

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: POSITIONS OF SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING
THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT**

According to Robert's Rules of Order, the position of Chair is primarily to facilitate the orderly flow of debate.

School Board members are elected from nine districts which should be equally represented. Most boards of trustees and advisory boards choose their officials (chairs, vice-chairs, etc.) using a rotation system whereby every member is given an opportunity to sit as chair or vice-chair.

Unfortunately, our School Board has used a method of voting for its officers and this method has served, in many instances to discredit, rather than enhance the Board's functions. Whether real or perceived, the appearance of trading votes and actions in order to achieve official positions is one of the most debilitating practices of the Board. Votes are often viewed as compromised and this makes for bad decisions and bad governance. Throughout the years, this practice has never served us well.

Several times in the past, I have asked the Board to change this very political practice to one viewed by most boards as a fair and efficient procedure. At a time when the public's confidence in the Board is extremely low, we should make necessary changes in our practices in order to restore confidence in the Board as a whole.

Mirroring procedures established by most functional boards of trustees, this item proposes that the Board institute a process to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair using a rotation system. The appointments may be either one year or six months in length, depending on Board preference in order to allow more members to use their leadership qualities to run our meetings and not allow any one member to use powers not given to him/her when assuming the role of chair or vice-chair. Such a system would afford the membership equal access to leadership positions and assure an objective and neutral chairmanship free of allegations of political maneuvering.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking procedures to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 8C-1.11 to include language which delineates a method of appointing the Board Chair and Vice Chair based on a system of rotation that allows all of the members to participate equally.