staff to meet with the principal leaders supporting the casino gambling referendum and for staff to report to the School Board how the plan will affect future revenues. Future involvement by the school system, if any, will be determined by the information received; and
2. Create a task force that would focus on strengthening existing revenue streams and embarking on new projects, grants, partnerships or legislation that add needed revenue to M-DCPS.